

Beginning on October 1, 2017, Community Health Centers experienced several months of funding disruption with the temporary expiration of the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF), which represents **70% of federal grant funding** to Community Health Centers and the **28 million people** – 1 in 12 Americans – that health centers serve.

In February 2018, Congress reauthorized the CHCF, but the delayed reauthorization and the uncertainty it created had lasting consequences for health centers. In the summer of 2018, NACHC followed up with health centers to ask how they **still experience the impacts from the funding cliff today**. Their answers underscore the importance of determining a long-term, stable approach to health center funding well before they face another funding cliff on September 30, 2019.

Impact & Testimonies

Even though the cliff was “fixed” in early 2018, **3 out of 4 (76%) health centers report lingering impacts from the funding cliff** that impede their ability to carry out their mission. Due to the uncertainty from delayed reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund:



60% Of health centers reported workforce challenges, including trouble recruiting and retaining staff, or instituting a hiring freeze.

"We were unable to sustain a Family Residency Program we assumed the operations of 19 months ago in part because of the crazy funding issues over that period...That is a loss that will be felt forever."
- A health center serving more than 20,000 patients per year



36% Of health centers reported challenges expanding services where they are needed.

"We had planned to purchase a [property] and move administrative staff there to make room for expanded substance use disorder, mental health and value-based care staff. Because of the uncertainty, we have not been comfortable moving ahead with this purchase."
- A health center serving more than 30,000 patients per year



29% Of health centers reported challenges acquiring capital funds for renovation or expanding to new locations of high need.

"[We] went through a very troubling process in the fall of 2017 when a local banker backed out of a new dental facility financing after construction had begun supposedly because of the federal fiscal cliff impacting FQHCs."
- A health center serving more than 10,000 patients per year