

Talking Points: Value of Community Health Centers Today and Tomorrow

Revised March 7, 2017

Primary Message

- According to a just-released report from Capital Link, California's community health centers contributed more than \$8 billion to the California economy and supported nearly 60,000 jobs in 2015.
- INSERT INFORMATION ABOUT JOBS AT YOUR HEALTH CENTER – TALK ABOUT STAFF LOCAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOODS YOU SERVE.
- If TrumpCare repeals the ACA, rolls back the Medi-Cal expansion, and Congress doesn't fix the primary care funding cliff by this fall, millions of Californians will lose access to health care, the state will lose 27,000 good jobs, and the economy will take a \$3.8 billion a year hit.
- TALK ABOUT HOW IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HEALTH CENTER – MAKE IT PERSONAL – REAL PEOPLE.
- Community health centers are economic drivers in our lowest income communities where we need jobs and economic revitalization the most.
- TALK ABOUT HOW YOU CHANGED YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE BETTER>
- We are able to do that while saving taxpayers money. In 2015, Community health centers saved the state's Medi-Cal program \$5.5 billion and saved the overall health system \$7.5 billion.
- In doing so, we actually increased access to care for our most vulnerable people. From 2012 to 2015, we saw a 25 percent increase in the number of patients we served and a 33 percent decline in uninsured patients over the same period.
- TALK ABOUT PATIENT STORIES – ACCESSING CARE – IMPROVING LIVES.
- This report proves a simple fact: community health centers are an essential part of the California economy and healthcare system, which must be protected.

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Explaining the Report

- This report was commissioned by the CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates and the Regional Associations of California using grant funding provided by the Blue Shield of California Foundation.
- Capital Link used IMPLAN, an integrated economic modeling software to capture the direct, indirect, and induced economic effects of health center business operations and capital project plans. IMPLAN is widely used by economists, state and city planners, universities and others to estimate the impact of projects and expenditures on the local economy. Further information regarding data and forecasting methodology can be found in the report.

Explaining Community Health Centers

- Community health centers provide comprehensive, high quality health care to everyone who walks through their doors, in a compassionate and culturally sensitive manner.
- Community health centers include federally qualified health centers (FQHC) and FQHC look-alikes, community clinics, free clinics, rural health clinics, migrant health centers, Indian health service clinics, and family planning clinics.
- Services include comprehensive primary and preventive care, women's health, dental, mental health, substance use treatment, health education, outreach and enrollment, pharmacy and more.
- CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates is committed to advancing the mission of California's community health centers, who provide care to one in seven Californians each year. CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates is an independent advocacy organization affiliated with the California Primary Care Association.

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Social Media Posts

\$8.2 billion -- with a "b." That's how much #CommunityHealthCenters contribute to the California economy.

California's #CommunityHealthCenters serve 20% of the Medi-Cal population, but only received 2.8% of total Medi-Cal expenditures. #Value

Thanks to #CommunityHealthCenters, more than 59,000 people have good jobs!

#CommunityHealthCenters save the Medi-Cal program \$5.5 billion each year.

#CommunityHealthCenters save California's health system \$7.5 billion each year.

96% of #CommunityHealthCenters patients are low-income.

74% of #CommunityHealthCenters patients are ethnic or racial minorities.