

Support Oklahoma Community Health Centers

Secure Long-Term Funding for Community Health Centers

- Current funding for health centers is set to expire by May 22.
- Health centers need long-term, stable funding to operate like the efficient businesses that they are. Unpredictable funding hurts health centers' ability to recruit providers, attain loans to expand to new locations, add services, and more.
- Oklahoma would lose \$200+ million in economic activity if the fund was allowed to expire.

Protect PPS

- Although health centers are on the front lines of value-based care delivery, the PPS enables health centers to provide care to over 80,000 Medicaid recipients in Oklahoma and over 70,000 uninsured patients.
- The PPS is already a bundled, at-risk rate.
- Oklahoma health centers are pursuing value-based models in our state and have worked with private payers to demonstrate ROI.
- We already know through the MSSP that health centers are effective at saving the health care system money (\$2.8M in 2018 and \$4.3M through Q3 2019). Medicaid studies have shown that health center patients cost the Medicaid program 24% less overall by reducing inpatient and specialty visits.
- The health center model is all about saving the system money, but in Oklahoma, there hasn't been enough of a focus on primary care, which has led to chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and untreated behavioral health and substance use needs. In order to truly save money and bend the cost curve, we need to sustain or increase our investments in primary care, not cut funding.
- Short-sighted cuts to primary care will only result in unnecessary ER utilization and untreated chronic care—both of which contribute to rising insurance premiums for the privately insured.

Increase Funding for National Health Service Corps

- National Health Service Corps is a critical tool for OK CHCs to recruit and retain providers to rural and urban underserved communities.
- Currently, the funding is so limited that many health centers with very severe need are unable to participate in the program because the competition is so intense. Increased funding would allow health centers in health professional shortage areas to serve more patients by hiring more providers.
- NHSC is an economic revitalization tool that brings money to underserved communities.

CONNECT Act

- The Connect Act would expand broadband access in underserved areas. Health centers are at the forefront of adopting new technologies like telehealth and could greatly expand patient access if funding were available.