The Bureau of Primary Health Care’s (BPHC) goal is to improve the health of the Nation’s underserved communities and vulnerable populations by assuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality, primary health care services.

BPHC oversees the Health Center Program, a national network of community health centers that exist in areas where economic, geographic, or cultural barriers limit access to primary health care for a substantial portion of the population.

These health centers provide comprehensive primary care services without regard for patients' ability to pay and charge for services on a sliding fee scale.

Health centers improve patient outcomes while reducing health disparities, despite serving a population that is often sicker and more at risk than the general population. They also reduce costs to health systems; the health center model of care has been shown to reduce the use of costlier providers of care, such as emergency departments and hospitals.

Health Center Program Fundamentals

- Located in or serve a high need community
- Governed by a community board composed of a majority (51% or more) of health center patients who represent the population served.
- Provide comprehensive primary health care services as well as supportive services (education, translation and transportation, etc.) that promote access to health care.
- Provide services available to all with fees adjusted based on ability to pay.
- Meet other performance and accountability requirements regarding administrative, clinical, and financial operations.

For more information on BPHC and health centers, visit: bphc.hrsa.gov

To locate a health center: findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov

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