

CHC AMBASSADOR NEWSLETTER

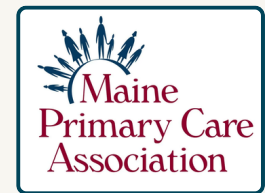
WELCOME TO THE CHC AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA) is excited to launch our new newsletter in support of our Community Health Center (CHC) Ambassador Program.

This grassroots advocacy program is designed to bring together volunteers who care deeply for Maine's CHCs. It is open to health center staff, board members, patients, community partners, and concerned citizens. We will work to help give voice to healthcare policies and priorities critical to Maine's CHCs and the hundreds of thousands of Maine people they care for each year.

We are looking forward to working together and thank you for joining us to advocate for CHCs and to advance the policy priorities of Maine's Community Health Centers.

To learn more about Maine's CHCs, view our short film "A Secret No More."



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Augusta Update

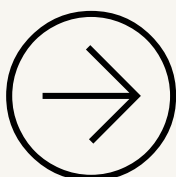
This session, MPCA has been focused on [LD 2175](#), our priority bill that would establish a grant program to improve access and expand pharmacy services in Maine through direct investment in CHCs. We have also continued to testify on legislation that aligns with our [policy priorities](#). All testimony from the current session can be found [here](#).

Vaccine Day at the State House

As a member of the Maine Immunization Coalition, MPCA joined legislators and partners in February to advocate for the importance of vaccination and celebrate Maine's leadership in public health.

Maine's CHCs Visit Washington

In February, leaders from Community Clinical Services, HealthReach Community Health Centers, Maine Mobile Health Program, and Nason Health Care joined the MPCA policy team in Washington, DC for meetings with our congressional delegation. It was an opportunity to advocate for continued health center funding and share stories of the important work CHCs are doing across the state.



TAKE ACTION TODAY

CHCs and advocacy partners across the country are mobilizing to share the value of CHCs with Congress. We are currently focused on ensuring federal funding for health centers. Join us today and contact your members of Congress to let them know that CHCs are a critical resource for communities throughout Maine. [Take action here.](#)

GETTING TO KNOW MPCA

Maine Primary Care Association is a membership organization that represents the collective voices of Maine's Community Health Centers. For more than 40 years, MPCA has provided technical assistance and training, housed relevant programs and services, and advocated on behalf of Maine's healthcare safety net and the hundreds of thousands of patients it serves each year.

Within this work we aim to amplify the messages of Maine's CHCs and strengthen health centers with programs and services such as clinical quality improvement initiatives, workforce development, advocacy, billing & coding, community outreach, health information technologies, risk management planning, strategic planning, and technical assistance.

[VISIT THE MPCA WEBSITE TO MEET THE FULL TEAM](#)



CHCs IN THE NEWS

Eastport Health Care

News Center Maine reported on EHC's expansion efforts in Machias and Eastport. As patient demand continues to grow Downeast, the new facilities will allow for expanded dental, primary care, behavioral health, and diabetes care services. ([Full Article](#))

Greater Portland Health

Center for Health Care Strategies shared the amazing work that GPH does to serve people experiencing homelessness. As a participant in the Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) program and a Medicaid Opioid Health Home (OHH), GPH integrates primary care alongside other behavioral health services, provides wrap-around supports for patients, and collaborates with other partners. ([Full Article](#))

Penobscot Community Health Care

MaineBiz reported on PCHC's Seaport Community Health Center expansion, underway in Belfast. The project will allow for an expanded workforce and significant increases in integrated primary care services, family medicine, mental health, recovery, and pharmacy services. ([Full Article](#))

HealthReach Community Health Centers

Edward Molle, Director of Communications, received the [2024 Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award](#) in recognition of his work to actively support CHCs at the state and federal level. Congrats, Ed!


SHARE YOUR WHY


Use your voice and experiences to share, inspire, and motivate Members of Congress and your peers to protect Community Health Centers. Visit the Health Center Advocacy Network and record a video today.


[SHARE YOUR STORY HERE](#)


MPCA SOCIAL MEDIA


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READING CORNER

The MPCA staff is full of avid readers. We are excited to share an article or book of interest each month that connects to the mission of CHCs. This month, we recommend an AP article that highlights the role of CHCs as safety nets in their communities.

[Community health centers serve 1 in 11 Americans. They're a safety net under stress](#)

MPCA'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER NETWORK

