

2025 National Health Center Week Talking Points

Community Health Centers are grateful for Congress' longstanding, bipartisan support for the health center mission, which allows us to provide comprehensive primary care services to our neighbors who need it. To continue providing these comprehensive services, health centers need Congress to:

- **Pass increased long-term funding** – Health centers must have reliable increased funding streams to meet the growing demand for affordable primary care in the face of rising costs. Federal funding expires on September 30, 2025, unless Congress extends it.
- **Invest in primary care workforce** – Severe workforce shortages and growing salary gaps make it difficult for health centers to retain and recruit staff.
- **Protect 340B** – Every penny that health centers save through 340B discounts is used to make medication affordable for low-income patients and to expand access to preventive care services
- **Support telehealth** – Health centers must be able to use telehealth to expand access to high-quality health care services, especially behavioral health services, in rural high-need areas.

Why should Congress pass policies and funding that sustain health centers?

- Community Health Centers save lives and deliver cost-savings to taxpayers.
- Community Health Centers play a critical role in the U.S. health care system, delivering care to over 32.5 million people. This includes:
 - 419,020 veterans
 - 1 in 8 children
 - 1.4 million people without homes
 - 3.8 million seniors
- Nearly 1,500 Community Health Centers and Look-Alike organizations provide care at more than 16,000 locations across the country.
- Nearly 40% of health centers are in rural communities where the nearest doctor or hospital can be more than 50 miles away.
- One in 10 Americans are health center patients, of whom:
 - 18% are uninsured
 - 50% are insured by Medicaid

- Health centers provide care to:
 - 1 in 5 uninsured
 - 1 in 3 living in poverty
 - 1 in 5 rural residents

Community Health Centers support improved health outcomes:

- Health centers improve the health and well-being of medically underserved communities.
- Health centers are innovators, healers, and problem solvers that reach people who are not served by the conventional health care delivery system. They:
 - Prevent illness
 - Address non-clinical factors that affect health
 - Provide equal opportunity for health
- Health centers work in partnership with health care payers, hospital systems, the private sector, and all levels of government to address and respond to the critical public health crises of our time, including:
 - Pandemics
 - Natural disasters and extreme weather events
 - The national opioid crisis
 - Maternal mortality

Community Health Centers overcome barriers to care:

- Health centers adapt quickly, as demonstrated by the rapid utilization of telehealth.
- In addition to primary care services, most health centers also offer:
 - Dental care
 - Mental health care
 - Substance use services
 - Behavioral health care

Community Health Centers save money:

- Health centers drive economic growth and provide cost savings to the medical industry by reducing the need for other health care services.
- Health centers across the U.S.:
 - Support 650,000 direct and indirect jobs



- Create nearly \$118 billion in economic output
- Save the nation's health system billions of dollars annually, reducing overall health care costs