Health centers provide medical, dental and behavioral health services to people regardless of age, insurance, immigration status and/or ability to pay.

People who come to health centers have access to many services.

**MEDICAL CARE:**
Health centers provide primary health care to adults and children of all ages. They also provide access to many specialty care services such as Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, Ophthalmology (vision), and others including women’s health services (Ob/Gyn and Prenatal care).

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE:**
Health centers recognize the connection between physical and mental health and offer integrated behavioral health services to adults and children. These services are offered in group, with family, or individually. They can help address substance use disorder, depression, anxiety, and a host of other conditions.

**DENTAL CARE:**
Health centers are designed specifically to take care of the entire health and well-being of patients and that includes addressing oral health needs. For example, health centers offer preventive oral health through cleanings, fillings, extractions, and fluoride treatments to name just a few of the services they offer.

Health centers serve EVERYONE, no one is turned away.
DEMOGRAPHICS SERVED:

- 48% of community health center patients have incomes that are at or below 100% of Federal Poverty Levels
- 62% of community health center patients are insured through Medicaid
- 17% of community health center patients are uninsured
- 15,787 community health center patients are considered homeless
- 21% of community health center patients identify as black; 51% as Hispanic/Latino
- 25% of community health center patients are best served in a language other than English
- Health centers in Connecticut serve over 398,000 patients – with over 2.1 million visits
- Community health centers serve more than 10% of Connecticut’s population
OUR MEMBERS ARE:

- Charter Oak Health Center
  Hartford and Bloomfield

- Community Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington
  Torrington and Winsted

- Community Health Services
  Hartford and Windsor

- Connecticut Institute for Communities
  Danbury Community Health Center

- Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center
  New Haven, West Haven, and Ansonia

- Fair Haven Community Health Care
  East Haven, New Haven and Branford

- Family Centers Health Care
  Greenwich

- First Choice Health Centers
  East Hartford, Manchester and Vernon

- Generations Family Health Center
  Danielson, Norwich, Putnam and Willimantic

- InterCommunity, Inc
  East Hartford, Hartford and South Windsor

- Norwalk Community Health Center
  Norwalk
- **Optimus Health Care**  
  Bridgeport, Milford, Stamford and Stratford

- **Southwest Community Health Center**  
  Bridgeport

- **StayWell Health Center**  
  Naugatuck and Waterbury

- **United Community & Family Services**  
  Colchester, Griswold, New London, Norwich and Plainfield

- **Wheeler Family Health & Wellness Center**  
  Bristol, New Britain, Waterbury and Hartford

= Primary health care sites  
○ Specialized locations
1. Developing a Workforce for Community Health

- Our goal is to make Connecticut competitive for high-demand medical professions. The average medical student graduates with $190,000 of debt, with about 25% of graduates carrying debt over $200,000.
- Connecticut is the only New England state without a State Loan Repayment Program. Our goal is to reinstate the program to provide student loan reimbursement for high-demand health professions like primary care, nursing, and behavioral health.
- Create more opportunities for high-paying careers by streamlining training for dental therapists.
- Establish a legislative task force on primary care workforce development.

2. Integrating Primary Care and Behavioral Health

- One of the most effective forms of clinical integration is when a primary care provider asks a behavioral health clinician to conduct a real-time brief (less than 30 minutes) intervention with a patient within the primary care setting. This integrated approach to care is often called a “warm-handoff”.
- Currently this service is not reimbursable under Medicaid. We support a policy change to allow reimbursement when a primary care provider connects a patient with a behavioral health clinician during a primary care visit.
- Integration has been shown to reduce stigma and provide a positive patient experience. Integration also helps address patients’ behavioral health needs early on, improving overall health and reducing emergency department usage.

For more information about these issues, contact Sara LeMaster: slemaster@chcact.org or 860-967-3852
3. Strengthening the nonprofit property tax exemption

- State statute currently lacks clarification on whether nonprofits, including health centers, can be taxed, which has led to “surprise” tax bills from municipalities sometimes totaling $10,000 or more. We propose clarifying nonprofit property tax exemptions to avoid these “surprise” tax bills.

4. Improving Non-emergency Medical Transportation

- Support efforts to improve the Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation service to reduce/eliminate performance issues.

2020 STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT HEALTHCARE QUALITY & COST CONTAINMENT

- **Embrace Alternative Payment Models focused on Quality**
  Extend the work of the State Innovation Model (SIM) to identify alternative payment models that reward providers for improving the healthcare status of patients and reducing or stabilizing total cost of care.

- **Increase investments in lower cost Primary Care/Preventive Care services**
  Invest in technologies, equipment, and infrastructure that allow primary care providers to increase access to and integration of primary care, behavioral health care, oral health care, and specialty care and also deliver those services in innovative ways such as telemedicine.

- **Leverage Expertise in Practice Transformation to Reduce Overall Health Care Costs**
  Utilize the expertise of CHCAct and our associated health centers to continue to drive “in-the-practice” transformational process change that resulted in a $108M cost savings over a 4-year period (Oct. 2015 – Sep. 2019) and improved the clinical outcomes of over 5,600 patients.
The Community Health Center Association of Connecticut’s mission is to advance and align the work of health centers, with stakeholders, to improve the health and wellness of all.

For more information on CT’s health centers, go to www.chcact.org

or call the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut 860-667-7820

@cthealthcenters @fb.com/chcact