



North Carolina Community Health Center Association

2023 State Policy Agenda

NCCHCA is the state's primary care association representing N.C.'s 43 Community Health Center (CHC) organizations that care for over 743,000 patients annually, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. Also called Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), our CHCs operate over 400 clinical sites in rural and underserved communities in 85 counties. NCCHCA's 2023 State Policy Agenda outlines the top policy priorities for consideration by lawmakers and decision-makers in 2023.



Expand Medicaid

Expand Medicaid to close the health insurance coverage gap for hundreds of thousands of working poor North Carolinians, reducing uncompensated care and thereby strengthening FQHCs' services, workforce, and financial operations.



Modernize Medicaid Reimbursement for Health Centers

Enact a Medicaid budget rebase that supports a modernized FQHC payment model enabling FQHCs to fully participate in value-based arrangements under Medicaid managed care.



Expand Medical Assistant Apprenticeships to Address Workforce Shortages

Secure funding to expand NCCHCA's Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Initiative (MAAI) to recruit, train, and hire 50 new Medical Assistant apprentices to earn-while-they-learn in health center settings.



Preserve the Community Health Grant Program

Continue appropriations for the state's Community Health Grant program to expand access to primary care for underserved patients at FQHCs, free clinics, local health departments, and other safety net providers.



Troubleshoot Hurdles to Caring for Medicaid Patients

Minimize administrative burdens and facilitate timely reimbursement for FQHCs when caring for patients enrolled in Medicaid managed care plans.



Recruit Providers to Expand Health Care Workforce

Facilitate recruitment of high-quality primary care and specialty providers to serve FQHC patients in shortage areas through various policies, such as funding for provider incentive programs.



Remove Barriers to Comprehensive Safety Net Services

Reduce regulatory barriers to FQHCs seeking to offer or expand specialty services to address unmet health care needs in rural and underserved communities.



Implement Protections for CHC Pharmacies under 340B Drug Discount Program

Monitor the implementation of new state protections for FQHCs' 340B pharmacy services, which enable access to affordable medications and other critical health center services.