

# WHAT ARE FQHCs?



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.

## Four Unique Characteristics of FQHCs

### Comprehensive Set of Services

Based on community needs, health centers offer medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and support services.

### Open to Everyone

Regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, and offer sliding fee scale options to low-income patients.

### Located in Areas of High Need

Areas are designated as medically underserved populations by the federal government.

### Patient-Majority Governing Boards

At least 51% of every health center governing board must be made up of patients.

FQHCs lower overall health care costs, improve the health of their patients and communities, and generate economic opportunities in the communities they serve by providing jobs and training for local people.

Taking a local approach to healthcare and putting an emphasis on comprehensive preventive care generates \$24 billion in annual savings to the U.S. health care system.