



COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CHAMPIONS!

Community Health Center Priorities February 2022

Community health centers (CHCs), also known as federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), are federally designated primary care homes located in medically underserved communities. The [Community Health Care Association of New York State](#) (CHCANYS) is the primary care association for New York's 70+ CHCs, which serve about 2.1 million New Yorkers at more than 800 sites each year.

- 🍷 **Preserve, strengthen, and expand the community health center [system of care](#):** CHCs are a proven model of high quality, comprehensive primary care that save the health care system money by reducing hospitalization. Continued and expanded investment will extend care into additional communities and enhance services at existing sites.
 - **Support \$1.8 billion in discretionary funding** for CHCs in the FY22 Appropriations Bill.
 - **Sign the DeGette-Bilirakis/Stabenow-Wicker appropriations letters** that support robust discretionary funding for CHCs in the FY23 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill.

- 🍷 **Enable health centers to expand their healthcare [workforce](#):** CHCs work hard to hire workforce that is culturally representative of the patients they serve. Even before COVID-19, CHCs have struggled to compete with larger healthcare systems for staff; the pandemic has exacerbated those challenges.
 - **Support investments in CHC workforce:** \$3.37B for the Teaching Health Centers program, \$2B for the National Health Service Corps, and \$500M for the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program.

- 🍷 **Expand [telehealth capabilities](#) so health centers can continue providing patient centered care:** Telehealth has become a high impact source of care for CHCs, removing many longstanding challenges that inhibit patients from coming into the clinic. CHCs have seen fewer no shows and improved access to behavioral health. However, flexibilities that catalyzed telehealth will end once the federal public health emergency expires.
 - **Support legislative and regulatory efforts** to expand public health emergency telehealth flexibilities permanently.
 - **Support the CONNECT for Health Act (HR 2903/S 1512) and the Protecting Access to Post COVID-19 telehealth Act (HR 366)** to ensure payment parity between remote and in person visits, regardless of patient or provider location.

- 🍷 **Protect the [340B program](#) and increase access to affordable medications for low income and uninsured patients:** The 340B drug discount program allows CHCs to purchase low-cost medications and reinvest savings into programs and initiatives that, without 340B, would have no other source of funding.
 - **Cosponsor the PROTECT 340B Act (HR 4390)** to prohibit discriminatory contracting between insurers, pharmaceutical benefit managers, and CHCs.

- 🍷 **Invest in [health center facilities](#) to allow for the renovation and expansion of health center sites**
 - **Support \$2B in health center capital funding** for alteration, renovation, remodeling, expansion, construction, and other capital improvements to be made.

Questions? Contact Jane Ni, CHCANYS' Policy Analyst: jni@chcanys.org.