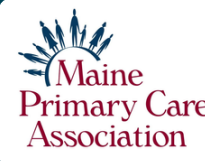


# FQHC Priority Issues



Maine's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs), make up the largest, independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services. Across the state, FQHCs are employers, providers, and partners of choice in the communities they serve.

**200,000+**  
**PATIENTS**

Maine FQHCs provide high-quality and accessible primary care to 1 in 6 Maine people.

**80+**  
**SERVICE SITES**

Maine's FQHCs collectively have over 80 service sites located across the state.

**3,500+**  
**JOBS**

Maine FQHCs create jobs and generated \$575,074,816 in total economic activity in 2021.

## Workforce

It is essential that legislative efforts to support the health care workforce include FQHCs. FQHCs are a health home for over 200,000 Maine people, provide nearly 2,200 direct health center jobs, and support over 1,500 indirect jobs in their communities.

- Commonly identified issues are increased retirements; difficulty recruiting and retaining clinical staff; a dire need for more primary care physicians, RNs, and behavioral health clinicians (such as LCSWs); wage inflation and competition; and a lack of high-quality training that prepares clinical support staff.

## 340B

FQHC access to this critical program is under attack. State legislatures across the country are taking action to ensure that the health care safety net can continue to access this program.

- Contract pharmacy restrictions imposed by pharmaceutical companies and ambiguities in the 340B statute have restricted patients' access to discounted medications and allowed Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and Pharma to benefit at the expense of the health care safety net.
- For more than 30 years, the 340B Program has provided invaluable resources that enable FQHCs to deliver affordable and accessible services to the most underserved and vulnerable communities. With over 90% of health center patients at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, there is no question that FQHCs exemplify the type of safety net program the 340B Program was intended to support.

## Primary Care Investment

Maine needs to increase primary care investments across the state's health care system. FQHCs are a key part of this system, lowering overall health care costs, improving the health of their patients and communities, and generating economic opportunities in the communities.

- Many think that FQHCs are fully funded or "taken care of" by the federal government. In fact, Sec. 330 grant funds only account for approximately 5% to 15% of a Maine FQHC's total operating budget. Unfortunately, 12 out of 20 FQHCs are currently operating with negative margins and 3 are operating with 0 – 5% margins.