Nuts and Bolts of the Health Center Workforce

No community health center would be able to deliver high-quality, affordable, accessible and culturally competent care without its most valuable resource: its workforce. Health centers are critical to expanding and training America's next generation of health care specialists.

Health Center Workforce Programs

Two programs that help health centers attract the most talented workforce possible:

**National Health Service Corps (NHSC)**
- Important tool to strengthen health center workforce and expand services
- Provides scholarships and loan repayment to providers who serve in underserved areas
- Extended at $310 million a year, for two years under MACRA

11 million people are cared for by NHSC clinicians

1/2 of these clinicians serve in health centers

**Teaching Health Centers Program (THCGME)**
- Dedicated funding for community-based primary care residency programs
- Provides hands on training for 742 residents nationwide
- Extended at $60 million for two years via MACRA

Residents at THC's are:

3x more likely to work in a health center after residency

2x more likely to work in underserved areas

If you have questions, please email federalaffairs@nachc.org or visit the NACHC website at www.nachc.org.
In 2015, Congress passed MACRA which invested federal funds in the National Health Service Corps Fund and Teaching Health Centers Program, enhancing the workforce pipeline for health centers. This allowed health centers to expand training and retain expertise in:

- Family Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Dentistry

Recent NHSC Funding (Currently All Mandatory)

Key funding for health center workforce development will expire at the end of the fiscal year (September 30th), severely stressing the staffing capacity of health centers and putting patient care at risk.

95% of health centers say they currently have at least one current staff vacancy.

If all health center clinical vacancies were filled today, health centers could serve: 2 million more patients.

NACHC calls on Congress to provide reliable and predictable funding to expand and develop the health center workforce, with targeted investments in programs that increase access to training, improve clinical diversity, and bolster patient care.

What can you do?

Find out what an increase in health center workforce funding would mean for your health center/community.

Think beyond dollars. How does less workforce funding impact patient care?

Collect provider stories and think about how this impacts your health center.

Visit http://www.hcadvocacy.org/makethecase for these and other resources.