

Who Is NACHC?

Community health centers are local, non-profit, community-owned organizations providing health care for low-income and medically under-served areas. For over 40 years, the national network of health centers has offered high-quality, affordable primary care and preventive services. Often, they also provide on-site dental, pharmaceutical, mental health and substance abuse services. Also known as Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHCs), they are located in under-served areas and improve access to care for millions of Americans regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Their fees rank among the lowest for health-care providers, and they reduce the need for more expensive, in-patient and specialty care saving billions in tax dollars.

An integral part of the success of the health center model are the community boards which involve over 20,000 volunteers in the organization and assure delivery of essential health services needed in their specific communities.

Currently, over 1,200 community, migrant and homeless health care centers deliver health care at over 7,000 delivery sites in every state and territory. Health centers serve as the medical home and family physician to more than 18 million people annually.

In Fulfilling It's Mission, NACHC:

- Serves as a major source of information, data and research on key issues affecting community-based health centers and the delivery of health care for the medically underserved and uninsured in America.
- Provides education, training, technical assistance and leadership development to health center staff, boards and others to promote excellence and cost-effectiveness in health delivery practice and community board governance.
- Builds partnerships and linkages that stimulate public and private sector investment in the delivery of quality health care services to medically underserved communities.

Americans Need Community Health Centers

- 46.6 million Americans are uninsured
- 36 million lack access to a regular doctor

With Over 7,000 Service Delivery Sites Community Health Centers Serve as the Health Care Home for more than 18 Million Americans

- 1 of 7 Uninsured Persons
- 1 of 8 Medicaid/CHIP Recipients
- 1 of 3 Below Poverty
- 1 of 7 Rural Americans
- 1 of 4 Minority Individuals Below Poverty
- 1 in 5 Low Income, Uninsured Persons
- Serve 1,044,000 Homeless Persons
- Serve 936,000 Migrant Farmworkers

Community Health Centers Improve Health, Save Money, and Are a Good Investment

- Annual medical expenses for health center patients are **41% lower** compared to patients seen elsewhere. As a result, **health centers save the health care system \$9.9 to \$17.6 billion a year** — a figure that could grow to \$22.6 billion or even \$40.4 billion once health centers are expanded to serve a total of 30 million people by 2015.
- Health centers nationally generate **\$12.6 billion in economic benefits** for their predominately low income, rural and inner-city communities while also producing 143,000 jobs. Expanding health centers to serve 30 million people by 2015 will produce \$40.7 billion in overall economic gain along with over 460,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Investing in Community Health Centers is Important

Expanding and strengthening community health centers improves the health of the nation's medically vulnerable, and narrows health disparities. Research has shown that continued expansion would further reduce the health care gap for racial and ethnic minorities and the uninsured, satisfy unmet needs and increase the percent of uninsured with access to a reliable source of medical care. They reduce reliance on costly sources of care such as emergency rooms, and achieve significant tax savings. Health centers are good public investments that generate substantial benefits for patients, communities, insurers and governments.