

Making the Case for Community Health Centers

Using Louisiana's CHC Caucus to Strengthen Advocacy

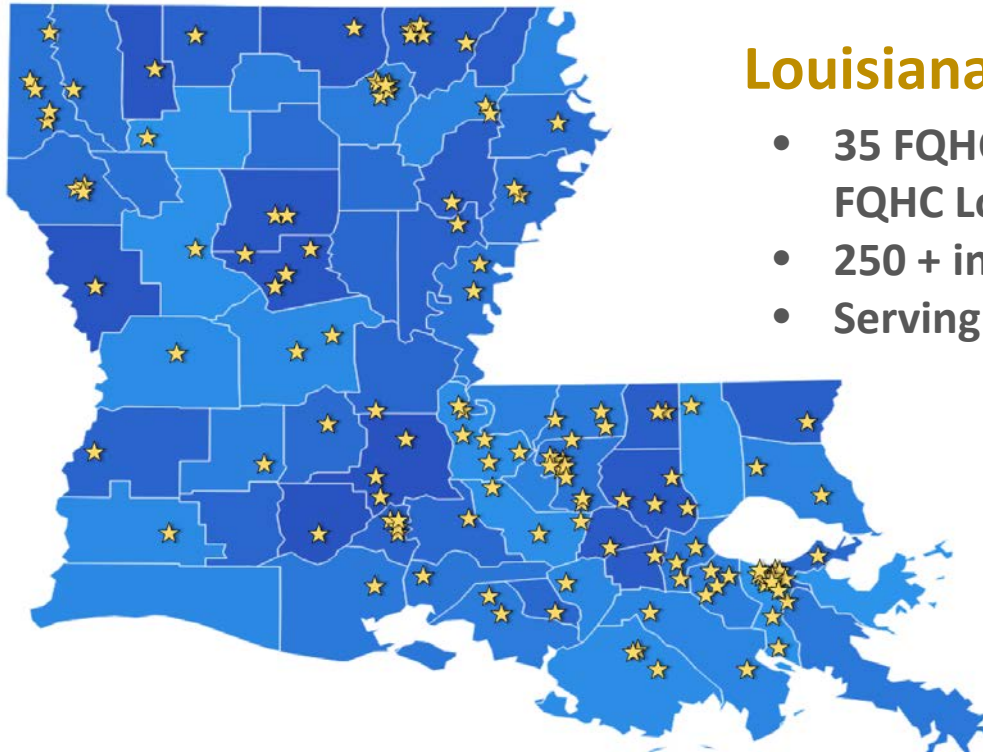


January 26, 2018
NACHC Winter Strategy Meeting
Delray Beach, FL

Louisiana Primary Care Association

Serving Louisiana's Health Centers for Over 35 Years

Established in 1982 as a non-profit organization, the Louisiana Primary Care Association, Inc. (LPCA) promotes accessible, affordable, quality primary healthcare services for the uninsured and medically underserved populations in Louisiana. It is a membership organization of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and supporters committed to the goal of achieving health care access for all.



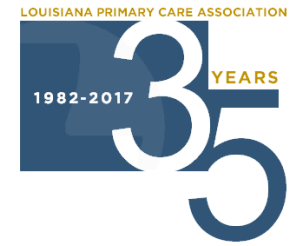
Louisiana's FQHC Landscape:

- 35 FQHC organizations (including one FQHC Look-A-Like)
- 250 + individual sites across the state
- Serving 385,000 individual patients

Data derived from 2016 UDS Statistics, HRSA

Louisiana Primary Care Association

The “Voice” of Louisiana’s Health Centers



LPCA serves as the leading statewide advocacy organization in support of community-based health centers and works to stress the importance of healthcare access as the foundation to building healthier communities.



Louisiana’s FQHC delegation attending Capitol Hill visits.
Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC | March 2016

As the voice of Louisiana's FQHCs, we work hard to educate our state and federal legislators on the issues that matter most to our members.

We monitor legislation, coordinate grassroots activity, and urge our lawmakers to ensure the continued sustainability of our local health centers.

LCPA's Legislative Committee

Chairman - Ed Carlson, CEO, Odyssey House Louisiana



Role of LPCA's Legislative Committee

- Monitors the changing health care environment at all levels.
- Conducts in-depth analysis of key legislative and regulatory issues affecting health centers and the delivery of health care to the medically underserved and uninsured.
- Educates policymakers, regulators, academia, corporate America, and the public about the critical role Community Health Centers play in the nation's health care system and on issues that impact health centers and the people they serve.
- Recommends legislative policies and procedures to the Board of Directors.

LPCA's Advocacy Branch

Chairman – Leroy Willis, Teche Action Clinic



Role of LPCA's Advocacy Branch

- Develops advocacy strategy and executes advocacy plan to support and impact federal, state, and local policy priorities.
- Allows patients, FQHC staff, and board members the opportunity to convene and strategize around LPCA's legislative activities and grassroots efforts.
- Assists in LPCA's ability to better focus its efforts on the most effective ways to engage in advocacy.
- Stands ready to recruit health centers when necessary for a call to action or other urgent legislative priority.



Raising the Bar for Advocacy

The Creation of Louisiana's Community Health Caucus

What is a Caucus?

A **legislative caucus** is a group of **legislators** who organize to advocate or influence **legislation** that promotes their common goals and interests.

The Louisiana Community Health Caucus was created in 2014 via Senate Concurrent Resolution 73 (SCR73).



Raising the Bar for Advocacy

The Creation of Louisiana's Community Health Caucus

The Louisiana Community Health Caucus was established in 2014. Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) No. 73 was sponsored by Senator Rick Ward, III and Representative Walt Leger, III.

About the Membership of the Caucus:

- Any member of the legislature whose district contains at least one Community Health Center site
- Completely bipartisan – open to Republicans, Democrats, and Independents



Sen. Rick Ward
R – District 17



Rep. Walt Leger, III
D – District 91

At the time of its formation:

32 of 39 Senators were members

55 of 105 Representatives were members

Raising the Bar for Advocacy

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73



Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73

To establish the Community Health Caucus of the Legislature of Louisiana and to provide relative to the caucus.

WHEREAS, community health centers provide access to high quality primary care in under-served communities across the state, providing care for Louisiana's most vulnerable, the uninsured; and

WHEREAS, community health centers substantially impact the physical and economic health of the communities they serve through over eight hundred thousand patient visits per year resulting in a savings of three hundred eighteen million dollars to the healthcare system annually, supporting over two thousand three hundred jobs in Louisiana, and having a twelve million eight hundred thousand dollar impact on state and local tax revenue; and



continued...

Raising the Bar for Advocacy

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73



WHEREAS, legislators who represent constituents who rely upon, and communities that benefit from, the public service and high quality healthcare access provided by community health centers desire that the Legislature of Louisiana bestow additional significance upon their actions and opinions on legislation and issues concerning health care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Community Health Caucus of the Legislature of Louisiana for the purpose of supporting the mission and goals of community health centers in the state.

Raising the Bar for Advocacy

Caucus Operational Guidelines

- There is one chair from the House and one chair from the Senate. They are reselected every two years in a renewed resolution.
- The caucus does not have dedicated state funding or official staff.
- The caucus is one of dozens of informal caucuses at the Louisiana Legislature.



Caucus as a Model of Success

A Vehicle to Achieve Specific Policy & Advocacy Goals

Louisiana's Community Health Caucus has been leveraged in a variety of different ways to achieve a variety of policy and advocacy goals over the past three years.

- The chairs of the caucus serve as our main liaisons for floor action during LPCA's annual Legislative Day, and typically offer commendations celebrating our presence at the capitol.
- The chairs have sent letters to our legislative delegation and other officials to express the will of the caucus in support of our goals.
- The caucus members have supported grant applications for their local FQHCs with letters of support, and have often signed on to letters about the funding cliff or other important federal issues as requested.
- The caucus was instrumental in advocating for state funding allocations in 2015 through Community Development Block Grant funds.

Caucus as a Model of Success

A Vehicle to Achieve Specific Policy & Advocacy Goals

Members of this caucus have been instrumental in everything we have requested at the state agency level, in the Governor's office, and beyond.

This also has proven to be a great way to attract conservative members who can sometimes be slow to embrace the FQHC model.



Rep. Cedric Glover and Willie White,
CEO of David Raines Community
Health Center



Community Health Center advocates wait to be recognized in the
Louisiana State Senate | May 17, 2017



Morehouse Community Medical
Center staff visit with Sen. Mike
Walsworth

Moving Forward Together

LPCA's Advocacy Strategy for 2018



Transforming Ideas into Action

LPCA Policy Program Goals



- **Goal 1:** Build advocacy network via campaign to engage patients and broader community to support CHCs
- **Goal 2:** Strengthen CHC capacity to engage legislators, building sustained relationships at organization level beyond 2018 and future state elections (“Top of Mind”)
- **Goal 3:** Develop specific policy agenda to advocate for regulatory relief by state government on CHCs
- **Goal 4:** Develop specific policy agenda to sustain Medicaid Expansion and protect CHCs

FQHC Key Contacts

Health Center Advocacy Begins with YOU

In order to properly execute our advocacy strategy, LPCA staff depends on key contacts from every community health center. These individuals are our first point of contact when implementing a call to action or mobilizing grassroots support. They are LPCA's "go-to" advocates for their respective health centers.

Two persons from each health center

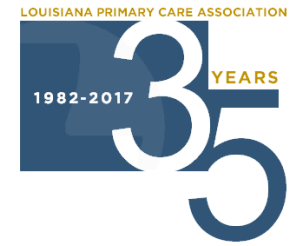
- One staff person
- One non-staff person

Key contacts are expected to cultivate relationships with the health center's elected officials and relay pertinent information to LPCA advocacy staff.



LPCA's 2018 Advocacy Events

Putting Advocacy Into Action



2018 NACHC Policy & Issues Forum

March 14-18, 2018 | Washington DC

All are invited to join us on our annual trek to Washington DC. You'll get the opportunity to meet directly with your Members of Congress. NACHC's annual P&I Forum is a great way to network with health center advocates from across the country and learn valuable advocacy skills. Learn more by visiting LPCA's website, or www.nachc.org.



FQHC advocates visiting with Rep. Clay Higgins
Washington, DC | March 2017

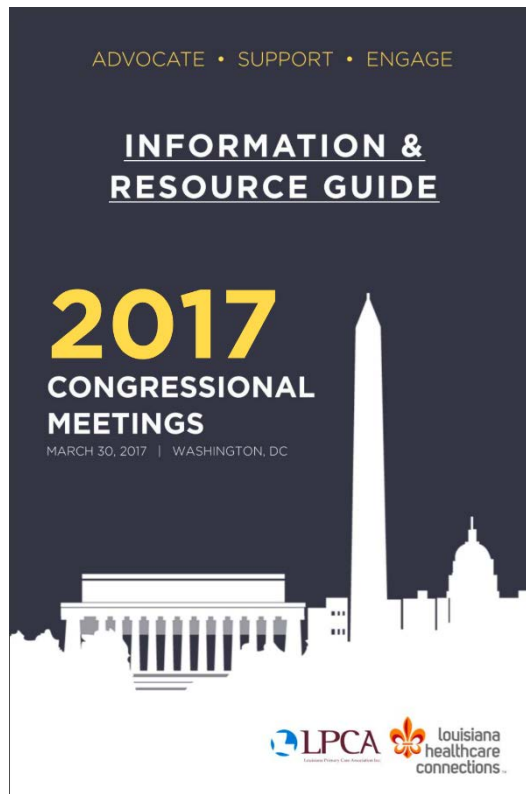


FQHC advocates presenting Rep. Garret Graves with a NACHC award certificate
Washington, DC | March 2017

LPCA's 2018 Advocacy Events

Putting Advocacy Into Action

LPCA creates a “Information & Resource Guide” for every Louisiana Community Health Center advocate attending P&I. This guide provides information on every one of our Members of Congress, including a map of all the FQHCs in their district.



US. Rep. Steve Scalise
Louisiana's 1st Congressional District | Republican

Congressman Steve Scalise proudly serves his colleagues as House Majority Whip and represents the First Congressional District of Louisiana, which stretches from the culturally distinct New Orleans suburbs to the vibrant bayous and wetlands abundant in natural resources. During the 113th Congress, he served as chairman for the Republican Study Committee, the conservative House caucus.



Rep. Scalise is a strong conservative leader who upholds the Constitution, advocating for the principles of fiscal discipline, lower taxes, an all-of-the-above national energy strategy, a robust national defense, and conservative values. Through his previous experiences as House Deputy Whip and RSC Chairman, Scalise developed a proven formula to pass effective legislation that unites his colleagues.

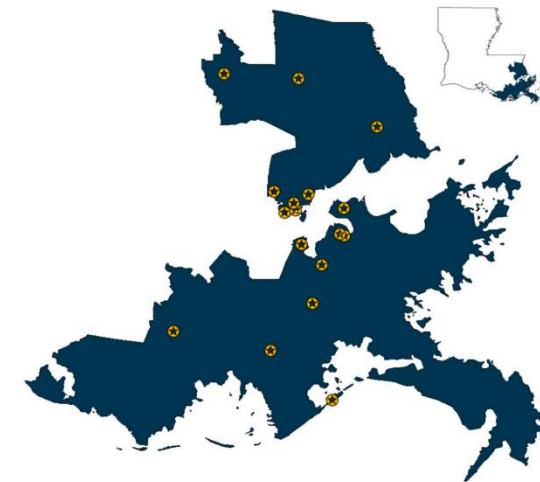
Rep. Scalise is a graduate of LSU. He received his B.S. in Computer Science in 1989 with a minor in Political Science. He is a former systems engineer. He is married to the former Jennifer Letulle. He is the proud father of two children, Madison and Harrison. He and his family reside in Jefferson, Louisiana.



2017 Distinguished Community Health Leadership Award

Congressional District Snapshot*	
Population	759,507
Gender	48.9% Male, 51.1% Female
Race/Ethnicity	80.3% White, 12.7% Black, 7.7% Black, 1.9% Asian, 1.2% Native American
Median Household Income	\$50,979
High School Graduation Rate	85.3%
College Graduation Rate	26.4%

*Data derived from 2010 US Census



Community Health Center Organizations
Access Health Louisiana
Daughters of Charity
JeffCare
Jefferson Community Health Care Centers
Priority Health Care
Southeast Community Health Systems
Teche Action Clinic
72,349 patients served in 2015*

*Patient numbers are derived from UDS Mapper using zip code boundaries. Some zip codes cross multiple Congressional Districts which may affect the accuracy of the data.

LPCA's 2018 Advocacy Events

Putting Advocacy Into Action

LPCA's Annual Legislative Day 2018

May 16, 2018 | Baton Rouge, LA

Save the Date! Every year, Louisiana's Community Health Centers gather at the State Capitol. Advocates get the opportunity to meet with their state legislators and emphasize the important role FQHCs play in their communities. This event gets bigger and bigger every year, in 2018 we're expecting a record turnout!



LPCA's 2018 Advocacy Events

Putting Advocacy Into Action

National Health Center Week 2018

August 12-18, 2018 | Statewide

National Health Center Week has been celebrated for over 30 years to recognize the important services and contributions of FQHCs across the country. Health centers across the country host community events, ribbon cuttings, open houses, etc.

This week is always a great time of year to invite local, state, and federal elected officials for a site visit!



Rep. Johnson visits David Raines Community Health Center during NHCW17
Shreveport, LA | August 2017



Rep. Higgins visits with staff at Iberia Comp. Community Health Center as part of NHCW17
New Iberia, LA | August 2017

Connect With LPCA

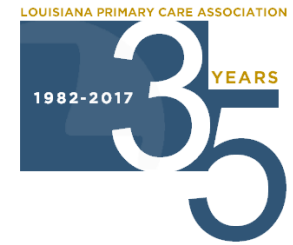
Keep Up With What's Happening at LPCA

It's easier than ever to stay connected to the Louisiana Primary Care Association and Louisiana's Community Health Centers.

Be sure to subscribe to LPCA's *Weekly Update*. The *Weekly Update* is a collection of information assembled by every LPCA staff member, encompassing every department - making it convenient and easy for you to stay informed! This email arrives in your inbox every Monday morning.

Subscribe here:

<http://bit.ly/2E34RJ3>



Items of Interest



CHC Funding & Other Health Programs Extended for Limited Time

Congress passed a short-term Continuing Resolution extending government funding through January 19th. One of the few additional provisions included in the bill was short-term funding specifically for Community Health Centers (\$550 million), the National Health Service Corps (\$65 million) and Teaching Health Centers (\$15 million), as well as limited funds for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). These funds represent the minimum amount necessary to maintain current services long enough for Congress to revisit this issue in January.

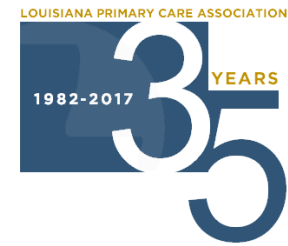
Uniform Data System 2017 Reporting Season Now Open

Access to report UDS data for calendar year 2017 is now available to health centers through



Connect With Advocacy Peers

Join the Louisiana Health Center Advocates FB Group

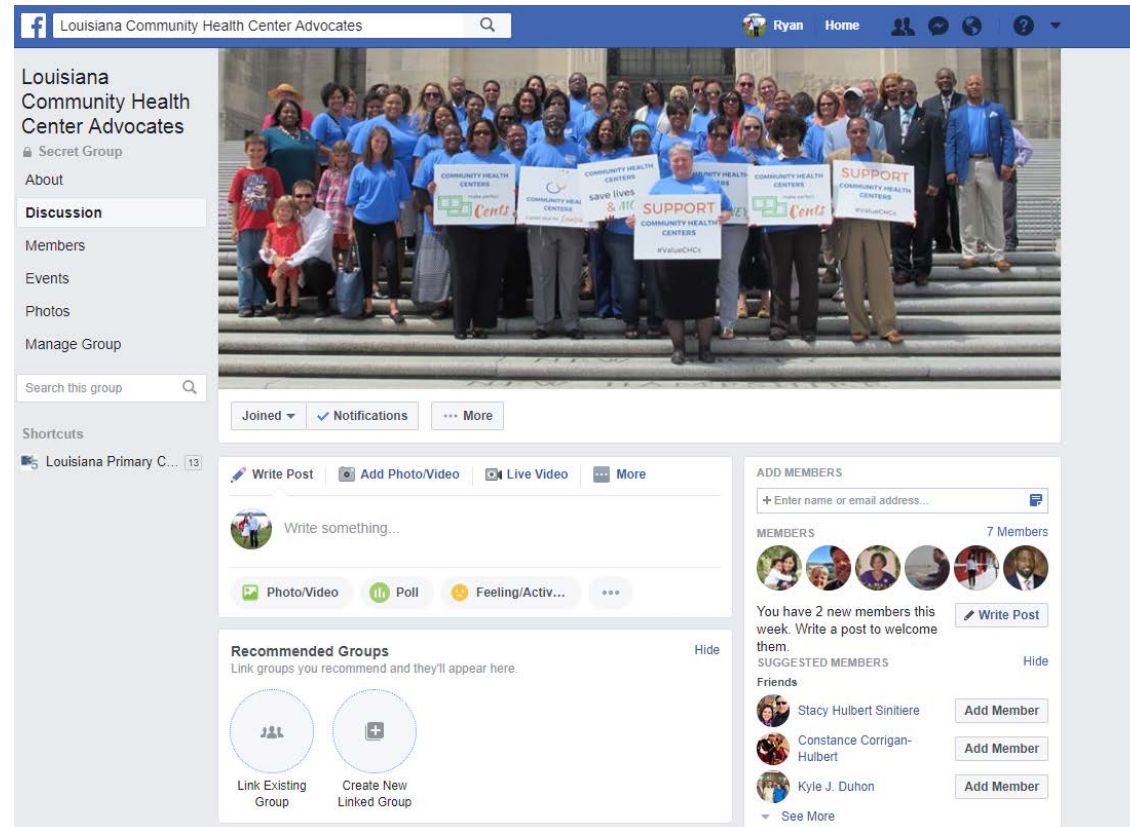


“Louisiana Health Center Advocates” Facebook Group

This group is exclusively for Community Health Center advocates from across Louisiana and is intended to foster collaboration and communication among peers.

This is a secret, closed group and cannot be seen by the public.

It's easy and free! This is a great way to keep advocates informed and engaged!



Connect With LPCA

Keep Up With What's Happening at LPCA

Another way to stay informed *and* engaged in advocacy is via social media. The Louisiana Primary Care Association is active on Facebook and Twitter – be sure to follow us!

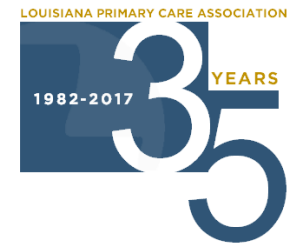
Using social media is a great way to engage with elected officials and inform the public about everything your health center has to offer.



@LouisianaPCA



@LPCA1



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Visit our website at www.LPCA.net

