



The model for what we call Community Health Centers was started by a group of health care providers and community organizers that met each other while participating in civil rights activism in the early 1960's. From the beginning, they envisioned a model of health care that not only diagnosed patients and prescribed treatment, but also addressed socio-economic drivers of health and mobilized community engagement. Importantly, the health center would be planned *with* patients, not just for them by so-called experts. Health centers carry on the legacy of our founders and endure, thanks to decades of advocacy, dedication and strong bipartisan support.

NACHC expresses deep gratitude to the many generations of health center staff, volunteer board members, patients and community partners who have, and continue to contribute to the improved health and well-being of communities across the country. The Health Center Movement remains strong and thriving!

Community Health Center Milestones (1960-2025)

Learn more about the Community Health Center Milestones at
www.chcchronicles.org



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www.NACHC.org



1962

President John F. Kennedy signed the Migrant Health Act into law



1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson launches the War on Poverty



1965

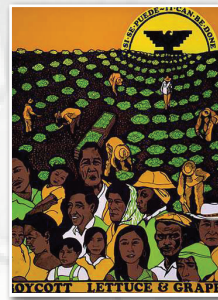
First patients served at Columbia Point (Dorchester, MA) and Delta Health Center (Mound Bayou, MS) under the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (EOE) "Neighborhood Health Center" demonstration program by Dr. Jack Geiger and Dr. Count Gibson, Jr.



1966

100,000 PATIENTS SERVED

Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta of the United Farm Workers are joined by Robert F. Kennedy to fight for improved compensation, education, legal protections, and other human rights for agricultural workers



1971

500,000 PATIENTS SERVED

NACHC was founded



1977

1 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

The Community Health Center Program was authorized under Section 330 of the U.S. Public Health Service Act



The Migrant Health Program is reauthorized under the Public Health Service Act, but only after a congressional override of President Gerald Ford's veto



1985-1992

5 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

Bipartisan health center advocates repeal the Reagan administration block grant program and protect health service grants. The Healthcare & Public Housing Primary Care Programs are established. Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) benefits established in Medicare/Medicaid programs along with Federal Torts Claims Act (FTCA) malpractice coverage

State/regional Primary Care Associations (PCAs) receive federal funding

1996-2000

8.1 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

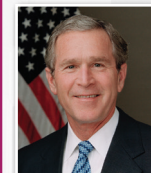
Health Centers Consolidation Act passes, bringing together community, migrant, public housing and homeless programs under Section 330. Medicaid program accelerates managed care systems and FQHC wrap-around payments. Prospective Payment System (PPS) is established



2001-2005

10 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

The Health Center Program and National Health Service Corps (NHSC) reauthorized, Growth Initiative passed, resulting in 5 years of expanded funding to establish more health centers



2005

15 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

Hurricane Katrina destroyed 11 CHC sites, and more than 80 facilities across Louisiana and Mississippi were significantly damaged. Yet despite the impact CHCs immediately swung into action as responders and treated more than 37,300 people.



2009

18.7 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed, delivering the single largest investment in health center history, providing \$2B in direct health center funding



2010

19.5 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

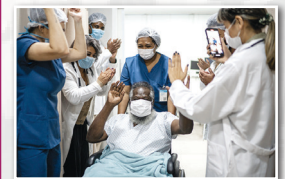
The Affordable Care Act passes, creating the Community Health Center Fund that provides \$11 billion over a 5 year period for the operation, expansion, and construction of health centers



2020

29.2 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

Health centers respond to the COVID-19 pandemic



2021

31.1 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

The American Rescue Plan passes, providing \$7.6B for health centers post-pandemic recovery, including construction and renovation



2023

31.5 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

Kyu Rhee, MD, MPP, becomes new NACHC CEO



2024

32.5 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2024 increased mandatory health center funding to \$4.4 billion per year prospectively

2025

UP TO 52 MILLION PATIENTS SERVED

60th anniversary of the Community Health Center Movement

