



Address Federal threats to coverage for immigrants by adding \$20M to the Diagnostic and Treatment Center (D&TC) Safety Net Pool

Background

- The D&TC Indigent Care Fund, also known as the Safety Net Pool, helps FQHCs and other safety net primary care providers cover some of the **costs of caring for uninsured patients**.
- FQHCs are mandated to serve everyone regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.
- Despite the increases in health insurance coverage resulting from the Affordable Care Act and robust insurance enrollment assistance programs at all of New York's health centers, **16% of patients served by FQHCs are uninsured**, three times the statewide average.
- Currently, the Safety Net Pool is funded by \$54.4M in State funding which is matched by the Federal government, bringing the pool total to \$109M.

Why a \$20M increase?

- Recently, the Federal government proposed changes to the public charge rule. A person deemed a public charge may be denied admission to the US or lawful permanent resident (green card) status. The Trump Administration's proposed rule includes use of Medicaid as consideration when determining who is likely to become a public charge.
- A national study found that **New York State health centers could see 95,000 patients currently eligible for Medicaid disenroll** due to fears about changes the public charge rule and increased anti-immigrant sentiment. Although undocumented immigrants are not eligible for Medicaid coverage, many of the people disenrolling have family members who are undocumented or would be impacted by the changes to public charge.
- With 95,000 people disenrolling from Medicaid coverage, **health centers could see a loss of \$100M in annual revenue**.

Adding \$20M in state funding to the Safety Net Pool will provide extra funding to help cover the increasing number of uninsured patients at health centers and ensure that health centers are able to continue providing comprehensive primary care services for all New Yorkers.