

Community Health Center Support

FACTSHEET

Status:

- 1 in 5 Arkansans are medically disenfranchised.
- 19% of the medically disenfranchised are served by the Community Health Centers (CHCs).
- 500,000 Arkansans do not have a health care home, or a regular source of primary and preventive health care.
- Over 70% of Arkansans are underinsured.
- 73 of the 75 Arkansas counties are full or partial Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs).

Program:

CHCA, Arkansas Primary Care Association, currently represents 12 CHCs and their 59 health center locations. Each health center provides access to affordable, quality, comprehensive primary medical, dental, mental health, preventive and support services to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This includes all Arkansans who are uninsured, underinsured and those who live in medically underserved areas.

Impact:

- CHCs will cover uncompensated care for more than 475,000 Arkansans in the areas of medical, dental and mental health, enabling encounters in 59 health center locations, located in medically underserved area or serving a medically underserved population.
- Health disparities will decrease through access to CHCs' provision of culturally sensitive/literacy appropriate comprehensive continuous primary and preventive care.
- Arkansas will experience a reduction in the number of unnecessary hospital emergency visits, specialty care referrals and hospital admissions.
- CHC patients with cardiovascular disease, depression, diabetes and chronic diseases will be improved.
- Arkansas Medicaid will realize a cost savings of at least 30% for those Medicaid patients treated within a CHC.

How it Works:

- Provide culturally sensitive and literacy appropriate primary and preventive care during more than 455,000 patient visits.
- Provide outreach and education to raise awareness of (a) availability of access to affordable, culturally sensitive and literacy appropriate comprehensive health care, and (b) appropriate access into the health care delivery system.
- Provide chronic disease management, including facilitating patient self-management that results in improved health outcomes.
- Provide early detection, screening, patient education, referral and other preventive services.
- Provide access to affordable pharmacy services.
- Upgrade equipment and renovate facilities to ensure patient safety and security.

Administration/Oversight: The Arkansas Department of Health will develop performance standards to be met for all clinics receiving funds. Funding will be appropriated to the Arkansas Department of Health. The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care will oversee disbursement of funds to CHCs and request reports detailing compliance with funding receipt requirements.