

# Community Health Center Funding Appropriations



## An Annual Investment in a Successful Model

Sustaining and Growing Health Centers to Meet Rising Demand

Federal grant funding for the Health Center program currently comes from two sources that combine to support the federal Section 330 grant that all health centers receive:

- **\$1.63 billion in annual discretionary appropriations** and
- \$4.0 billion in the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF).

For decades, Congress has made an annual bipartisan investment that provides the foundation for the health center model of care. This investment is critical to the success of health centers as they meet growing demand and respond to changing health care needs of their communities. Further, a number of independent studies have shown that health centers consistently save money – resulting in fewer emergency room visits, fewer inpatient hospitalizations and readmissions, and reduced length of stays.

Specifically, health centers rely on Section 330 grant funding to:

- provide high-quality, cost-effective primary medical care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and vision care for more than 28 million patients in rural and urban communities – 1.4 million of whom are experiencing homelessness and 23% of whom are uninsured;
- expand their facilities, open new sites, and broaden their services to meet unmet need in areas with limited access to care;
- invest in services that enable patients to receive care, including transportation, care coordination, and translation and interpretation services.
- respond to emerging health care needs, including providing care to some of the hardest to reach urban and rural populations across America impacted by the opioid epidemic. Specifically, in 2017 health centers provided 5.7 million visits for patients with substance use disorders, 65,000 of whom received Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).

**How you can help:** Provide predictable and stable discretionary Section 330 federal grant funding for Community Health Centers in the FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill by:

1. Signing the **DeGette-Bilirakis** letter in the House and the **Wicker-Stabenow** letter in the Senate.
2. Requesting **level discretionary funding (\$1.63 billion)** in individual submission letters to Appropriators.