

Stabilizing a Critical System of Care

Eliminating Uncertainty and Ensuring Long-Term Stability

Federal grant funding for the Health Center program currently comes from two sources:

- **The Community Health Center Fund (CHCF), which accounts for just over 70% of this funding and will expire on May 22, 2020, without Congressional action; and**
- Annual discretionary appropriations, which account for just under 30% of this funding.

Workforce programs are critical for health centers to address persistent national clinician shortages and other staffing challenges, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas. **The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) programs are essential workforce programs** – recruiting, training and retaining the next generation of workforce for health centers nationwide. **Funding for both programs is also set to expire on May 22, 2020, if Congress does not act.**

Long term, stable federal investments supporting the health center system of care and the workforce programs they rely on is essential to ensure health centers' ability to plan for the future, recruit staff, expand services for patients and **reduce the uncertainty caused by year-to-year renewals of this critical investment in access to care.**

Health centers deliver an excellent return on this federal investment:

- They **reach individuals with the greatest difficulty accessing or affording health care services**, including those with chronic diseases at risk for costly health complications, and guarantee them access to high-quality care, improving health outcomes and narrowing health disparities.
- Health centers are efficient and **save the health care system \$24 billion every year**, reducing unnecessary inpatient hospitalizations and Emergency Room use.
- As local, non-profit businesses, health centers promote economic growth in distressed communities, generating \$54.6 billion in total economic activity each year and employing over 236,000 people across the country. **In fact, every \$1 in federal health center grant investments generates \$5.73 in local economic activity.**

How you can help:

- **Support, at a minimum, the E&C/HELP Agreement via the updated S. 1895, the Lower Health Care Costs Act**, which continues funding for the Community Health Center Fund (\$4B/year), National Health Service Corps (\$310M/year) and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program (\$126.5M/year) for 5 years.
 - This agreement represents a **bipartisan, bicameral solution** for a long-term extension of funding for Community Health Centers.