
Talking Points: Extend Funding for CHCs and NHSC

Legislative Ask

- Congress must pass a multi-year reauthorization for Community Health Centers and the National Health Service Corps with robust funding.

Background

- It is [projected](#) that the U.S. will face a shortage of up to 70,600 primary care physicians by 2038.
- Congress needs to act now to address the current and projected primary care workforce shortages by funding federal programs that embed physicians in rural and underserved communities.
- Community health centers (CHCs) and the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) require consistent, multi-year funding to ensure that the rural and underserved populations they serve do not experience disruptions in access to care.
- CHC clinicians provide care to more than [52 million patients annually](#).
 - [1 in 3 of Americans](#) in rural areas receive their health care at CHCs.
 - [Family physicians make up 46 percent](#) of clinicians in CHCs, which are often the only accessible health care setting for many individuals, including Medicaid beneficiaries and the uninsured.
 - CHCs have a significant [economic impact](#). In 2021, they supported more than 500,000 direct or indirect jobs nationally with nearly \$85 billion in economic output.
 - CHCs operate on such thin margins that even a threat to funding can paralyze their ability to deliver all the care that is essential to meeting their patients' and community's needs.
- The NHSC [provides](#) scholarships and loan repayment programs that support more than 18,000 primary care clinicians who serve more than 21 million patients annually.
 - More than 56 percent of NHSC clinicians serve in health centers, and the remaining clinicians practice in high-need settings including rural health clinics, Indian Health Service facilities, tribal health programs, critical access hospitals, and outpatient sites in health professionals' shortage areas.
 - Approximately 84 percent of NHSC participants who completed their NHSC service obligation in FY 2021 continued to practice in underserved areas for another year or more.
- Funding for CHCs and NHSC will expire in December of 2026. Congress must act to prevent disruptions in primary care for tens of millions of Americans.

