



For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

CHCANYS Celebrates the People Who Make Community Health Centers the Best in Primary Care During National Health Center Week 2026

*CHCANYS Honors Three Outstanding Advocates & Launches Statewide
"Your Community. Your Health Center." Campaign – Highlighting the Role of
Community Health Centers Across New York State*

*Governor Hochul [Proclaims](#) August 2-8, 2026 Health Center Week in New York
State*

(Albany, N.Y.) – In celebration of National Health Center Week 2026 (NHCW26), the [Community Health Care Association of New York State](#) (CHCANYS) today announced the launch of a new statewide health center branding campaign, "Your Community. Your Health Center." The campaign highlights the essential role the statewide Community Health Center Network plays in delivering high-quality, comprehensive primary care to more than 2.5 million New Yorkers from all walks of life each year, while also honoring each individual health center's mission and vision. Additionally, Governor Hochul issued a [proclamation](#) officially designating August 2-8, 2026 Health Center Week in New York State.

"Community Health Centers are deeply rooted in the communities they serve and are trusted, accessible, and essential. This week is an opportunity to both celebrate and elevate the work happening at CHCs across the state," said Rose Duhan, President and CEO of CHCANYS. "As demand for care continues to grow, it is critical that we continue to invest in and strengthen this vital part of our healthcare system that is truly *Your community. Your health center.* I look forward to celebrating this important week with health centers across New York State."

Throughout the week, Community Health Centers across the country and the state will host events highlighting the commitment and passion of Community Health Center staff, board members, and supporters who make the incredible care CHCs offer possible. CHCANYS leadership and staff will travel the state to take part in those celebrations. You can find an event at a community health center near you [here](#).

Additionally, CHCANYS President and CEO Rose Duhan will present three awards to an outstanding CHC Board Member, Leader, and Clinician during NHCW:

The Dr. Jack Geiger Award recognizes a licensed provider whose service reflects Dr. Geiger's lifelong commitment to addressing health, poverty, and human rights. The Dr. Geiger award is presented this year to Dr. Vaty Poitevien, Chief Medical Officer at [Housing Works Community Health Center](#) in New York City. Dr. Poitevien was recognized by her colleagues for her transformative leadership, relentless advocacy, and dedication to patients and staff.

The Catherine Abate Memorial Award, honors a visionary leader who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of the underserved, including women's health. This year's award goes to Nancy Deavers, Chief Clinical Officer at [ConnexCare](#) in Central New York. She was recognized by her colleagues for her tremendous contributions to her health center's growth and her pursuit of clinical excellence.

The Dorothy Kartashevich Award, is given to a consumer board member who has worked tirelessly on their center's behalf. This award recognizes that the backbone of the community health center movement are the consumer-run boards that guide individual CHCs. This year's award goes to Christopher Sardella, a member of [Trillium Health](#)'s board in Rochester for nine years. He was recognized by his health center for his unwavering commitment to advancing accessible, high-quality, and compassionate care.

CHCANYS congratulates each of this year's awardees.

CHCANYS provides advocacy, training, and technical assistance to the more than 80 community health center organizations across New York State. Those organizations operate more than 850 health center locations statewide. Each organization is run by its own board and leadership team, focused on the particular needs of their community. Together, these CHCs form an incredible network of care, the largest primary care network in the entire state. You can learn more and find a health center near you [here](#).

Community Health Centers serve one in every eight New Yorkers, providing integrated primary care, behavioral health, dental services, and more. Their staff and providers are hired from within the communities they serve and are often literally part of the neighborhood.

In addition to keeping communities happier and healthier, CHCs are [economic engines](#), creating thousands of jobs and generating billions of dollars in direct and indirect spending, while also keeping their patients happy and healthy.

About the Community Health Center Association of New York State. CHCANYS is the voice of nearly 80 Community Health Centers, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), serving patients at almost 900 sites across every region of New York State, providing care to more than 2.5 million people each year. Our members are on the front lines of community health care, providing primary and preventive care, including medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, and substance use disorder services to high need patients in medically underserved areas. Our [State](#) and [NYC](#) fact sheets provide a breakdown of the types of care CHCs provide and how they are funded.