

Community Health Centers Receive Historic Investment \$6 Billion to Scale up Vaccine Administration and Response

Leadership's Response to this Historic Investment:

- “We are deeply grateful to the Biden Administration for recognizing community health centers’ role in ensuring accessible, equitable COVID-19 response.” – Ralph Silber, Executive Director, Alameda Health Consortium
- “We are grateful and aware of the deep responsibility we have as health centers to reach the underserved.” – Sherry Hirota, CEO, Asian Health Services
- “This funding will help CHCs to expand COVID-19 vaccination, testing and treatment so that we can finally end this pandemic.” – Carmela Castellano-Garcia, CEO, California Primary Care Association

Talking Points:

- The Biden Administration allocated \$6 billion in one-time, two-year federal funding for 1,400 community health centers (CHCs) across the nation from the American Rescue Plan
- The funding is to sustain CHC COVID-19 testing and vaccinations for vulnerable populations:
 - Promote, deliver and track COVID vaccines
 - Maintain or expand COVID-19 vaccination, response and treatment capacity
 - Minor infrastructure modifications, mobile units and vehicles as part of COVID-19 response
 - Deliver preventive, primary and mental health services to people at higher risk for COVID-19
- This funding is one-time for a two-year time period specific to COVID-19 (4/1/21 – 3/31/23), CHCs are prohibited from using the funds for other purposes.
- A federal recognition of the role and value that CHCs continue to play in protecting our most vulnerable community members, serving as a safety net in communities for decades
- California’s CHCs provide care to more than 7.4 million Californians, many of who are essential workers, low-income, insured and racially, culturally and linguistically diverse.
- Our eight CHCs:
 - Collectively serve over 300,000 , patients
 - 86% of their patient population have Medi-Cal or are uninsured
 - 83% of their patient population identify as people of color
- Funding has come at a critical time, this new funding will:
 - Allow our CHCs to expand and sustain COVID response through continued testing/tracing and vaccines for those who have been disproportionately impacted or at a higher risk of COVID-19
 - Allow us to make investments, begin the road to recovery through:
 - Support and help expand primary and preventative services
 - Expand activities in anticipation of demand for postponed services due to pandemic
 - Help cover unreimbursed costs CHCs have incurred since the beginning of the pandemic

- CHCs are uniquely positioned to be equity partners, they:
 - Are trusted community resources
 - Long established relationships with the people that live in the community
 - Provide care in a culturally and linguistically competent manner
- CHCs have been on the frontlines of COVID-19 response since the beginning of the pandemic by partnering with our County partners and trusted community-based organizations to:
 - Administer hundreds of thousands of free tests for patients and community at-large
 - At clinics, pop-ups, and through mobile sites
- CHCs are now on the frontlines of vaccinating patients and community members alike by:
 - Administering thousands of free daily vaccinations through partnerships at the Federal, State and County levels
 - At clinics, pop-ups, and through mobile sites
- CHCs will ensure equitable rollout of vaccines by:
 - Reaching those impacted the hardest by the pandemic
 - Black, AAPI, Indigenous and Latinx communities
 - Unhoused communities
 - Those with limited English proficiency
 - Medically vulnerable
 - Elderly
 - Homebound
- We applaud this bold investment of the Biden Administration to direct critical and necessary funds to CHCs as a response to a public health emergency

Links to statements:

- [Alameda Health Consortium](#)
- [Asian Health Services](#)
- [California Primary Care Association](#)
- [National Association of Community Health Centers](#)

Other links:

- [Link to official White House Statement](#)
- [Link to HRSA ARP Breakdown for CHCs](#)
- [Link to HRSA Allowable Uses of Funding for CHCs](#)