

NACHC P&I Talking Points 2017

PROTECT MEDICAID

Lives

- Under the ACA, health center patients went from being majority uninsured to majority insured – in Los Angeles, 57 percent of health center patients are now covered by Medicaid.
- Proposals to roll back the Medicaid expansion and/or reduce federal Medicaid funding under a “per-capita cap” or block grant, will shift billions in additional costs to California, increasing the fiscal burden on the safety net and increasing uncompensated care.
- Faced with billions in additional costs, California will be forced to make difficult decisions about who gets coverage and how comprehensive that coverage is.

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *Your increase in the number/percentage of people enrolled in Medicaid or other ACA coverage expansions, and/or decrease in number/percentage of uninsured patients.*
- ✓ *Your services that could get cut, eg. adult dental or mental health and impact of coverage loss on patients’ ability to get care.*

Jobs & Economy

- During the past 5 years, health centers in LA County have seen a 67% increase in the amount of revenue they receive from Medi-Cal.
- Stable Medi-Cal revenue and fewer uninsured patients enables health centers to expand capacity and services.
- Expansion creates jobs not only within health centers, but also externally as organizations invest in construction, remodeling and contracting for services such as maintenance, security and janitorial.
- Los Angeles stands to lose \$5.8 billion in GDP if the ACA is repealed, and California could lose \$20.3 billion.

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *Services added since 2010; e.g. dental, behavioral, etc.*
- ✓ *New sites, construction, contracts, etc.*

DEFEND WOMEN’S HEALTH

Lives

- We must continue to protect women’s health by ensuring that both Medicaid and private health plans continue to provide coverage for essential preventive, maternity and reproductive health care services.
- Title X is a critical source of funding for services to our most vulnerable populations. In California, Title X provides nearly one million women, men and teens with sexual and reproductive health care each year including preventive health services and cancer screenings.
- Denying Medi-Cal reimbursements to Planned Parenthood for contraception and primary care services would be a major blow to women’s health and would undermine healthy pregnancies.

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *Any services you provide under Title X Funding.*

Jobs & Economy

- Planned Parenthood plays a vital role in California's health care safety net. In Los Angeles County, Planned Parenthood serves 180,000 residents each year, comprising over 10% of our local safety net. Health centers cannot absorb this patient volume.

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *Capacity and provider choice.*

SECURE HEALTH CENTER FUNDING**Lives**

- Without action by Congress, funding for Community Health Centers expires at the end of September 2017. Health centers will face an estimated 70 percent reduction to their federal 330 grant funding.
- Health Centers in California serve more than 4 million patients, 96% are low-income (under 200% FPL). (source: *Capital Link*)

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *What would a loss of 330 grant funding mean to your organization, eg. impact on services and patients.*

Jobs & Economy

- Health Centers in California contribute 59,000 jobs and over \$8 billion in total economic impact. Compared to other providers, Health Center costs for Medi-Cal patients are 22% lower. (source: *Capital Link*)
- Without continued 330 funding to support the Health Centers Program, community health centers will not be able to expand capacity and services to meet the needs of our patients and communities.

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *What are the needs in your community and any expansion plans with associated new staff and services, eg. behavioral health.]*

INVEST IN HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE**Lives**

- California will need an estimated 8,243 additional primary care physicians by 2030, a 32% increase compared to its current workforce.
- Given the primary care provider shortage across the board, it is especially challenging to recruit providers to work in community health centers serving low-income, underserved communities.

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *Clinical vacancies, how long it takes to fill them, number of potential patients who could be served, challenges with recruitment and retention.*

Jobs & Economy

- The Trump Administration has proposed cutting the budget for the Corporation for National and Community Services, this agency funds programs like AmeriCorps, which train the next generation of America's health care workforce.

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *The role of volunteer programs, and importance of the those programs for encouraging young people to work at health centers and/or in underserved communities.*

IMMIGRATION

- Health centers provide care to everyone, regardless of ability to pay, their immigration status, of individual circumstances. We remain committed to providing care to everyone and will fight for policies that ensure that health centers are safe places to receive care and support.
- The Trump administration's stance on immigration is causing fear and anxiety, resulting in patients cancelling appointments and asking to disenroll from programs for which they are legally eligible, putting their health and the health of their communities at risk.
- Immigration raid fears have become so acute that some health centers are seeing an increase in the behavioral health and mental health conditions (i.e. depression, anxiety, stress, etc.) developing in patients

Clinics Discuss:

- ✓ *The patients' fears of enrolling or renewing in Medi-Cal, cancelling appointments, asking to disenroll.*
- ✓ *Any relevant stories.*