

For Immediate Release

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IPHCA and Community Health Centers Take Part in National Day of Action

We Will Stand Up, Stand Together: Save Community Health Centers Now

INDIANAPOLIS (May 20, 2020)—The Community Health Centers (CHCs) in Indiana will be taking part in the National CHC Day of Action on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, to highlight the vital role CHCs play in caring for over 500,000 Hoosiers state wide and the fiscal hardship CHCs are facing as they fight COVID-19.

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, Congress introduced the 4th stimulus bill, called the Heroes Act, that provides \$7.6 billion additional emergency funds to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) but failed to include long-term funding. Congressional action for emergency and long-term funding will ensure survival to stabilize the crucial network of primary care providers on the frontlines of COVID-19 and communities experiencing increasing numbers of unemployed and uninsured people.

Next Stimulus Package Must Include Community Health Center Fund Reauthorization

The Community Health Center Fund (CHCF) is a mandatory funding stream of \$4 billion per year that accounts for 70% of the federal grant funding for health centers and is now set to expire on November 30, 2020. An immediate long-term reauthorization is needed to stabilize a critical system of care for vulnerable communities – especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. CHCs are requesting a 5-year reauthorization of the CHCF with related workforce programs to serve increasing numbers of unemployed, uninsured, and underinsured people.

Why is Action to Reauthorize the Community Health Center Fund so Important Now?

Health centers are vital partners who can conduct massive community testing during the COVID-19 recovery. When a vaccine is ready and available, CHCs will be key in reaching vulnerable populations hit hard by the virus in both urban and rural areas and helping to get the American economy back to work and back on track. Long-term, stable federal investment supporting the health center system of care is essential to ensuring health centers' meet operational needs, recruit and retain staff and expand needed services for patients.

How can I support our CHCs?

To show your support for the services health centers provide in your community, visit www.hcadvocacy.org/national-day-of-action/ and contact your members of Congress now. Let's stand up and stand together to amplify all of our voices to protect Community Health Centers and the people we serve across the country.

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IPHCA is the voice of CHCs that provide primary and preventive health care to more than 500,000 patients in rural and urban communities across Indiana. IPHCA advocates to advance health policy in state and national government. IPHCA offers operational support and training to health centers to enhance the delivery of integrated care inclusive of primary care, oral health, and behavioral health. IPHCA's goal is to get ALL people in Indiana the proper health care they need. For more information, please visit www.indianapca.org.