South Carolina Health Center Talking Points

The theme for this year’s National Health Center Week is Celebrating Health Centers: Home of America’s Health Care Heroes. To help highlight your Health Care Heroes, we have crafted some talking points showcasing the great work that health centers do in the communities of South Carolina.

Providing Comprehensive Health Care

- 22 community health centers bring comprehensive health services to communities in South Carolina, operating out of 176 sites statewide.
- In 2016, community health centers in South Carolina provided 232,936 visits for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.
- South Carolina health services provided 266,114 patient visits for preventative services, such as screenings and vaccines.
- 559,322 visits to South Carolina health centers helped patients overcome chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and heart disease.

Serving the Underserved

- South Carolina health centers are the medical home to 374,257 patients, 65% of whom are ethnic or racial minorities.
- 27% of the health center patients in South Carolina are uninsured and may not otherwise have access to affordable care if not for health centers.
- 35% of South Carolina health center patients are covered by Medicaid, and 15% are covered by Medicare.

Lower Cost, Better Care

- Health centers deliver high quality care that is also cost-effective – compared to other physician settings, health centers spend about one-third less per patient per day.
- For Medicaid patients, total spending is 24% lower at health centers than other providers.
- A recent study found that health centers save the health care system $24 billion in a year!

Heroes on the Hill

- Members of Congress are very active with health centers: last year, 288 House Representatives and 33 Senators visited community health centers in their districts and states.
- Early this year, your legislators helped secure $5.4 billion in combined mandatory and discretionary health center funding for Fiscal Year 2018, a $300 million increase in funds to help improve health care in our communities.
- We need our Heroes on the Hill to step up again next year and ensure that health centers do not experience another funding cliff after September 30, 2019. Congress must act before this deadline to allow the nation’s more than 1,400 health center organizations to continue doing what they do best: providing high-quality primary and preventive care to more than 27 million vulnerable patients in thousands of rural and underserved communities nationwide.

Email NHCW@nachc.org if you would like additional health center information. Please use the hashtags #NHCW18 and #CHCSuperPower for all social media posts!