



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Community Health Centers

About Community Health Centers

Serving over 22 million patients a year at more than 9,000 sites in rural and urban communities across America, health centers are committed to improving the health of underserved and vulnerable populations through affordable access to quality health care.

Health centers care for the whole person using the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model of care that includes the integration of oral and behavioral health. Health centers also take a tailored approach to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve.

The Health Center Program

To be considered a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), health centers must:

- Be located in or serve a high-need community
- Be governed by a community board composed of a majority (51% or more) of health center patients who represent the population served
- Provide comprehensive primary health care services as well as supportive services (education, translation, and transportation, etc.) that promote access to health care
- Provide services available to all with fees adjusted based on ability to pay
- Meet other performance and accountability requirements regarding administrative, clinical, and financial operations

Volunteer Experiences

Each health center determines the availability for the volunteer experiences they offer. It is best to check through a health center's website first before calling. To assist the health center in determining whether they can meet your expectations, it is helpful to send them a statement describing your:

- Background, training, and experience
- Availability during normal business hours
- Goals and what you hope to accomplish with the experience

Community HealthCorps®

Community HealthCorps® is the largest health-focused, national AmeriCorps program that promotes health care for America's underserved, while developing tomorrow's health care workforce. This one year service experience enables you to do great things for your community while you grow as an individual and attain tangible benefits.



Community
HealthCorps

Community Health Center Volunteer Experiences



AmeriCorps volunteer at health fair in Louisiana

Volunteer reading to a patient in the waiting room at Open Door Health Center (Ossining, NY)



More Information

Information on Community Health Centers and the National Association of Community Health Centers:

www.nachc.org

Information on Community HealthCorps:

<http://www.communityhealthcorps.org/>

Information on the FQHC program:

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/>

To find a health center:

http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/Search_HCC.aspx

Information on medically underserved areas/populations (MUA/P):

<http://muafind.hrsa.gov/>

Information on how you can support America's health centers:

<http://www.saveourhcs.org/>

Information on Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and their role in working with student internships:

<https://www.nationalahec.org/AHECDirectory.taf>

To find other volunteer opportunities:

<http://www.idealists.org/>

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/>