October Policy and Advocacy Webinar

Fixing the Primary Care Cliff: Landscape and Action Steps
Audio today will be provided via computer.

- Please double check that your speakers on your computer are working and/or plug in a headset to listen.
- You can adjust the volume of the audio on your computer or by using the Audio Broadcast control box.
This webinar is being recorded

You will be able to access the webinar recording on
www.hcadvocacy.org/pastevents

The link to the recording will be distributed in the Washington Update
Questions?

- Use the chat box to ask your question at any point in the webinar.

- We want to see all of your questions! We’ll try our best to respond to all of them.
In this briefing, we’ll cover:

• **Health Center Funding Cliff** – what it means that we’re past October 1

• **The Current State of Play** – CHIME, CHAMPION, and the importance of keeping up the pressure

• **October Advocacy Action Steps**
Over the Cliff: Time to Climb Back Up!
When Would Health Centers Feel the Full Impact of the Cliff?

- Possible changes to grant award at the beginning of your **NEXT** budget period – new funding will reflect any new limitations on Section 330 dollars.

- No health center organizations have new budget periods in Oct, Nov, or Dec.

- 235 health center organizations have new budget periods starting on 1/1/18.

- HRSA decides about January 2018 Notice of Awards (NOAs) in mid-November.
Based on a recent national survey of health centers, it's clear that the cliff is creating uncertainty and forcing hard decisions now.

- 72% will institute a hiring freeze
- 41% will lay off staff
- 52% will cancel or delay facility renovation or expansion
- 47% will reduce staff hours and/or hours of operation

**Percentage of Health Centers Reporting They Will Cut Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health†</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enabling Services</td>
<td>43%</td>
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</tbody>
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†Behavioral health includes both mental health and substance abuse services
What Else Expired on October 1\textsuperscript{st}? 

These programs also expired as of Sept 30\textsuperscript{th}:

• National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
• Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
• Medicaid DSH Payments
• Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)
• Family to Family Health Information Centers
• Special Diabetes Programs
• Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME)**
What Happens if the Cliff is Not *Never* Fixed?

**Health Centers Program**
If Congress does not take action to restore the 70% reduction in federal funding for health centers, HRSA estimates that it will lead to:
- 9 million patients losing access to primary and preventive care
- More than 51,000 providers and staff losing their jobs
- 2,800 sites closing

**National Health Service Corps**
The Cliff will lead to:
- No new contracts awarded after 9/30/17
- No “continuations” - 5,760 clinicians eligible
- Field strength drops (currently 10,400; **2018**: 5,000; **2019**: 1,600)
On September 28th, Congress passed a 3-month extension of TCHGME funding to avoid program closure.

$15 million for three months allows all 732 Residents to continue their residency while Congress works to secure a longer term solution.
State of Play

**Behind the Scenes:**
- Broad support and agreement to fund CHCs
- Disagreement around how to pay for CHCs and other extenders

**Energy and Commerce Markup, October 4 – CHAMPION Act**
- **CHCs:** 2-year extension at current levels ($3.6B/ year)
- **NHSC:** 2-year extension at current levels ($310m/ year)
- **THCGME:** 2-year extension at $126.5M/ year
- A number of other extensions (Special Diabetes Program for Indians, Family-to-Family information centers, etc.)
- Democrats OPPOSED because extensions are paid for with cuts to Prevention Fund & ACA Changes

**CHIP in the Same Boat**
- Consensus on extension, but disagreement on “pay-fors”
Good News! Your Advocacy is WORKING!

• Here’s what YOU and the Health Center Advocacy Network did in September by the numbers:
  – Made **23,000 phone calls** to Congress
  – Delivered almost **100,000 email messages, Facebook & Twitter posts**
  – Hosted more than **250 meetings with Members of Congress**
  – Published **hundreds of cliff media pieces**
  – Helped to grow the Health Center Advocacy Network to **150,000 Advocates!**
So, what did your advocacy accomplish…….
What YOU’VE Done So Far:
Building Pressure, Support & Momentum

H.R.3770 – Community Health Investment, Modernization, and Excellence Act of 2017 (CHIME)
• Introduced by Reps. Stefanik (R-NY), Young (R-IA), O’Halleran (D-AZ) and Courtney (D-CT)
• Currently **188** bipartisan co-sponsors (133 D, 55 R)

S. 1899 – Senate CHIME Act
• Introduced by Sens. Blunt (R-MO), Stabenow (D-MI), Capito (R-WV), Carper (D-DE),
  Gardner (R-CO), Cardin (D-MD), Collins (R-ME), McCaskill (D-MO), Wicker (R-MS), Manchin
  (D-WV)
• Includes both CHC and NHSC

**Senate Blunt–Stabenow Letter**
• 70 Bipartisan Members signed on in 3 days!

**Public actions from MOCs**
• Floor statements, tweets, letters

**Media**
• Op-eds, LTEs, national media
What Congress is Saying

**Rep Dan Newhouse @RepNewhouse**
Sep 14
Proud to cosponsor this legislation, introduced by @EliseStefanik, to extend the Community Health Centers Fund for five years. #WA04

**Senator Roy Blunt @RoyBlunt**
I've joined a bipartisan group urging for an immediate extension of critical funding for community health centers: bit.ly/2wN72wY

**Senator John Boozman @SenBoozman**
The CHIME Act will ensure that community health centers are able to provide vital health services to those in need.

**David Young @RepDavidYoung**
Sep 14
Repyling to @RepDavidYoung
This provides certainty & needed funding for Iowa's Community Health Ctrns so they can continue providing health services for those in need.

**Senator Tomi Atkins @G4Atkins**
Besides ACA repeal, millions of vulnerable ppl at risk if Congress doesn't extend $ for #HealthCenters. FixTheCliff

**Michael F. Bennett @SenBennetCO**
Sep 14
Calling for immediate action to extend critical funding for Community Health Centers before it runs out this month. bennet.senate.gov/?p=release&... thanks to Clinica Family Health in Boulder & yesterday's news patients in our community.

**Rep. Hank Johnson @RepHankJohnson**
Sep 14
For 50+ years, community health centers have delivered comprehensive, preventive and primary care to patients #NHCW17 #HealthCenters

**Sen. Patrick Leahy @SenatorLeahy**
Sep 14
Community Health Centers also support 1600+ full-time jobs in VT. Let's #ValueCHCs & #FixtheCliff for VT & the nation.

**Rep. Joe Kennedy III @RepJoeKennedy**
Sep 14
Programs GOP Congress let expire last night - health care for low-income kids - Community health centers - Loans for low-income college students

**Rep. Shea-Porter @RepSheaPorter**
Sep 14
... funding for Community Health Centers, which means our 12 NH CHCs could face a 70% budget cut...
We’re Going to Get There…

BUT WE NEED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE UP!
What can **YOU** do?

Take these critical action steps and help produce unprecedented activity in your area.

hcadvocacy.org
Our Message, Our Ask & Our Reality

• **Our Message is Unchanged:** Congress needs to take immediate action to fix the Health Center Funding Cliff

• **Our Current Ask:** Co-Sponsor the CHIME Act; S.1899 in the Senate, H.R. 3770 in the House
  - If Members of Congress have already co-sponsored, ask that they speak with their Leadership to request immediate action to fix the cliff and ask that they report back with plans and timeline.

• **Our Reality:** *We Will Fight Until the Cliff is Fixed*
Here’s what you can do RIGHT NOW!

• Email & Call Your Members of Congress – ask your Senators and Representative to co-sponsor the CHIME Act: S.1899 in the Senate, HR 3770 in the House
Visit www.HCAAdvocacy.org/takeaction or Call the Toll Free Advocacy Hotline – 1-866-456-3949

• Recommit to Fighting for Health Centers Until the Cliff is Fixed – post on social media showing you’ll keep fighting! Post pictures, record a short video, or updated your profile picture to show you’ll fight til it’s fixed!
Visit www.HCAAdvocacy.org/spread_the_word
October, November, December…

- We want a cliff fix as soon as possible – the reality is that this fight could last all fall.
  - Advocacy is the best tool we have to force action!

- Expect Weekly Calls to Action & Updates
- Be Ready & Be Nimble
- Call In Days Are Coming – Most Often When There’s Likely to be a Floor Vote!
Resources

- What Happens After The Cliff – FAQ
- Immediate Impact Cliff Infographic
- Talking Points
- Social Media Templates
- Updated Media Templates
- CHIME Act Co-Sponsors

All Available at www.HCAAdvocacy.org/MakeTheCase

Remember you can ALWAYS reach out to NACHC Advocacy & Policy Staff with questions, or if you need something we haven’t listed – email grassroots@nachc.com
The message is simple & unchanged

• It is time for Congress to do its job and act to fix the cliff.
• The clock is ticking – health centers are coping with uncertain funding which puts their patients, their staff and their business operations in jeopardy.
• Millions of patients depend on health centers - lives are at stake.

We’ve come this far because of the POWER and effectiveness of the Health Center Advocacy Network - each advocate is POWERFUL, and we must continue to use our voice and ACT.

Hcadvocacy.org
Right now, we need to keep the pressure HIGH and the VOLUME UP! Keep pushing to ensure Health Centers are a top priority for Congress.

We are asking all Health Center Advocates to recommit to taking action, repetitively and fiercely, until the cliff is fixed.

All new action steps are on hcadvocacy.org/takeaction
Be Ready to Respond On Short Notice

What to expect this fall:
- MANY Calls to Action
- Lots of Twists & Turns

What you can do to prepare:
- Stay Informed
- Have a Plan
- Commit to Taking Action EVERY TIME!

The Future of the Health Center Program Depends on YOUR Advocacy!
Questions?