

## Alaska Health Center Talking Points

**America's Health Center: Rooted in Communities** is the theme for the 2019 National Health Center Week. Community health centers are unique providers because they help patients make better-informed decisions about their health care through enabling services, including care coordination, health education, and transportation

### Providing Comprehensive Primary and Preventative Health Care

- ✓ 27 community health centers bring comprehensive health services to communities in Alaska, operating out of 188 sites statewide.
- ✓ In 2018 community health centers in Alaska provided 94,921 visits for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.
- ✓ Alaska health services provided 103,876 patient visits for preventative services, such as screenings and vaccines.
- ✓ 84,508 visits to Alaska health centers helped patients overcome chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and heart disease.

### Serving Underserved Communities

- ✓ 22% of the health center patients in Alaska are uninsured and may not otherwise have access to affordable care if not for health centers.
- ✓ 36% of Alaska health center patients are covered by Medicaid, and 10% are covered by Medicare.
- ✓ 46% of patients live below the federal poverty level.
- ✓ Alaska health centers are the medical home to 113,040 patients, 59% of whom are ethnic or racial minorities.

### Promoting Economic Growth

- ✓ In 2018, health centers created \$583.4 million in total economic activity in Alaska.
- ✓ 4,270 jobs were created at health centers and other businesses and non-profits within their communities.
- ✓ For every \$1 in federal 330 funding, Alaska health centers generated \$4.95.

### 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.

### Legislative Support

- ✓ Health centers have great support from their Members of Congress: last year, 288 House Representatives and 33 Senators visited community health centers in their districts and states.
- ✓ We need our legislators to lead again 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 28 million vulnerable patients in thousands of rural and underserved communities nationwide.

Email [NHCW@nachc.org](mailto:NHCW@nachc.org) if you would like additional health center information. Please use the hashtags #NHCW19 and #ValueCHCs for all social media posts