

Community Health Centers – Fact Sheet

- Community Health Centers (CHCs) serve the primary health-care needs of 23 million patients in more than 9,000 locations across America. One out every 15 people in the United States gets their primary care at a community health center.
- CHCs lower overall health-care costs, improve the health of their patients and generate economic opportunities in the communities they serve by providing jobs and training.
- The centers provide preventative care and help patients avoid costly hospital care. They generate \$24 billion in annual savings to the health-care system – for taxpayers and local, state and federal governments.
- CHCs provide care without regard to a patient's ability to pay; they fill a critical gap in the nation's health-care system. These centers provide one quarter of all primary care visits for the nation's low-income population.
- CHCs use the most advanced medical practices. In sum, they offer high-quality medical care at an affordable price. They play a key role in health-care reform.
- CHCs offer all the care of private medical offices (including dental care, pharmaceutical services, nutrition counseling and other services) under one roof. This comprehensive approach is particularly important for elderly patients – medical staff can make sure they have filled prescriptions and are continuing to fill them, monitor drug intake, etc.
- CHCs need government subsidies to remain affordable. However government support accounts for only a small portion of CHC operating costs. The Office of Management and Budget has consistently rated CHCs among the most effective uses of tax dollars.
- CHCs have been around since 1965 and have long received strong bipartisan support. Every president since Lyndon Johnson has been a supporter of community health centers.