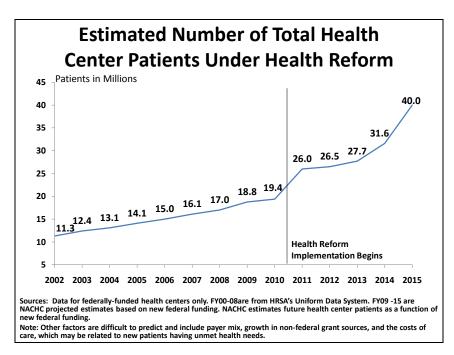


EXPANDING HEALTH CENTERS UNDER HEALTH CARE REFORM:

DOUBLING PATIENT CAPACITY AND BRINGING DOWN COSTS

Federally-Qualified Health Centers, also known as Community Health Centers, make up the largest national network of primary care providers. Most health center patients have low incomes, are uninsured or publicly insured, and are members of racial/ethnic minority groups. The recently enacted health care reform package includes \$11 billion in new, dedicated funding for the Health Centers Program over five years. \$9.5 billion of these resources will fund **new health centers** for communities in need and **expand capacity at existing health centers**. By 2015, health centers will **double their current capacity to 40 million patients**. The remaining \$1.5 billion in capital funding will allow health centers to modernize their aging buildings and build new facilities to serve even more patients.



COST SAVINGS TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Several research studies demonstrate that health centers yield substantial cost savings to the health care system by reducing emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and other avoidable, costly care. A new study from the George Washington University finds that the expansion of health centers will contribute to even higher savings.¹

- Up to \$122 billion in total health care costs would be saved between 2010 and 2015.
- Health centers would save as much as \$55 billion for Medicaid over the five-year period. Of that, the
 federal government would save \$32 billion, with states benefiting from the rest.

¹ Ku et al. Using Primary Care to Bend the Curve: The Effect of National Health Reform on Health Center Expansions. Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation. June 30 2010. Policy Research Brief No. 19

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