Presentation to

Virtual Migrant and Community Health Forum

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NACHC
Cesar Chavez in the House!

Yes, the WHITE HOUSE!
COVID Vaccines: This Is Our Shot!

Why Health Centers?

Why You?

Why Now?
Ag-Worker Access Campaign Update
A national initiative to increase the number of Migratory & Seasonal Agricultural Workers & their families served in Community and Migrant Health Centers.

We Care.
We serve America’s Ag Workers.

http://www.ncfh.org/ag-worker-access.html

This product is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling $1,005,765 with 94% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
Campaign Focus

The Campaign’s primary efforts revolve around:

1. Understanding and addressing MSAW’s unique needs and the barriers they face related to accessing health care

2. Identifying and disseminating promising practices for increasing access to care for MSAWs

3. Building capacity of C/MHC staff and other organizations serving agricultural workers through training and technical assistance.

4. Supporting local/regional/state coalitions between C/MHCs and other Ag worker-serving entities
Campaign Goal

- Increase the number of Agricultural workers and their families served in Community and Migrant Health Centers to 2 million.

Data Source: HRSA UDS
Sign up to be part of the Campaign!

www.ncfh.org/ag-worker-access.html
Policy Priorities and Advocacy Updates
Where We Have Been Since the Election

➢ NACHC began conversations with the Biden Transition Team to remind them of the role of health centers and provide ideas on ways to operationalize President Biden’s campaign pledge to double the federal investment in the Health Center Program.

➢ In December, Congress passed a three-year reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund and extensions of the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program.

  o That legislation also included discretionary funding for Health Centers at nearly $1.7 billion.
  o The bill also included the ability for FQHCs and rural health clinics to receive a new payment for Medicare hospice patients.
What’s In the American Rescue Plan

➢ $7.6 billion for Health Centers, as defined by Section 330 and the Social Security Administration (includes look-alikes) and $20 million set-aside for Native Hawaiian Health Centers

➢ Funds can be used for 6 eligible uses:
  o To plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, and track COVID-19 vaccines
  
  o To detect, diagnose, trace and monitor COVID-19 infections and related activities necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including activities related to, and equipment or supplies purchased for, testing, contact tracing, surveillance, mitigation and treatment of COVID-19
Additional Relief in the Legislation

➢ $800 million for the National Health Service Corps, $200 million for the Nurse Corps, and $330 million for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education programs, all of which support the health center workforce;

➢ $7.6 billion to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expand the public health workforce;

➢ $47.8 billion to HHS to implement a national testing strategy and contact tracing surveillance; and

➢ $7.5 billion in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for vaccine administration and distribution, to be dispersed to support state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, community vaccination centers, and mobile vaccination units.
NACHC’s 2021 Policy Priorities

The funding from December and this COVID package are important but do not capture the full needs of FQHCs

- 2021 Congressional Agenda including COVID-19 Pandemic Funding
- Community Health Center Funding/Appropriations & Mandatory Funding
- Telehealth
- 340B
- Infrastructure
- Workforce
- Medicare PPS
Ensuring Quality Health Center Care

Overview of Key Congressional Actions Needed:

• Supporting Health Center Funding to Address COVID-19 Pandemic

• Protecting 340B to preserve vital savings that are reinvested into health center operations

• Ensuring Telehealth Continues Beyond the Public Health Emergency

• Expanding the Health Center Workforce

• Building on the Success through Continued Funding for Services and Infrastructure
President Biden has called for doubling the federal investment in the Community Health Center Fund.

**OUR ASK:**

- Begin a four-year commitment to double federal investment in the Health Center Program
BACKGROUND: Over 90 percent of Community Health Centers are utilizing telehealth to meet their patients’ needs.

OUR ASK:
Co-sponsor the Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act (HR 366) and the CONNECT for Health Act (when reintroduced) to:
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts for audio-only telehealth services.
Our Asks:

- Make it explicitly clear that 340B covered entities are entitled to purchase all drug manufacturers’ covered outpatient.

- Prevent implementation of a 340B rebate model. Health Centers can’t afford to pay full price for expensive drugs!

- Prevent private for-profit companies from “pick-pocketing” 340B savings from health centers. Congress must guarantee a solution by adding an “anti-discrimination” clause to the 340B statute.
Make The Asks: Infrastructure

Support at least $5.9 billion in dedicated infrastructure funding to address needed:

- Construction
- Renovation
- Equipment
- IT
- Telehealth Broadband projects
BACKGROUND:
HRSA estimates a national shortage of 124,000 to 156,000 physicians by 2025.

OUR ASK:
• Support at least $7 billion to address chronic workforce shortages at Community Health Centers
• Co-sponsor the Strengthening America’s Health Care Readiness Act (S. 54), from Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Public Charge Rule

➢ As you know, the Trump Administration imposed a controversial rule that allowed federal immigration officials to consider legal immigrants' use of government health, nutrition and housing programs against them in their applications for permanent legal residency.

➢ After review, the Biden Administration dismissed the Trump Administration’s “public charge” rule on March 16, 2021.

➢ California Primary Care Association (CPCA) and the Association for Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), and the National Health Center immigration Work Group, have fought against Public Charge for a host of reasons, not the least of which is that it puts the health and well-being of immigrant families at risk.

➢ Advocates are now calling for the Biden Administration to formally rescind the rule and promote awareness of the reversal for increased confidence among immigrant communities.
HOT NEWS: House Passes Two Immigration Bills, pero...

- American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act - Creating a pathway to legalization for Dreamers and undocumented farmworkers

- Que hacemos? (What can we do?)
Goal:
Expand, equip and mobilize grassroots and grasstops for long-term promotion and protection of CHCs

Guiding Questions:
• Can CHCs Survive and Thrive the Pandemic?
• Is This a Moment or a Movement?
• How Do We Increase Equity?
Messaging and Mobilizing Unique

- Responding to Public Health Concerns
- Value-based Care
- Patient & Local Control

What CHCs & Communities Could Lose

- Dependable revenue streams
- Clinical and non-clinical Staff
- Ability to serve patients through innovative, integrated care
- Economic loss
CHCs Get Out The Vote Campaign

➢ We are partnering with non-profit VotER to build voter registration capacity within the health center movement. Learn more at: https://www.hcadvocacy.org/civic-engagement/

• Email & text outreach only if patients have “opted-in”
• VOTE COMMUNITY to 34444

➢ Find inspiration by listening to our “Vote Like Our Health Depends On It” Spotify playlist: https://bit.ly/VotERPlaylist
Advocacy Center of Excellence (ACE/HACE) Program Update

➢ **Goal**: To help CHCs feel empowered to engage in meaningful advocacy efforts

➢ **Updated criteria**:
  
  • New point system developed for achieving Silver and Gold status
  • Quarterly calls with ACE affiliates nationwide
  • **HACE** eligibility – ACE Bronze status plus Spanish requirements (see application)
HCAAdvocacy.org

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Facebook.com/HCAAdvocacy

@NACHC

https://www.linkedin.com/company/nachc/
Spanish Resources on HCAdvocacy.org

- The Washington “Boletin” Spanish advocacy newsletter is returning
  - ‘Defensores’ are encouraged to subscribe [https://www.hcadvocacy.org/sea-un-defensor/](https://www.hcadvocacy.org/sea-un-defensor/)

- Updates to the HACE Program application and qualifications are updated on HCAdvocacy.org/

- Contact Shamaal Sheppard at ssheppard@nachc.org with questions.
Gracias/Thank You for Caring Enough To Make a Difference and For Taking Action!

¡Si Se Puede!
Questions/Preguntas?

Further questions? Contact us.

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