



Community Health Center Association of Connecticut

2026 Federal Priorities

1) Reform the 340B statute to protect patients' access to discounted medications.

The 340B program provides uninsured and underinsured health center patients access to affordable medicines. Unfortunately, health centers' access to this important program is in jeopardy: the administration's proposed rebate model would have made medications unaffordable for patients and strained health center budgets. While the model was withdrawn on 2/6, it is likely to resurface.

Support bipartisan legislation to:

- ✓ Exempt Community Health Centers from future rebate models (HR 7391), and
- ✓ Protect CHCs from PBM pickpocketing and create a neutral clearinghouse to improve program integrity.

2) Modernize Medicare payments to health centers.

Health centers in Connecticut see over 40,000 Medicare patients each year. The total median annual costs for Medicare patients at health centers are 10% lower than physician office patients and 30% lower than outpatient clinics. However, Medicare payments to health centers have not been adjusted since 2010, leaving an average gap of \$103 per visit. Meanwhile, telehealth services are reimbursed at only half the regular rate, leaving a gap of \$205 per visit.

Protect access to primary care for Medicare enrollees by:

- ✓ Adjusting the Medicare PPS rate for health centers, and
- ✓ Providing payment parity between in-person and telehealth visits.

3) Expand opportunities for allied health professionals.

Connecticut health centers employ almost 5,000 people, including physicians, nurses, medical assistants, front desk staff, Community Health Workers, and more. But workforce shortages and growing salary gaps make it difficult for health centers to retain and recruit staff. Specifically, more allied health professionals are needed at health centers to enhance patient care, improve health outcomes, and support the overall efficiency of healthcare delivery.

Help build the healthcare workforce pipeline by:

- ✓ Supporting the Health Care Workforce Innovation Act, H.R. 935, and the upcoming Senate companion bill to expand opportunities for allied health professionals.

For more information, please contact Deb Polun: 860.878.7760 or dpolun@chcact.org.

CHC/ACT members: Charter Oak Health Center | CIFIC Health | Community Health & Wellness Center
Community Health Services | Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center | Fair Haven Community Health Care
Family Centers, Inc | First Choice Health Centers | Generations Family Health Center | InterCommunity, Inc
Norwalk Community Health Center | Optimus Health Care | Southwest Community Health Center
StayWell Health Center | United Community & Family Services | Wheeler Health