



Community Health Centers 2019 Federal Policy Issues in Brief

Health Centers are an American success story. They demonstrate that communities can improve health, reduce health disparities, generate taxpayer savings, and effectively address a multitude of costly and significant public health and social problems, including substance use disorder, mental illness, veterans access to care, natural disasters, and homelessness.

Over the last decade, **Congress has affirmed the crucial role that health centers play** in ensuring access to quality primary and preventive care for millions by investing in health centers. Today, that investment includes mandatory and discretionary federal grant funds, both of which need to be extended this year, alongside funding for critical workforce programs.

Additionally, health centers serve as a committed partner on the following issues:

Enhancing Care through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

Health centers successfully utilize the 340B program, ensuring that patients can buy their medications at affordable prices; and that health centers can reinvest the savings into improved quality of care and expanded services for all patients.

Health centers support *ensuring continued access to the 340B program to sustain their essential model of care.*

Protecting a Robust Medicaid Program.

Medicaid is a critical program for health centers and their patients:

- Half of all health center patients are covered by Medicaid
- Medicaid payments represent health centers' largest revenue source

Health centers support *preserving a strong Medicaid program including the unique and cost effective FQHC PPS payment methodology.*

Taking Action to Prevent and Treat Substance Use Disorders.

As communities across America cope with a dramatic increase in substance use disorders, including opioid addiction, health centers are leaders in integrating medical, dental and behavioral health care, along with other services, to respond to the pressing need for enhanced care. **Health centers support** *targeted and sustainable investments and policy changes to continue to meet this challenge.*

Expanding Access through Telehealth.

Telehealth offers great benefits to patients and providers in both rural and urban areas alike, especially when workforce shortages and geography present barriers to accessing care. **Health centers support** *further utilization of telehealth services alongside sustainable reimbursement.*

