

Talking Points on FY15 Health Center Funding

Thank you for the work you have done to support Health Center funding and for your support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. This will ensure health centers do not face a funding cliff in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, averting a potential 70% reduction in funding.

I wanted to draw your attention to an issue health centers are facing with regard to the funding currently available to the program. I was incredibly disappointed to learn [INSERT STATE OR HEALTH CENTER] did not receive any New Access Points for new health centers in the round of awards issued in May. [INSERT STATE OR HEALTH CENTER] submitted [X] applications, but none of these applications were funded.

This year, the Health Centers program received an increase in funding of \$1.4 billion. In February, the President's Budget called for "holding back" some of these funds, to use as a cushion for health centers if the Health Center funding cliff was left unaddressed by Congress.

But, with the passage of H.R. 2, the Health Centers Fund has been extended for an additional two years at FY2015 funding levels. With that stability now in place there is **no reason for HHS to hold back any of the funding** they currently have available for the program. **Holding back the FY2015 funds puts them at risk** to be cut, and that was not the intent of Congress.

Nationwide, communities have demonstrated the need for health center services and sites. We know the need is great nationally given there are still **more than 300 applications pending for New Access Points**. In [INSERT STATE OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT] we have [X applications or INSERT SPECIFIC SITE/SERVICE DEMANDS]. With this level of need, we are urging the Administration to fully utilize all of the resources made available in the current fiscal year's appropriation for Health Centers.

This could be done very easily if HRSA were to increase funding into these major areas to build upon what was allocated under the FY2015 omnibus:

- Expanded services
- Expanded medical capacity
- Base grant adjustments
- Additional New Access Points (HRSA currently has 300 unfunded applications)

We are asking [INSERT SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE] to weigh in directly with HHS to request they utilize all of the FY2015 funding available for health centers as Congress intended, so health centers like ours are able to meet their current demands in their communities.

Thank you for your continued support of health centers in our communities and your consideration of this request.