

Talking Points for National Health Center Week August 4-10, 2024

Health Center / Workforce Funding

Topline Message: NACHC continues to seek opportunities to provide health centers with additional revenue to meet the needs of their patients and retain and recruit the future workforce.

- Health centers are dealing with a variety of financial difficulties including rising workforce costs, reduced 340B revenue, and significant financial and patient impact from the Medicaid unwinding, which resulted in an average loss of \$600,000 per health center. NACHC knows that increased, predictable, and sustainable funding is critical to health centers.
- Through our collective advocacy, Congress allocated the first increase in years and the largest increase in a decade to health centers. New funding opportunities became available for behavioral health expansions and extended hours as well.
- Congress also increased investment in the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program to expand opportunities for the next generation of health center clinicians.
- NACHC knows that a robust base grant adjustment – the first since 2015 – would be the most impactful policy change for existing health centers and will continue to highlight that for Members of Congress and the administration from now until the end of the year.
- Additionally, dedicated funding for a New Access Point round would alleviate the financial challenges that the growing number of Look-Alikes are facing and strengthen the primary care system in the nation.

340B

Topline Message: NACHC understands the difficulty of the current contract pharmacy restrictions and will prioritize health center needs in legislation.

- As the leading advocate for Community Health Centers, NACHC prioritizes health center perspectives about solutions to protect and sustain 340B. We have been in listening mode and everyone's feedback is essential to the process of crafting a permanent legislative fix that will stabilize the program and protect the safety net.
- NACHC launched the initial step toward a solution by bringing together diverse stakeholders to form the Alliance to Save America's 340B Program (or ASAP340B). This was just the beginning of a lengthy process to change the conversation and drive support for comprehensive reform to protect 340B through legislation.

- The 340B ACCESS Act recently introduced in the House marked the first historic milestone in crafting a legislative solution, but getting a final bill through both the House and Senate with bipartisan support is a long road.
- NACHC is also proud to have led Community Health Center engagement around the bipartisan Senate SUSTAIN 340B Act, which protects patient affordability and access to medications, covers the use of contract pharmacies, outlines patient definition, and addresses discriminatory PBM practices. We deeply appreciate the leadership of the six senators who are sponsoring the bill and stand ready to work with leaders in Congress to assure passage of legislation that protects health center's access to the 340B program.

NACHC Dues Structure

Topline Message: NACHC believes that membership is partnership. For all health centers to be the Employer, Provider, and Partner of Choice, we must increase membership involvement.

- Change is coming! NACHC is updating Organizational Membership dues rates for the first time in 24 years. Changes will be implemented January 1, 2025.
- Improving equity and inclusion and restoring the sliding scale: The changes are designed to improve equity and inclusion of *all* health centers and to restore the intent of NACHC's sliding-scale approach, which membership had outgrown. Today, more than 90% of members are at the \$20K cap. Meanwhile, data shows that NACHC's current dues rates are a barrier to participation for smaller health centers.
- How health centers are affected: 49% of health centers (budgets under \$15M) will see a reduction in dues rates, with 18% staying the same, and 33% (budgets of \$25M or more) seeing increases.
- NACHC is here to help: We understand that all health centers are facing challenges, regardless of size. If a health center wants to be a member of NACHC but is unable to pay their standard dues rate at this time, please contact membership@nachc.org or Jason Bellamy, SVP of Constituent Services, to discuss options.

NACHC's Employer, Provider and Partner of Choice Strategy

Topline Message: Community Health Centers need to be the Employer of Choice, Provider of Choice, Partner of Choice (EPPOC) to advance health equity for all.

- Community Health Centers **now serve nearly 1 in 10 Americans**. Our goal at NACHC is for health centers to serve 1 in 3. It's a bold goal to expand primary care and advance health equity for ALL at a time when more than 100 million Americans are struggling to access a primary care provider.
- To get to 1 in 3, we at NACHC are developing a strategy – in consultation with health centers across the country and with our PCA and HCCN partners – to position health centers as the Employer of Choice, Provider of Choice, and Partner of Choice in healthcare. NACHC's strategy will leverage science, education, policy, and practice in the key areas for

strengthening primary care, building the workforce needed to address care gaps, addressing the social drivers of health, and reducing preventable health disparities.

NACHC's Technical Assistance and Trainings

Topline Message: NACHC provides training and technical assistance to health centers across the country, most of our offerings are free or at reduced costs.

- NACHC listens to health center staff and board members to assess the most pressing and critical training needs.
- NACHC is a trusted national training partner of HRSA's, and we receive a generous cooperative agreement from HRSA to provide you with the most relevant, accessible, and quality professional development.
- In the last year, NACHC trained over 16,000 health center staff and health center board members from 750 health centers. We provided 51 small group, hands on sessions and 151 national training events in topics like financial management and revenue cycle management, leadership and workforce development, value based care transformation, and outreach and enrollment best practices.
- Overall, our training participants report a 4.4 out of 5 in training satisfaction, with many reporting they would highly recommend NACHC training to a colleague.
- Stay tuned for an official Health Center Training Needs Assessment launching on August 19th. This is a national survey open to all health center employees to let NACHC know your immediate and future training needs. NACHC is eager to support your organizational performance and service delivery to the many patients for whom you care.
- Please take advantage of our many training opportunities that are delivered virtually, in person and their self paced online modules. Learn more at nachc.org and Click on Trainings.

NACHC Leadership Additions

Topline Message: We are excited about the new leaders joining NACHC, who will help us better serve our members and the movement!

-Luis Padilla, MD, Chief Medical Officer

-Peter Shin, PhD, MPH, Chief Science Officer

-Diana Erani, MBA, Chief Operating Officer

-Sean Roddy, MBA, CPA, CMA, CGMA