September 18, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries Minority Leader United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries.

As we approach the expiration of the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF) on December 31, 2024, the over 550 undersigned signatories - including national health care organizations, state and regional primary care associations, community health centers, and other stakeholders - write to urge you to reauthorize the CHCF with a robust investment as part of any end-of-year funding package.

We respectfully request that the CHCF be reauthorized at no less than \$5.8 billion per year for at least 3 years. Sustained, increased funding will allow community health centers to continue serving their patients, while simultaneously contending with a series of unprecedented financial challenges. We are grateful that members on both sides of the aisle supported a short-term funding increase for the CHCF earlier this year, but a long-term reauthorization has not been enacted since 2019. Without stable funding, CHCs struggle to serve the increasing need in their communities, employ a skilled healthcare workforce, and support critically needed projects and service expansions.

The Health Center Program is the nation's largest primary care network, serving:

- Over 31 million patients in 2023, an increase of 2.7 million people since 2020, of whom 90% have incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level,
- 1 in 8 of our nation's children, and
- 9.7 million patients in rural areas.¹

Unfortunately, federal funding is not keeping up with the increased need communities are facing as the nation contends with overlapping mental health, substance abuse, and maternal health crises and local emergencies like hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes. Health centers are masterful at stretching scarce resources to the absolute limit, but they are at a point where they cannot stretch their resources any further to meet the needs of their communities. As mandatory and discretionary funding for community health centers have remained relatively flat, health centers are also reeling from the Medicaid redetermination process, historic inflation, an ongoing health care workforce shortage, and the continued erosion of 340B program savings. In addition,

¹ https://bphc.hrsa.gov/about-health-center-program/impact-health-center-program

median operating margins for the nation's community health centers stand at only 3.5 percent, making increased federal funding even more vital.²

Funding for the CHCF has a demonstrated return on investment. According to a Congressional Budget Office report issued in February 2024, care provided at community health centers lowers federal spending for Medicaid and Medicare through decreased utilization of services in emergency departments, inpatient hospital settings, and for costly outpatient services.³ In 2021, community health centers were estimated to have saved a total of \$25.3 billion for the Medicaid and Medicare programs.⁴

Community health centers also serve as economic engines for under-resourced neighborhoods. A study by Capital Link has shown that for every dollar of federal funding invested in community health centers, \$11 is generated in total economic activity through increased spending on related health service expenses, food services, transportation, construction, and more. This is especially important in rural communities where health centers are often the largest employer and serve as a key economic engine in otherwise under-resourced communities.

Not only do community health centers have a proven track record of quality, savings, accountability, and positive economic impact, they are the breeding ground for invaluable innovation to drive further savings and better health outcomes, all while responding to the localized needs of their community. The Health Center Program is a shining example of a vital federal investment with localized control and impact, as well as massive system-wide returns in the form of improved health, economic development, and fewer health disparities in otherwise underserved communities.

Congress has the opportunity to set the nation's largest primary care network on the right course for the future. Again, we urge you to reauthorize the Community Health Center Fund for no less than \$5.8 billion per year for at least 3 years.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Stephanie Krenrich, SVP of Policy and Government Affairs at Advocates for Community Health, at skrenrich@advocatesforcommunityhealth.org.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Community Health

² Peter Shin, Feygele Jacobs, and Rebecca Morris. *Community Health Centers in Financial Jeopardy Without Sufficient Federal Funding*. Geiger Gibson Program on Community Health at George Washington University, 2024. Accessed at https://geigergibson.publichealth.gwu.edu/community-health-centers-financial-jeopardy-without-sufficient-federal-funding#footnote2 bi3obad.

³ Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. *S. 2840, Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*, February 6, 2024. https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-02/s2840.pdf.

⁴ Robert Nocon, Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine. *Testimony on Community Health Centers: Saving Lives, Saving Money before the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.* March 02, 2023. Accessed at https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Nocon-CHCs%202023-0228 Final.pdf.

⁵ National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). *Health Centers Provide Cost Effective Care*, 2015. Accessed at http://nachc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/06/Cost-Effectiveness FS 2015.pdf.

AIDS United

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

American Association of Teaching Health Centers

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Diabetes Association

American Nurses Association

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)

Capital Link

Epilepsy Foundation

Families USA

First Focus Campaign for Children

Health Choice Network

National Association of Counties (NACo)

National Health Care for the Homeless Council

National Health Council

National Hispanic Health Foundation

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Medical Association

National Partnership for Women & Families

National Patient Advocate Foundation

National Rural Health Association

OCHIN

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Primary Care Collaborative

Primary Care Development Corporation

Upstream USA

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama:

Alabama Primary Health Care Association

AIDS Action Coalition of Huntsville dba Thrive Alabama

Alabama Regional Medical Services

Aletheia House

AltaPointe Health Systems, Inc.

Cahaba Medical Care

Central North Alabama Health Services, Inc.

Christ Health Center

Franklin Primary Health Center

HAPPI Health

Health Services, Inc.

Northeast Alabama Health Services, Inc.

Physicians Care of Clarke

Quality of Life Health Services, Inc. Rural Health Medical Program, Inc.

Alaska:

Alaska Primary Care Association Northwest Regional Primary Care Association Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Iliuliuk Family and Health Services Kodiak Community Health Center Sunshine Community Health Center

Arizona:

Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers Canyonlands Community Health Care Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. Circle the City El Rio Health Mariposa Community Health Center Inc. Mountain Park Health Center Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health North Country HealthCare Sun Life Health Terros Health Valleywise Health Wesley Community & Health Centers

Arkansas:

Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc. 1st Choice Healthcare, Inc. Boston Mountain Rural Health Center CABUN Rural Health Services, Inc.

California:

California Primary Care Association Achievable Health Alameda County Health Alameda Health Consortium Alexander Valley Healthcare Alliance Medical Center AltaMed Health Services Anderson Valley Health Center APLA Health Asian Americans for Community Involvement Bay Area Community Health **Brighter Beginnings** Camarena Health

Camino Health Center

Chinatown Service Center

CommuniCare+OLE

Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County

Community Medical Centers Inc.

Community Medicine Inc.

Comprehensive Community Health Centers, Inc.

County of Sacramento, Dept of Health Services

East Valley Community Health Center

Eisner Health

El Dorado Community Health Centers

Elica Health Centers

Family HealthCare Network

Father Joe's Villages

Gracelight Community Health

Greater Fresno Health Organization

Harmony Health Medical Clinic and Family Resource Center

Health Alliance of Northern California

Health and Life Organization, Inc. (HALO)

Health Center Partners of Southern California

Hill Country Community Clinic

Hurtt Family Health Clinic

Imperial Beach Community Clinic

Kheir Clinic (Korean Health Education Information & Research Center)

Korean Community Services

La Clínica de La Raza

La Maestra Community Health Centers

LifeLong Medical Care

Long Valley Health Center

Mendocino Coast Clinics Inc.

Mountain Valleys Health Centers

Neighborhood Healthcare

Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic

North Coast Clinics Network

North East Medical Services (NEMS)

Northeast Valley Health Corporation

Omni Family Health

Open Door Community Health Centers

Opsam Health

Redwood Coast Medical Services

Samuel Dixon Family Health Center, Inc.

San Diego Family Care

San Fernando Community Health Center

San Ysidro Health

Share Our Selves Corporation

Shasta Cascade Health Centers

Sonoma Valley Community Health Center

South Central Family Health Center

Southern California Medical Center

St. Jude Neighborhood Health Centers

TCC Family Health

TrueCare

Unicare Community Health Center, Inc.

United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley

Vista Community Clinic

WellSpace Health

West County Health Centers

Western Sierra Medical Clinic

Westside Family Health Center

Yehowa Medical Services

Colorado:

Colorado Community Health Network

Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)

Axis Health System

Denver Health Community Health Services

Junction Health

Peak Vista CHC

Pueblo Community Health Center

Sunrise Community Health

Tepeyac Community Health Center

Uncompange Combined Clinics

Valley-Wide Health Systems

Connecticut:

Community Health Center Association of Connecticut

Community Health Center, Inc.

Generations Family Health Center, Inc.

InterCommunity Health Care

Norwalk CHC

Optimus Health Care, Inc.

Southwest Community Health Center, Inc.

StayWell Health Care, Inc.

Wheeler Health

Delaware:

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers

La Red Health Center, Inc.

Henrietta Johnson Medical Letter

Westside Family Healthcare

District of Columbia:

District of Columbia Primary Care Association Community of Hope Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc. Unity Health Care

Florida:

Florida Association of Community Health Centers Broward Community & Family Health Center

Camillus Health Concern, Inc.

Central Florida Family Health Center, Inc. d/b/a True Health

Citrus Health Network

Community Health Centers of Pinellas d/b/a Evara Health

Community Health of South Florida, Inc.

FoundCare, Inc.

Genesis Community Health, Inc.

Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc.

Heart of Florida Health Center

Homestead Community Health Center, Inc

Miami Beach Community Health Center

Northeast Florida Health Services, Inc

Premier Community HealthCare

Project Health, Inc. d/b/a Langley Health Services

Rural Health Care, Inc. d/b/a Aza Health

Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc.

Tampa Family Health Centers, Inc.

Georgia:

Georgia Primary Care Association

Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.

Athens Neighborhood Health Center

Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.

Christ Community Health Services Augusta

Coastal Community Health Services

Community Health Care Systems, Inc.

Curtis V Cooper Primary Health Care, Inc

Diversity Health Center, Inc.

East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc.

First Choice Primary Care

Four Corners Primary Care Centers

Georgia Highlands Medical Services

Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center

J. C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center

McKinney Medical Center

MedCura Health

Medical Associates Plus

Medlink Georgia, Inc.

Oconee Valley Healthcare Inc.

Palmetto Health Council, Inc.

Primary Care of Southwest Georgia, Inc.

Primary Health Care Center of Dade, Inc.

South Central Primary Care Center, Inc.

Southwest Georgia Healthcare Clinics, Inc

The Family Health Centers of Georgia Inc.

Tri-Med Family Care, Inc.

Valley Healthcare System Inc.

Whitefoord Health Center

Hawaii:

Hawaii Island Community Health Center Kokua Kalihi Valley

Waimanalo Health Center

Idaho:

Idaho Community Health Center Association

Northwest Regional Primary Care Association

Family Health Services

Full Circle Health

Glenns Ferry Health Center dba Desert Sage Health Centers

Heritage Health

Kaniksu Community Health

Valley Family Health Care

Illinois:

Illinois Primary Health Care Association

AHS Family Health Center

Chestnut Health Systems

Christian Community Health Center

Grand Prairie Services

Howard Brown Health

Lake County Health Department and CHC

Legacy Medical Care

Macoupin County Public Health Department

Near North Health

PrimeCare Community Health

Promise Healthcare

SIHF Healthcare

Tapestry 360 Health

Wabash Community Health Center

Indiana:

Indiana Primary Health Care Association
Jane Pauley Community Health Center
Knox Winamac Community Health Centers
Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc.
Riggs Community Health Center
Valley Professionals Community Health Center, Inc.
Windrose Health Network, Inc.

Iowa:

Iowa Primary Care Association
All Care Health Center
Community Health Care, Inc.
Community Health Centers of Southeast Iowa
Eastern Iowa Health Center
River Hills Community Health Center
United Community Health Center

Kansas:

Community Care Network of Kansas CareArc, Inc Hunter Health PrairieStar Health Center Salina Family Healthcare Center Swope Health Services

Kentucky:

Kentucky Primary Care Association Clover Fork Clinic Community Medical Clinic Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc. Fairview Community Health Center

Faith Healthcare, Inc.

raim ricalmeare, inc.

Family Health Centers, Inc.

HealthFirst Bluegrass

Kentucky Mountain Health Alliance, Inc.

Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation

One Cross Community

Park Duvalle Community Health Centers

Pennyroyal Healthcare Services, Inc. dba Community Medical Clinic

Regional Health Care Affiliates, Inc.

Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center

Sterling Health Solutions, Inc.

Triad Health Systems, Inc.

Louisiana:

EXCELth, INC.

MQVN Comm. Dev. Corp.

NOELA Community Health Center

Odyssey House Louisiana, Inc.

Open Health Care Clinics

Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciana, Inc.

Start Corporation

Trinity Community Health Centers of Louisiana

Maine:

Maine Primary Care Association

Fish River Rural Health

Penobscot Community Health Center, Inc.

Portland Community Health Center

Sacopee Valley Health Center

Sebasticook Family Doctors d/b/a HOMETOWN Health Center

Maryland:

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers

Chase Brexton Health Care

Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc.

Mobile Medical Care

Mountain Laurel Medical Center

Owensville Primary Care, Inc. d/b/a Bay Community Health

Tri-State Community Health Center

Walnut Street Community Health Center d/b/a Family Healthcare of Hagerstown

Massachusetts:

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Coalition for a Better Acre

Community Health Connections, Inc.

Family Health Center of Worcester

Harbor Health Services

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center

Lowell Community Health Center

Lynn Community Health Center

NeighborHealth (formally known as the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center)

North Shore Community Health

Upham's Community Care

Whittier Street Health Center

Michigan:

Michigan Primary Care Association

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

Honor Community Health

Sterling Area Health Center East Jordan Family Health Center

Minnesota:

Native American Community Clinic

Mississippi:

Community Health Center Association of Mississippi Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc. Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center Family Health Care Clinic, Inc. Family Health Center, Inc.

G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Inc.

Missouri:

Missouri Primary Care Association Affinia Healthcare

Compass Health Network

Fordland Clinic Inc.

Great Mines Health Center

Jordan Valley Community Health Center

Missouri Ozarks Community Health

Northeast Missouri Health Council

Ozark Tri-County Healthcare Consortium d/b/a ACCESS Family Care

Ozarks Community Health Center

People's Community Action Corporation

Regional Health Care Clinic

South Central Missouri Community Health Center

Swope Health

Montana:

Montana Primary Care Association

One Health

Partnership Health Center

Alluvion Health

Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Council, Inc.

Nebraska:

Health Center Association of Nebraska

Bluestem Health

Charles Drew Health Center, Inc.

East Central District Health Department (Good Neighbor Community Health Center)

Heartland Health Center, Inc.

OneWorld Community Health Centers

Nevada:

Nevada Primary Care Association

New Hampshire:

Bi-State Primary Care Association

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS)

Amoskeag Health

Coos County Family Health Services

Greater Seacoast Community Health

Harbor Care

HealthFirst Family Care Center

Lamprey Health Care

Mid-State Health Center

White Mountain Community Health Center

New Jersey:

Alliance Community Healthcare Inc. Lakewood Resource and Referral Center Neighborhood Health Services Corporation Ocean Health Initiative Inc Zufall Health Center, Inc.

New Mexico:

Ben Archer Health Center
De Baca Family Practice Clinic
El Pueblo Health Services
La Casa Family Health Center
Presbyterian Medical Services
Southwest Care Center

New York:

Beacon Christian Community Health Center

Betances Health Center

BronxCare Health Integrated Services System Inc.

Care For the Homeless

CHI Health Center

Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.

Evergreen Health

Ezra Medical Center

Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

Family Health Network of Central New York, Inc.

Institute for Family Health

Jericho Road Community Health Center

Morris Heights Health Center

Southern Tier Community Health Center Network d/b/a Universal Primary Care

Sun River Health

Vocational Instruction Project (VIP) Community Services, Inc.

North Carolina:

North Carolina Community Health Center Association

Blue Ridge Health

CommWell Health

Craven County Community Health Center

Lincoln Community Health Center

NeighborHealth Center

Piedmont Health Services

The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc.

Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine, Inc.

West Caldwell Health Council, Inc.

Western North Carolina Community Health Services

North Dakota:

Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Council, Inc.

Ohio:

Ohio Association of Community Health Centers

Christian Community Health Services

City of Cincinnati Primary Care

Community Health & Wellness Partners

Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton

Erie County Community Health Center

Fairfield Community Health Center

Family Health Care of Northwest Ohio

Five Rivers Health Centers

HealthSource of Ohio

Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers

Knox County

Lorain County Health & Dentistry

Lower Lights Health

Muskingum Valley Health Centers

Ohio Hills Health Services

Primary Health Solutions

PrimaryOne Health

Signature Health, Inc.

SpringVale Health Centers, Inc.

Talbert House Health Center

The Ohio State University Total Health Care Center

Third Street Family Health Services

Valley Health Systems

Oklahoma:

Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma, Inc. Great Salt Plains Health Center, Inc.

Oregon:

Oregon Primary Care Association
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Adapt Integrated Health Care
Aviva Health
Cascade AIDS Project - Prism Health
Cascadia Health
Mosaic Community Health
Tillamook County Community Health Centers
Wallace Medical Concern
Valley Family Health Care

Pennsylvania:

Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers

Broad Top Area Medical Center, Inc.

ChesPenn Health Services

Community Health & Dental Care, Inc.

Family Practice & Counseling Network

Hamilton Health Center, Inc.

Keystone Rural Health Center

Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.

Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers

Resources for Human Development, Inc.

Spectrum Health Services, Inc.

Southern Tier Community Health Center Network d/b/a Universal Primary Care

Puerto Rico:

Centro De Servicios Primarios De Salud, Inc.

Community Health Foundation of Puerto Rico, Inc.

Concilio de Salud Integral de Loiza, Inc.

Corporación de Servicios Primarios y Prevención de Hatillo

CSF Dr. Julio Palmieri Ferri

NeoMed Center

Salud Integral en la Montaña, Inc.

Rhode Island:

Rhode Island Health Center Association Wood River Health

South Carolina:

South Carolina Primary Health Care Association Genesis Healthcare, Inc.

HopeHealth Little River Medical Center, Inc. Tandem Health SC

South Dakota:

Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)

Tennessee:

Tennessee Primary Care Association

Cherokee Health Systems

Hardin County Regional Health Center d/b/a Lifespan Health

HOPE Family Health Services

Morgan County Health Council, Inc. d/b/a Morgan Co

Mountain People's Health

Neighborhood Health

Perry County Medical Center, Inc.

Rural Medical Services

Texas:

Bee Busy Wellness Center

Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation

CommuniCare Health Centers

Community Health Center of Lubbock

Foremost Family Health Centers

Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston

La Esperanza Clinic

Legacy Community Health

Lone Star Circle of Care

Longview Wellness Center, Inc. d/b/a Wellness Pointe

Maxor

MLK Center DBA Foremost Family Health Center

North Central Texas Community Health Care Center

North Texas Area Community Health Center.

Project Vida Health Center

ResourceCare

Southwest Border AHEC

Spring Branch Community Health Center

Triangle Area Network, Inc. (TAN Healthcare)

Utah:

Association for Utah Community Health

Carbon Medical Service Association, Inc.

Community Health Centers Inc

Green River Medical Center

Midtown Community Health Center

Mountainlands Community Health Center

Southwest Utah Community Health Center
Utah Academy of Family Physicians
Utah Partners for Health
Utah Public Health Association
Voices for Utah Children
Wasatch Homeless Healthcare, dba Fourth Street Clinic
Wayne Community Health Centers, Inc.

Vermont:

Bi-State Primary Care Association
Community Health Centers of Burlington
Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region
Gifford Health Care
Lamoille Health Partners
Little Rivers Health Care, Inc.
Northern Counties Health Care
Richford Health Center, Inc.
Springfield Medical Care Systems, Inc.
The Health Center

Virginia:

Virginia Community Healthcare Association
Bland County Medical Clinic
CHCollective
Johnson Health Center
New Horizons Healthcare
Southwest Virginia Community Health Systems, Inc.,
Tri-Area Community Health

Washington:

Washington Association for Community Health
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Columbia Basin Health Association
Columbia Valley Community Health
Community Health Care
Community Health Care of Tacoma
HealthPoint
International Community Health Services
Moses Lake Community Health Center
Neighborcare Health
North Olympic Healthcare Network
Peninsula Community Health Services
Seattle Indian Health Board
Unity Care NW
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

West Virginia:

West Virginia Primary Care Association

Cabin Creek Health Systems

CHANGE, Inc.

Clay-Battelle Health Services Association

Coalfield Health Center

Community Care of West Virginia

Coplin Health Systems

E.A. Hawse Health Center, Inc.

Integrated Health Centers of West Virginia

Lincoln Primary Care/Southern WV Health System

Minnie Hamilton Health System

Monongahela Valley Association of Health Centers, Inc.

Monroe County Health Center

Mountain Laurel Medical Center

New River Health Association

Pendleton Community Care, Inc.

Roane County Family Health Care, Inc.

Shenandoah Valley Medical System, Inc.

Tug River Health Association

Valley Health Care

Valley Health Systems

Wisconsin:

Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association

Marshfield Clinic

Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center

Wyoming:

Wyoming Primary Care Association

Community Action of Laramie County/CHC

HealthWorks

Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Council, Inc.

Additional United States Territories:

Pacific Islands Primary Care Association (Representing Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and American Samoa)

American Samoa Department of Health

CC: The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D., Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair, House Energy and Commerce

Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce
Committee