Health Center Funding: Where We Are And Where We Go From Here

June 26, 2019

National Association of Community Health Centers
The chat feature is available to ask questions or make comments anytime throughout today’s webinar.

We will answer as many questions as possible.

If we do not get to your question live during the webinar, we will follow up with you directly via email.

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Meet the NACHC Staff!

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Today’s Agenda

Brief Overview of Health Center Grant Funding

What’s Happened so Far this Year?

Getting Across the Finish Line: Advocacy for the Months Ahead
Health Center Grant Funding

• Most Health Centers receive Section 330 grant funding from the Federal government.

• Enables health centers to care for uninsured patients, subsidizes underinsured patients unable to afford their deductibles and copays, and helps finance services not otherwise covered.

• It’s the source of funding for every New Access Point, Service Expansion, Quality Award, Capital Grant, and Base Adjustment
That Funding Goes to Good Use!

Who do Health Centers Serve?

In 2018, health centers will serve

over 28 million patients

including:

- over 13 million people in poverty
- 1.4 million homeless patients
- 8.4 million children
- nearly 1 million agricultural workers
- over 350,000 veterans

Health Centers Reach:

- 1 in 6 Rural Residents
- 1 in 6 Medicaid Beneficiaries
- 1 in 5 Uninsured Persons
- 1 in 3 People in Poverty

WWW.NACHC.ORG
TWITTER: @NACHC
Excellent Return on Federal Investment

✓ Health centers save the health care system $24 billion every year, reducing unnecessary inpatient hospitalizations and ER use. This is more than a 400% return on grant funding invested.

✓ Health centers promote economic growth in distressed communities, generating $45.6 billion in total economic activity each year and employing nearly 220,000 people across the country.

✓ Health centers are providing solutions to major health care challenges, fighting outbreaks of flu, managing chronic conditions, dispensing care in disaster stricken areas, providing opioid addiction treatment, serving our veterans.
Section 330 Health Center Grant Funding

Health Centers Fund
Mandatory
• Required spending, unless Congress changes law
• Year 9 of funding - originally authorized for 5 years in 2010 and extended twice (2-yr increments)
• Expires September 30, 2019 without extension
• Currently $4 billion/year (FY19)

Annual Appropriation
Discretionary
• Annual, up to Congress (Appropriations Committees) to determine amount
• Prior to 2010, this was the only source of federal grant funding for CHC program
• Currently $1.63 billion/year (FY19)

Two Sources Combine to Form One Program
Appropriations Update

- House letter closed at **278 signatures** on March 28
- Senate letter closed at **68 signatures** on April 5
- House Appropriations bill contains **additional $50 million** for CHCs to ramp up HIV prevention via PrEP – Stay tuned for more from the Senate
What is the funding reauthorization?

CHCs were only funded through the annual budget prior to 2010 (Blue)

2010: Congress created a dedicated 5-year fund for growth in CHCs (Orange)

In 2015 & 2018, CHC advocates succeeded in getting 2-year extensions (Gray & Green)
NHSC
National Health Service Corps

- NHSC supports clinicians in underserved areas through loan repayment & scholarships
- 54% of the roughly 11,000 NHSC clinicians nationwide practice in health centers
- Extended for 2 years in MACRA & BBA
  - NHSC Trust Fund is $310m (mandatory)
  - Discretionary NHSC Funds is $105m

THCGME
Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education

- Brings residency training for physicians/dentists into community-based setting
- Most of the 56 THCGME sites are health centers
- Residents trained in THCGME sites more likely to stay and practice in rural/underserved areas
  - Over 630 new providers have trained at THCs
- Extended for 2 years in MACRA & BBA ($126.5m)
What are we asking for?

Long term funding, to include 5 years of at least level funding and ideally room for growth in all programs.
We need Members of Congress to cosponsor at least one bill to extend long term and stable funding:

- CHIME (S. 106/ H.R. 2328)
- Senate HELP (S. 192)
- Sanders-Clyburn bill (S. 962/H.R. 1943)

Advocacy Push:
Go to www.hcadvocacy.org/takeaction
Congress failed to reauthorize funding before the September 30, 2017 deadline. After your strong advocacy, funding finally passed in the Balanced Budget Act in February 2018:

- **Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF)** – 2 year extension w/ increased funding ($3.8B in FY18 and $4.0B in FY19)
- **National Health Service Corps (NHSC)** – 2 year extension of level funding ($310M/yr)
- **Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME)** – 2 year extension w/ increased funding ($126.5M/yr)

The 2-year extension was retroactive to September 30, 2017, meaning the funding will once again expire on September 30, 2019 without Congressional action.
Where do we stand?

January
- Two Senate bills introduced
- Senate HELP Hearing

March - April
- CHC advocates storm the Hill during P&I
- One more Senate bill, Two House bills introduced

June
- House E&C Hearing
- New Senate Bill
- Senate HELP Mark-up TODAY
Over the next couple of months...

- Mark-up in the House likely in July
- Congress possibly addresses other issues on its agenda, including
  - Appropriations
  - Drug pricing
  - Heath Care Costs
  - Infrastructure investments
  - New Budget Cap deal
- August Congressional Recess – 5/6 weeks out of DC
- Final Push for CHC’s and other programs set to expire 9/30
Challenges

• It’s expensive!
• Pay-fors could be tricky
• Split Congress
• Crowded agenda
• Limited time
Opportunities

• Lots of work done already!
• High level of familiarity with the issue
• 9 years in and lots of good things to show for the investments that have been made
• Bipartisan support
• Best story to tell
Almost there!
Making it across the finish line
Resource Hub: CURRENT LEGISLATION

- Talking points
- One-pagers and fact sheets
- Background information
- Media templates
- ...and more!

www.hcadvocacy.org/currentlegislation
Telling our story: Health Centers are Unique!

- Located in medically underserved communities
- Create savings & promote economic growth
- Open to all
- Comprehensive set of services
- Established infrastructure to respond quickly to community events
- Patient-majority governing boards
Arguments for Action

• Without **sustainable and predictable funding**, health centers will continue to **experience operational and service related impacts**, placing our patients’ care in jeopardy.

• Health centers are **small businesses and need to be able to plan for the future**, we cannot wait until the last minute to know whether or not the funding will be there.
June
• Summer Photo Contest #ValueCHCs begins
• Share this webinar
• Create & Practice your elevator speech with your colleagues & friends
• Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor
• Post articles re health centers & tag your MOCs

July
• 4<sup>th</sup> of July events in local communities
• Summer photo contest continues
• In-District visits – “arrive with five”
• July 17: Congressional Leadership Hill Day & Call-In Day
Summer Funding Strategy
– Your Voice, Friends & Creativity

August
• Aug 4-10: National Health Center Week – Have fun & get members of Congress to health centers to show off your work
• In-District Visits – “arrive with five”

September
• Sept 2: Labor Day Social Media – CHC’s as employers and economic engines
• Sept 9-10: National Fly-In & Call-In Day (if needed)
• Hi, I am ____ and live in __________.
• I work at/am a patient at _____ Health Center.
• It is the best resource in our community because we provide quality health care for _#_ of patients and quality jobs for _#_ of community members.
• Please vote to support long-term, stable funding.
Make Your Presence Known

Online Tips & Tools for Success:

- Visit the HC Advocacy Website
- Bookmark the Spread the Word and Advocacy Tools pages
- Make sure to tag your elected officials when posting on social media
- Thank a Member of Congress for their support of key legislation
- Use #ValueCHCs so HC Advocacy can react and repost
Be Proud. Be Seen. Be Heard.


AMERICA’S HEALTH CENTERS = AMERICA’S PROMISE
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
July 17 – Cong Leadership Focused Advocacy
National Health Center Week August 4-10

Theme:
America’s Health Centers: Rooted in Communities

Goal:
• Celebrate health centers
• Increase awareness and community buy-in
• Advocate for long-term stable funding for CHCs
Focus Days

- Sunday, Aug. 4 – Social Determinants Day (Creating Nutrient Rich Soil)
- Monday, Aug. 5 – Health Care for the Homeless Day
- Tuesday, Aug. 6 – Agricultural Worker Health Day
- Wednesday, Aug. 7 – Patient Appreciation Day
- Thursday, Aug. 8 – Stakeholder Appreciation Day
- Friday, Aug. 9 – Health Center Staff Appreciation Day
- Saturday, Aug. 10 – Children’s Health Day
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Online Resources

NACHC Policy Papers

State and Congressional District Maps, State Fact Sheets

NACHC Blog

NACHC Webpage

NACHC Fact Sheets

For these and other materials, go to www.nachc.org/focus-areas/policy-matters
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Questions?