

# THE ADVOCACY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (ACE) PROGRAM

## THE PROGRAM

**Building on Health Center initiatives focused on operational excellence in health care delivery and primary care, the NACHC advocacy team recently launched a new program called the Advocacy Centers of Excellence (ACE) Program. The program incorporates advocacy as an element of overall operational excellence, including clear goals, quality measures, and recognition for achieving excellence. This new initiative establishes a standardized framework that makes it easy for Health Centers to build a solid foundation of advocacy and demonstrate commitment to advocacy as a true organizational priority.**

## ACES STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

**ACEs have achieved advocacy success and operationalized advocacy across their organization, placing them in the highest tiers of advocacy success standards. Those that achieve ACE status will have demonstrated ongoing commitment to advocacy through the creation of advocacy infrastructure at the Health Center, as well as consistent engagement in advocacy via response to calls to action, recruitment, training and education, social media presence, and otherwise. ACEs are not only actively engaged and involved with NACHC and federal policy issues, but also actively work with their state's primary care association to drive advocacy efforts on key state-based policy issues impacting Health Centers and their patients.**

## ACHIEVING ACE STATUS AT YOUR HEALTH CENTER

**Becoming certified as an ACE sets your Health Center apart as a national leader in advocacy, and serves as further validation of your efforts toward overall excellence at your Health Center. The framework and requirements associated with each tier of ACE status (bronze, silver, and gold) clearly lays out the advocacy steps and infrastructure necessary to achieve corresponding standards of excellence. We encourage you to review the requirements to become an ACE and work with the NACHC advocacy team to support your effort to achieve this important status. For more information please contact Elizabeth Kwasnik, NACHC's Manager of Grassroots Advocacy at [ekwasnik@nachc.org](mailto:ekwasnik@nachc.org).**

## GET MORE INFORMATION ON QUALIFYING AS AN ACE

- 1) Visit [www.hcadvocacy.org/ace](http://www.hcadvocacy.org/ace) for more information and to view the checklist of required advocacy items.
- 2) Consult with NACHC staff to find out more about your Health Center's advocacy performance.
- 3) Complete the application.
- 4) Contact Elizabeth Kwasnik at [ekwasnik@nachc.org](mailto:ekwasnik@nachc.org) with any questions.



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