



ALAMEDA HEALTH CONSORTIUM POLICY PLATFORM, 2021

Community health centers provide affordable and high-quality care for vulnerable communities and now, they are on the frontlines responding to COVID-19. More than ever, we must support and advance policies that sustain the comprehensive and responsive care health centers provide for all in Alameda County, regardless of ability to pay, insurance coverage, or immigration status.

AHC is committed to creating equitable, accessible and responsive health care system by advocating and advancing policies in the following priority areas:

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE & ACCESS FOR ALL

Expand access to care by seeking Prospective Payment System (PPS) reimbursement for telehealth and telephone visits beyond the current public health crisis.

IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES & REDUCED DISPARITIES

Reverse public charge, expand the Affordable Care Act and restore funding for federal programs to mitigate the significant harm and negative impact discriminatory and unjust policies have had on communities of color.

ANTI-RACIST, LINGUISTICALLY & CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE CARE

Continue to cultivate and invest in a diverse, inclusive, and equitable health care workforce by supporting policies that create a pipeline of health professionals who reflect the racial and ethnic composition of communities that health centers serve.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER VIABILITY

Stable and long-term support of community health centers' operations and critical services to meet the health care needs of communities in Alameda County and neighboring counties.

INCREASED FOCUS ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Continue to support expanded health and social services during the pandemic and beyond.

ELMINATE MENTAL ILLNESS CRIMINALIZATION

Support treatment of behavioral health conditions as medical conditions rather than criminalization by expanding community-based behavioral health services and diverting those with behavioral health conditions from justice involvement.

EQUITABLE COVID-19 RESPONSE, RELIEF, & RECOVERY

Address the disproportionate rates of underlying medical conditions caused by inequities in the healthcare system and support an equitable COVID-19 response in communities of color and expanding relief and recovery.