April 2, 2020

Dear NACHC Member:

We have heard from many Community Health Centers, Primary Care Associations and Health Center Controlled Networks about the realities of COVID-19 at the community level -- challenges related to getting your patients and staff tested -- securing PPE and supplies -- handling staff safety -- pivoting to deliver care virtually, and other challenges. On top of all of that, many of you are forced to deal with the uncertainty and fear caused by substantial revenue losses and business disruption. Please be assured that we hear you -- and that we are doing all we can to get support out to you, and we will continue to do so for the duration of this crisis!

We are well aware that the 3rd stimulus (CARES Act), while meeting many of our nation’s needs, fell considerably short of addressing health center revenue lost due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, and only provides a short-term fix to the Community Health Center Fund. So, while we continue to focus on other key provisions of the 3rd stimulus and the ways in which it can benefit health centers, we are NOW simultaneously advocating for our next request for significant federal funding on your behalf in a 4th stimulus package – and we’ll need your full support!

Congressional leaders are now crafting this additional legislative package to further address COVID-19 and its massive impact on both the economy and our nation’s health system. We are calling upon Congress to help ensure that Community Health Centers are able: to keep their doors open; to respond to the surge and growing demand for COVID-19 care; to have the resources to respond to the surges in demand for primary care that will occur when we turn the corner on COVID-19; to be fully prepared for future public health emergencies; and, we demand stable, long-term funding through the reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund to support their essential work across this country.

Therefore, we are requesting a total of $77.3 billion, which not only includes additional immediate funding for COVID-19 support, but is also a bold, clear call for unequivocal 5-year long-term support of Community Health Centers and key Workforce Programs. Also included is funding for crucial infrastructure investment to support health centers in preparation for the future and to expand services to an additional 10 million patients over 5 years. This request also addresses issues relating to adequate reimbursement for telehealth services consistent with Medicare and Medicaid PPS and protection of 340B program savings for health centers. (See attached chart for details of the proposal)
Now is the time to act -- together as a team, in concert with NACHC, PCAs and HCCNs -- asking for Congressional, state and local support. Shortly, you will receive guidance from NACHC’s Policy and Research Division on how you, the health center at ground zero, can advocate from your own local perspective for this important legislation. In the midst of this public health crisis, we understand that you and your staff are overburdened. We also know our most compelling advocates are those directly connected to Community Health Centers, and this campaign cannot succeed without you. Together, as we have in the past, we can and will do this.

Sincerely,

Tom Van Coverden
President and CEO

CC: Primary Care Associations
Health Center Controlled Networks

Encl: Letter to FEMA regarding priority status
Guidance Memo for 4th Stimulus Package
Health Center Request – 4th Stimulus
Messaging Points – 4th Stimulus Package
Letter to Congress from NACHC – 4th Stimulus Package
Letter to Governor Template – 4th Stimulus Package
Letter to Local Officials Template – 4th Stimulus Package
Letter to Local Business Leaders Template – 4th Stimulus Package

Health Center Advocacy Network · 211 N Union St., Ste. 200, Alexandria, VA 22314

Unsubscribe