



Community Health Centers and Health Reform

Summary of Key Health Center Provisions

On March 18, 2010, the House Democratic Leadership released the text of the Reconciliation Act of 2010, which makes changes to H.R. 3590, the Senate-passed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Taken together, the Reconciliation Act and H.R. 3590 are considered the health care reform package. There are numerous provisions in health reform that impact community health centers both directly and indirectly. The summary below highlights key provisions of health reform for health centers.

Community Health Centers and National Health Service Corps Trust Fund

- **\$11 Billion for Health Center Program Expansion- Beginning in FY2011**

The health reform package contains a total of \$11 billion in *new* funding for the Health Centers program over five years. \$9.5 billion of this funding will allow health centers to expand their operational capacity to serve nearly 20 million new patients and to enhance their medical, oral, and behavioral health services. \$1.5 billion of this funding will allow health centers to begin to meet their extraordinary capital needs, by expanding and improving existing facilities and constructing new sites.

- **\$1.5 Billion for the National Health Service Corps**

The health reform package also includes \$1.5 billion over five years for the National Health Service Corps, which will place an estimated 15,000 primary care providers in provider-short communities. The bill also makes programmatic improvements to the Corps.

Medicaid Expansions

- **Expands Medicaid to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in FY2014**

Expands Medicaid to 133% of FPL in FY2014, without any categorical restrictions, newly insuring 16 million Americans.

Payment Protections and Improvements

- **Requires that health centers receive no less than their Medicaid PPS rate from private insurers offering plans through the new health insurance exchanges and requires that these plans contract with health centers.**

Ensures that health center patients will not be excluded from new insurance products and that health centers are not underpaid for their services.

- **Adds preventative services to the Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Medicare payment rate and eliminates the outdated Medicare payment cap on FQHC payments.**

Begins to modernize health center Medicare payments to ensure health centers are able to provide the highest quality care to our Medicare beneficiaries.

Teaching Health Centers

- **Acknowledges the growing role of health centers in teaching the next generation of primary care providers by authorizing and funding new programs for health center-based residencies.**

Authorizes a new Title VII grant program for the development of residency programs at health centers and establishes a new Title III program that would provide payments to community-based entities that operate teaching programs. Directly appropriates \$230 million over 5 years for the Title III payments.