

Talking Points for Advocates
Conversations with Members of Congress on CHC Funding Cliff
October 2017

Set up

- We are calling today because we are deeply concerned that due to Congressional inaction, every Health Center in America now faces a funding cliff.
- The Community Health Centers Fund expired on October 1. This fund accounts for 70% of all federal grant funding for Health Centers.
- The prospect of these drastic cuts, which will go into effect at the beginning of our next budget period unless Congress acts, is already disrupting operations.
- We cannot afford the uncertainty that the failure to extend these funds has created. We need to be able to recruit providers, secure bank loans, and plan.
- We know you are a supporter of Health Centers and we need your help to get this done.

Impact

- Nationally, HHS estimates that a failure to extend the CHC Fund will lead to the closure of some 2,800 Health Center locations, elimination of more than 50,000 jobs, and most importantly, a loss of access to care for some 9 million patients.
- At our health center, I can tell you that if no fix is put in place, the impact would be:
 - Estimated closures of sites, loss of patient access, jobs
 - As much detail as possible here is important.
 - Use the Funding Cliff Impact Estimator tool on NACHC's [Make the Case](#) page to help
- This level of impact doesn't only hurt us – it will end up hurting our entire community, our local economy and driving up the cost of health care as more patients turn to the emergency room for access.

What are we asking?

- We are asking that Congress act NOW to extend the Health Centers Fund on a long-term basis with **at least current funding levels** in place.
- Having certainty NOW is critical to our ability to plan, to recruit, and to continue offering care to our community without disruption.
- To demonstrate your support for a long-term fix to the CHC cliff, I'm asking you to cosponsor the **Community Health Investment, Modernization and Excellence (CHIME) Act**.
- The bill (**S. 1899** in the Senate, **H.R. 3770** in the House) extends the CHC Fund for 5 years.
- In addition, I'm asking that you personally make clear to Congressional leadership that this is a priority for you, and take a *public* action (press release, floor speech, social media, etc.) to demonstrate that support.
- We are working on borrowed time. Please let me know, as a supporter of Health Centers, what action you are prepared to take to get this done, and when I can follow up.