

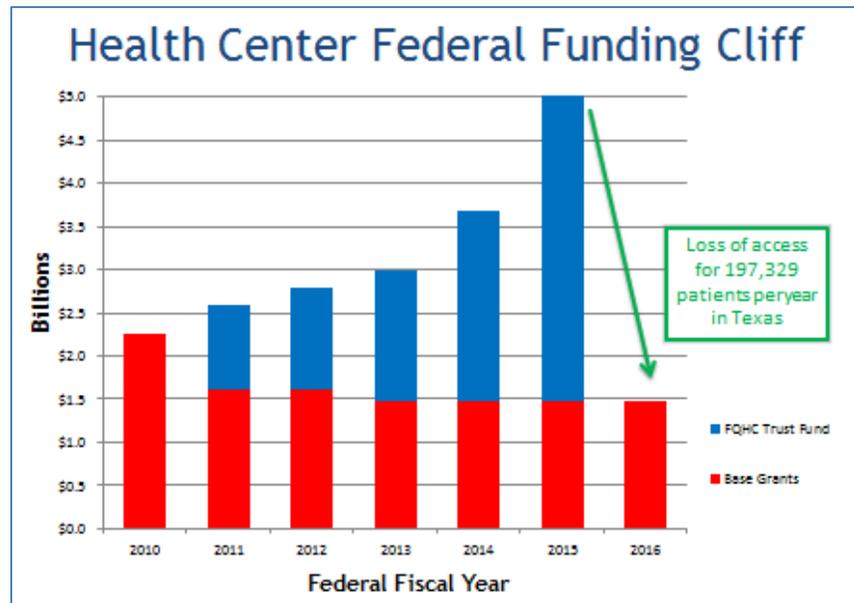


# Texas Community Health Centers

**Support community health centers in Texas by asking Congress to fix the health center funding cliff.**

Community health centers, also known as federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), provide high-quality, low-cost primary and preventive health care to **over a million** Texans each year. With 350 clinic locations in 118 counties, health centers provide care in underserved areas across the state and in some rural areas are the only source of health care for the community.

Health centers face a significant loss of federal funding on **September 30, 2015** when the Health Center Trust Fund expires. **If Congress does not act to fix the funding cliff, federal funding to health centers will be cut by up to 70 percent, immediately reducing access to care in communities across Texas.**



This estimated **\$133 million reduction per year** will take

federal health center funding back to 1999 levels and **result in clinic closures, provider and staff layoffs and, most importantly, a loss of access to primary and preventive care for Texans, many with no other place to turn. This translates into 197,329 Texas patients per year losing all access to critical health center services.**

The health center funding cliff will hit just as the need for health care access is greater than ever, and will potentially roll back health center progress that ensures the medically underserved have access to care in their communities. Without primary care access, many people, including the chronically ill, delay seeking care until they are seriously ill and require significantly more costly inpatient hospitalization or emergency room care.

Recognizing health centers' vital role as safety net providers, the Texas Senate Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Senator Charles Schwertner, **recommended that Texas advocate for continued federal health center funding in the Committee's Interim Report to the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature** released in December 2014.

**Health centers ask that state legislators urge Congress to fix the health center funding cliff to protect this vital resource in communities across Texas. Please start by sending a letter to your Congressional delegation asking them to fix the health center funding cliff before the end of the federal fiscal year.**

**Texas Association of Community Health Centers**