

# Health Care Safety Net Act of 2008

## Key Provisions



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Community Health Centers

### **Community Health Centers**

*Reauthorization of the Community Health Centers Program* – the bill reauthorizes the Health Centers program through FY2012, with slated increases in funding ranging from 12% in FY09 to 13.5% in FY12.

#### *Studies Relating to Community Health Centers:*

- *School-based Health Centers* – A GAO Study examining the impact of federal funding for school-based health centers on costs, access, and other federal programs. Timeline: 2 years.
- *Quality* – a HRSA/AHRQ Study on quality improvement activities at CHCs: successful models, data collection practices, performance evaluation and technical assistance. Timeline: 1 year.
- *Integrated Health Systems* – A GAO Study on 15 public or non-profit entities that integrate primary, specialty, and acute care for the uninsured and underserved. Timeline: 1 year.
- *Volunteer Enhancement* – a GAO Study on the impact of extending FTCA coverage to volunteer practitioners at CHCs on access and costs, and obstacles to implementation. Timeline: 6 months.

*Recognition of High-Poverty Areas* – allows the Secretary to recognize the unique needs of high-poverty areas in awarding CHC planning grants.

*Primary Care Emergency Response Coordination* – the bill directs the Secretary to provide guidance and coordination between CHCs and other federal emergency response programs, and to utilize existing authority for CHCs to maintain FTCA coverage when travelling across state lines in public health emergencies.

### **National Health Service Corps**

*Reauthorization of the National Health Service Corps Program* – the bill reauthorizes the NHSC through FY2012, beginning with \$131.5 million for Scholarships and Loan Repayment in FY08 and increasing by 9% annually through FY2012.

*Automatic HPSA Designation* – the bill removes the 6-year limit on automatic designation of CHCs as being in Health Professional Shortage Areas.

*Professional Development* – the bill encourages entities to support mentorship, professional development and training opportunities for NHSC members.

*State Loan Repayment Program* – the bill clarifies that the District of Columbia and the territories are eligible to participate in the State Loan Repayment Program, and reauthorizes the SLRP through FY2012.

### **Rural Health Care Programs**

*Reauthorization of the Rural Health Care Programs* – the bill reauthorizes the Public Health Service Act Rural Health Programs at \$45 million annually through FY2012.

### **Dental Health Workforce**

*Primary Dental Health Workforce Programs* – the bill reauthorizes the Primary Dental Health Workforce Programs authorized under PHS Sec. 340G at \$25 million for the 5-year period beginning in FY2008.

### **Rural Health Clinics**

*Revision of Designation Timeframe* – the bill includes a technical correction to the Medicare program to align the RHC designation processes among the various HHS agencies.