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## NEWS

### Health Center Funding Cliff

#### Health Center Champions in House and Senate Take Steps to Fix Health Center Funding Cliff

Without Congressional Action, Health Center Program Funding will be reduced by 70% in 16 days! A 70% funding cut will affect every single health center. 9 million patients will lose access to care, 2,800 health center sites may close, and 51,000 health center jobs could be lost.

#### DC Fly-In

Health Center leaders from Texas and around the country traveled to Washington as part of the "DC Fly-In," this past week to meet with elected officials and fix the Health Center Funding Cliff. Lend your voice to theirs and **call 1-866-456-3969 to tell Congress to fix the cliff today!**



From l-r: Veronica Brown (Lone Star Circle of Care), Rachel Gonzalez Hanson (Community Health Development, Inc.), Congressman Lamar Smith (TX-21), and Dr. Christina Paz (Centro San Vicente Family Health Clinic).

"Overall the reception has been positive and there are several offices that are eager to help support action – and having the (CHIME) Act in place will make advocacy MUCH easier," said Mimi Garcia, TACHC Director of Policy & External Communications. Leaders in Washington from Community Health Centers in Texas included:

- Allen Patterson (Community Healthcare Center)
- Barbara Clark (Hope Clinic)
- Cam Kleibrink (Frontera Healthcare Network)
- Charles Wiltraut (Mission East Dallas)
- Cindy Reaves (AccessHealth)
- Dr. Christina Paz (Centro San Vicente Family Health Clinic)
- Henry Salas (Community Health Centers of South Central Texas)
- Karen Harwell (Lone Star Family Health Center)
- LaToya Darden (Central Care Integrated Health Services)

- Michael Glas (Community Health Service Agency)
- Michelle Carter (Community Health Service Agency)
- Mike Campbell (La Esperanza Clinic)
- Rachel Gonzalez Hanson (Community Health Development, Inc.)
- Rafael De La Paz (Community Health Centers of South Central Texas)
- Doreen Rue (Health Services of North Texas)
- Sherry Hill (AccelHealth)
- Elmo Lopez, Jr. (Gateway Community Health Center)
- Veronica Brown (Lone Star Circle of Care)
- David E. Hunt (Family Health Center)
- Ernesto Gomez (CentroMed)
- Michael Sullivan (Community Health Center of Lubbock)
- Kelley Reynolds (Family Health Center)

### **Your Advocacy is Working – Take Action Now!**

Your advocacy is working – Congress has started to pay attention and begin concrete work to fix the Health Center Funding Cliff! We still have many steps ahead and a lot of advocacy work to do to ensure true action before September 30th – but make no mistake, YOUR ADVOCACY IS WORKING!

Health Center Champions in both the House and Senate have taken steps to raise the Health Center Funding Cliff with colleagues and drive Congressional action for a fix. Today we are asking you contact your Members of Congress IMMEDIATELY to ask them to take the following actions:

**#1: Ask Your Representative to Co-Sponsor H.R. 3770**, the Community Health Improvement, Modernization & Excellence (CHIME) Act of 2017, being sponsored by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY).

**#2: Ask Your Senators to Cosign the Blunt-Stabenow Health Center Cliff Letter** addressed to the Senate HELP Committee and asking for an extension of current Health Center Program funding by September 30th. **The deadline for your Senators to cosign this letter is this Monday, September 18th, so act now.**

You can send your messages and contact your Members of Congress on social media right now using the Health Center Advocacy Network – it takes less than 2 minutes! **Click [here](#) to take action.**



**Take Action**

There's no time to waste! We are 16 days away from the Health Center Funding Cliff – let's stay loud and keep the pressure on Congress to ACT IMMEDIATELY to fix the Health Center Funding Cliff. Your Advocacy is what's making the difference – don't stop now!

## Bipartisan Legislation to Reauthorize Community Health Center Funding Introduced

On Thursday, September 13, Reps. Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21), David Young (R-IA-03), Joe Courtney (D-CT-02), and Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ-01) introduced the [Community Health Investment, Modernization and Excellence \(CHIME\) Act of 2017](#)– bipartisan legislation to extend the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) for five years, with modest increases to ensure responsiveness to demand for care and national priority areas.

“Federally qualified community health centers in my district serve **over 95,000 patients**, and it’s critical to the needs of our community that this funding be extended,” **said Congresswoman Stefanik** (pictured at right). “The health centers provide families across the North Country with critical healthcare and preventative services. Congress must act to ensure the North Country and communities across the country don’t lose access to this needed care, and I’m pleased to work across the aisle with my colleagues on this important legislation.” [Read the full story here.](#)



## National Cliff Call In Day - Monday September 18!

Start planning now! The first National Cliff Call In Day will be Monday, September 18th– we will be asking all Health Center Advocates to call their Members of Congress in force to demand action to Fix the Health Center Funding Cliff! Advocates can use the toll free Advocacy Hotline 1-866-456-3949 to call Members of Congress and deliver the Health Center message demanding immediate action to fix the cliff. We need every single Health Center Advocate engaged and ready to make their calls to force Congress to act! Get ready today! For more information visit: [www.hcadvocacy.org/makethecase](http://www.hcadvocacy.org/makethecase).

Use the Funding Cliff graphic below for social media!



(Click to download full graphic)

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## Hurricane Harvey Update

Health centers within the impact areas of Hurricane Harvey continue through the recovery process and have worked diligently to open their doors and deliver healthcare services to patients in need. TACHC is speaking

with centers regularly and providing support and resources as needed. A disaster can cause people to experience emotional and mental distress. There is help for those with signs and symptoms of emotional distress following a hurricane or tropical storm. Please visit the **SAMHSA website** to learn about who is most at risk for emotional distress from hurricanes and tropical storms and where to find disaster-related resources.

TACHC continues to seek resources to meet the request for mosquito repellent after Hurricane Harvey. Please remember that mosquito repellent is also available as a statewide benefit in Medicaid and other state programs. With continued warm, humid temperatures and standing water after flooding, mosquitoes (and vector-borne illnesses like Zika) can be problematic. This webpage includes information specific to the [mosquito repellent benefit](#) for Zika prevention, as well as information on Zika testing in Medicaid. For help with questions about [Hurricane Harvey and health coverage](#), please see the information on the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) blog.

### **Hurricane Community Health Fund Established to Bolster Health Safety Net in Texas, Florida**

Direct Relief today announced the creation of the Hurricane Community Health Fund, a collaboration among the Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC), the Florida Association of Community Health Centers (FACHC), the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), and the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) and Direct Relief, which will manage the fund. The fund will be used solely for the benefit of hurricane-affected communities and people – particularly those who have low incomes, lack insurance, and are among the most vulnerable residents – and will be directed to community health centers and free and charitable clinics in Texas and Florida. [Full story and video here.](#)

### **TACHC Leaders Visit Houston in Response to Hurricane Harvey**



**TACHC Executive Director José E. Camacho, with Bee Busy Wellness Center's Norman Mitchell (CEO) and Jorgé Chavrieta (Community Outreach)**

**Camacho visited this past weekend to help respond to Harvey's damage. In the background is a Clinica Sierra Vista Mobile unit, which came in from Bakersfield, CA and was helping with patient visits.**

TACHC Executive Director José E. Camacho and Director of Operations Daniel Diaz visited health centers in Houston this past Friday in response to Hurricane Harvey. One of the sites they visited was Bee Busy Wellness Center, where they visited with CEO Norman Mitchell. Bee Busy is fully operational and providing service at their main clinic site, and they are utilizing a mobile unit generously provided by Bakersfield, California's Clinica Sierra Vista to provide services to the community in collaboration with partners requesting special access to care. Fortunately, Bee Busy did not sustain serious damage, though the neighborhood where they are located suffered extensive flood damage.

### **TACHC is Here to Help**

As TACHC continues to provide assistance, we need to know your specific needs. Please send your assessments, requests for assistance, or questions for support to Christina Brito-Tigerina at [cbtigerina@tachc.org](mailto:cbtigerina@tachc.org). For more information about donations to Texas health centers [please visit this link](#).

### **TACHC Employee Anniversaries**

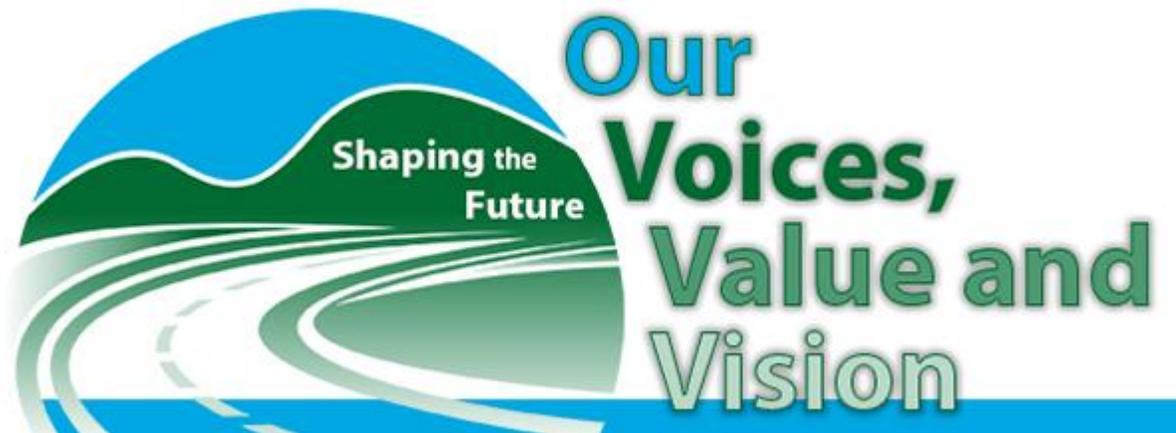
Happy "TACHCiversary" to the following:

- Maria Tamez since September 4, 2007
- Courtney Weaver since September 22, 2014

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference Starts September 27- 28 – Register Now!**



**Register Now! TACHC Annual Conference • October 29-November 1, 2017 La Cantera Resort & Spa • San Antonio, Texas**

### **13th Annual Texas Health Literacy Conference**

The conference, held October 12-13 in San Antonio, is geared towards health care organizations (and their providers and staff) working with patients who are living in poverty. This conference will be covering health literacy in health insurance, LGBT, youth, older adults and mental health populations/communities via 90 or 120 minute break out sessions. For more information, please visit [www.SAHealthLiteracy.com](http://www.SAHealthLiteracy.com) or contact Kate Martin at [Mary.k.martin@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Mary.k.martin@uth.tmc.edu).

### **GROUP PURCHASING**

#### **Request for Information on 340B/Pharmacy**

The 340B pharmacy program is under a microscope at the federal level and in the theme of being pro-active, NACHC has asked for two pieces of information:

1. Brief examples of how your health center uses the 340B savings to expand services to your patients and communities. For example: expanding dental services or underwriting sliding fee discounts or adding evening and weekend hours. The documenting of these services as an internal document is an excellent idea if you are ever asked what you do with these savings.
2. Information on why it is critical for your health center to be able to contract with multiple retail pharmacies.

Please forward the examples and information to [Lynn Ford](#).

### **OPA's 340B Database Offline For Updates**

As part of the transition to the new 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (340B OPAIS), the current 340B database will be offline and unavailable as of August 15, 2017. HRSA will begin to archive the information in the current 340B database in preparation for the release of the registration component of the new 340B OPAIS in mid-September 2017 (exact date TBD). During this time, FQHCs will not be able to submit change requests or terminations. However, users can verify covered entity participation, manufacturer participation, and contract pharmacy locations in the 340B Program at [hrsa.gov/opa](http://hrsa.gov/opa). If you have any questions, contact [Lynn Ford](#).

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### **POLICY**

[Health Center Funding Cliff \(see above\)](#)

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### **GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

#### **Congratulations to Texas Centers that Received HRSA Funding to Increase Access to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services!**

On September 14, the HRSA awarded more than \$200 million in supplemental funding to 1,178 health centers and 13 rural health organizations in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Pacific Basin to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services. [Read the HHS Press Release](#).

#### **2016 Health Center Program Data Now Available**

HRSA has released the 2016 UDS information. Data shows the HRSA funded health centers served nearly 26 million people – 1 in 12 nationwide – in 2016. In Texas, a total of 1,328,406 patients accessed care through a health center or a look-alike center. Almost all (99.6%) health centers nationally demonstrated improvement on one or more clinical quality measures. [View the Health Center Data & Reporting Here](#).

#### **Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?**

If you would like to request a Letter of Support, signed by TACHC Executive Director, José Camacho, please email [Corinne Medina](#) along with the project abstract. Once the request and abstract have been received, please allow 2-3 business days for turnaround.

#### **Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?**

If you haven't heard, TACHC recently began offering a Nurse Advice Line through the Group Purchasing program. Following Schmitt-Thompson support protocols, a registered nurse, licensed in the state of Texas, will triage callers when your center doors are closed. This after-hours support service is helping centers significantly alleviate their on-call provider schedules. For some, the nurse advice line is replacing it completely. The service is available 24/7/365, and includes free translation services and unlimited calls. If you would like additional information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

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### **OUTREACH**



**REGISTER NOW!**  
TACHC Outreach and Enrollment 2017 Conference

*Together Towards Tomorrow.*

**September 27-28 | Bee Cave, TX**

### **TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference – Register Now!**

Please join us September 27-28, 2017 at the Sonesta Bee Cave - Austin Hotel for the 5th TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Conference: My Texas My Health. Together Towards Tomorrow. The conference will focus on the latest health care policies at both the federal and state levels and what that means for outreach and enrollment activities in health centers, including messages and strategies to respond to any changes. Breakout sessions will highlight an updated session on immigration issues, outreach to Veterans, programs available for women's health and an improved lesson on selecting and comparing Marketplace health plans. There will be opportunities for peer learning and networking for sharing best practices as well. All health center outreach and enrollment staff and supervisors are invited to attend. [Register Today!](#) Contact [Sonia Lara](#) or [RexAnn Shotwell](#) for more information.

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### **CLINICAL**



Centering®

### **Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings**

If you are interested in bringing group medical visits, and specifically the [Centering model of care](#), to your health center, we highly encourage you to attend this free three-part webcast series.

### **Centering Virtual Information Seminar**

- **Part 3: September 21, 12:00 - 2:00 PM CST**

### **Basic Facilitation Workshop October 28-29, 2017**

The Basic Facilitation Workshop will be held at CommuniCare Health Centers in San Antonio prior to the start of the Annual Conference.

### **How to Participate:**

- **Health centers interested in implementing Centering groups must complete the [Readiness Assessment from the CHI website](#).**
- **To register your team for the Virtual Information Seminar, [please complete the VIS registration form](#).**
- **Space for the Basic Facilitation Training is limited, therefore health centers will need to [complete the BFT registration form](#).** Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis and approval will be determined based on the results of the readiness assessment and whether the

health center is registered/attends all three parts of the Virtual Information Seminar.

- **For any questions, please contact [Ana Sierra](#).**

### **2017 Uniform Data System (UDS) Manual is Now Available**

The 2017 manual describes the annual UDS reporting requirements for all health centers that receive federal award funds (grantees) as well as for look-alikes under the Health Center Program. This comprehensive guide helps health centers understand the framework of reporting requirements, including data submissions on patients, operations, and clinical performance. The manual provides: An introduction and overview of the UDS; Instructions for completing each of the tables; and Information on how to submit the data through HRSA's EHB. Find the 2017 UDS Manual on the [UDS Resources](#) page.

### **How Health IT Works to Support Patient-Centered Medical Home Webinar**

A "How Health IT Works to Support Patient-Centered Medical Home" Webinar (Hosted by HITEQ, a BPHC-funded NCA) is set for Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2:00-3:00 PM CST. [Register here](#)

### **Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices**

[CDC recently published this report](#), which updates the 2016-17 recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding the use of seasonal influenza vaccines. Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged ≥6 months who do not have contraindications. A licensed, recommended, and age-appropriate vaccine should be used.

### **A Message from the American Cancer Society**

We have worked with many of you to support the cancer prevention and early detection needs of your community health centers and the patients you serve. Our hearts go out to everyone in the community who has been affected by Hurricane Harvey. We understand that a disaster can compound and intensify the challenges a cancer patient faces. The American Cancer Society can provide knowledgeable help and compassionate guidance. We have many resources to help those fighting cancer. If Hurricane Harvey has impacted you or a loved one who has cancer, the American Cancer Society can help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us at 1-800-227-2345. [Find out more here.](#)

### **New PRAPARE Health Center Engagement and Innovation Awards – Applications Due Today**

To broaden the understanding and knowledge of PRAPARE, its use, and its impact to bring PRAPARE to scale, NACHC, AAPCHO, and OPCA are launching the first ever PRAPARE Health Center Engagement and Innovation Awards. The purpose of the Engagement and Innovation Awards is two-fold: (1) to identify, support, and learn from innovative and unique uses of PRAPARE and (2) to disseminate those models and lessons learned in order to accelerate the use of PRAPARE across health centers and more patients. Please read the [application](#) for more information. Five health centers will be awarded \$8,000 each for active participation during each round. Round One will occur between October 2017 – May 2018 and Round Two will occur between October 2018 – 2019. Only health centers are eligible to apply.

**Applications for Round One are due TODAY Friday, September 15 by 11:00 PM CST.** Submit applications and questions to [prapare@nachc.org](mailto:prapare@nachc.org). Additional instructions and application can be found [HERE](#).

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the application will be posted and updated regularly on the [NACHC website](#) starting the week of September 28. Submit questions to [prapare@nachc.org](mailto:prapare@nachc.org).

### **St. David's Foundation Announces Postpartum Support Services RFP**

St. David's Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of funds to aid low-income and underserved women in Central Texas in receiving timely and effective postpartum support services. The postnatal period represents a vital window to help women and babies reap health benefits that can pay dividends for years to come. Through this opportunity, the Foundation is interested in improving postpartum access and outcomes for underserved women during the "fourth trimester," the year following delivery. [See the full story here.](#)

### **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

#### **Assessment of Health Professionals**

With the support of HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved is fielding a short assessment to gather information on health centers' current experiences with health professions training activities in order to identify potential areas for resources, training, and technical assistance. This assessment takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and should be completed by all health centers regardless of whether or not they are currently training health professions students or residents. Please preview the questions and complete the [assessment online](#). Contact [Allison Abayasekara](#) VP, Training & Programs. Phone: 703-562-8820

### **Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?**

Does your center have openings for clinical providers or executive management that you would like us to help recruit for? [Complete the TACHC online position profile](#). Contact [Danielle Ramos, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) for more information.

Did you know that the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up is available to ALL TACHC members and ALL your staff? [Share this link with your health center staff to sign up for the Wrap!](#)

Don't miss out. Follow TACHC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Send **NEWS** about your health center to be considered for inclusion in the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up to TACHC Wrap Editor [Brom Hoban](#).

Sign up to receive the [TACHC Weekly Wrap Up!](#)

TACHC · United States

This email was sent to [aalvarez@tachc.org](mailto:aalvarez@tachc.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).