

# CHC AMBASSADOR NEWSLETTER

## OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT AT CHCS

Community Health Centers (CHCs) support patients in many ways beyond traditional primary care. This includes outreach and enrollment (O&E) services that help clients access healthcare by connecting them with or guiding them through the process for the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, MaineCare, Social Security, and more. Importantly, O&E specialists are able to help anyone, whether they are a patient or not.

Enrolling in coverage and navigating health plans can be confusing and overwhelming for many people, especially for those experiencing transitions in employment, other life changes, or managing serious or chronic health conditions. O&E specialists at CHCs are a critical resource for many, providing impartial, up-to-date information on health insurance options, and often becoming a connector for other supports a person may need (such as food pantries, transportation, and heating or housing assistance).

The health center outreach and enrollment workforce includes enrollment assisters, in-person assisters (IPAs), Certified Application Counselors (CACs), Marketplace Navigators, Community Health Workers (CHWs), and more.

At Maine Primary Care Association, we provide direct support to the individuals within CHCs who do this work and maintain a network of resources outside of the CHCs for referral aid. For more on O&E resources, please contact [Carrie Mead](#), CQI Program Manager.

## TAKE ACTION TODAY



**Share Your Transportation Story.** Moving Maine is collecting stories to educate decision makers about transportation barriers and increase their support for solutions. Many people in Maine face challenges getting where they need to go. [You can share your story here.](#)



**Join a Community Forum & Listening Session on Transportation Access.** Moving Maine will be hosting sessions focused on regions across the state from October 15-17 2024. Share experiences, stories, and concerns with transportation services. [Register here.](#)

## O&E Resources

### CoverME Open Enrollment

*November 1 - January 15*  
Annual opportunity for Maine residents to get, review, and/or change private health and dental insurance plans that meet ACA standards.

The website also includes [toolkits and resources](#) with flyers, sample newsletter text, and social media graphics to use in outreach efforts.

[COVERME.GOV](#)

### Consumers for Affordable Health Care

CAHC is a Maine-based nonprofit that helps consumers tackle issues in health coverage.

[CAHC WEBSITE](#)

[CAHC HELP LINE](#)  
1-800-965-7476

### Maine Enrollment Assistors

Lead by Western Maine Community Action, navigators in five Community Action Agencies and two nonprofits provide statewide coverage

[NAVIGATOR LINE](#)  
1 855 806 7333

## CHCs IN THE NEWS

### Maine's CHC Network

An op-ed by Sen. Joe Rafferty highlights National Health Center Week and the importance of CHCs throughout Maine.

### Fish River Rural Health

In observance of National Recovery Month, FRRH joined with partners in Aroostook County to host the [annual Recovery Celebration](#) in September. The event provided an opportunity for the community to share stories, resources, and support.

### St. Croix Regional Family Health Center

[Business Wire](#) shared St. Croix's successful integration of AI scribe technology to reduce administrative burden on clinicians.

### Penobscot Community Health Care

Preble Street is set to take over operations of PCHC's [Hope House](#), Maine's second-largest low barrier homeless shelter located in Bangor.

### HealthReach Community Health Center

HealthReach was featured in the [September 2024 Issue](#) of the Maine Rural GME Education (MERGE) Collaborative Newsletter. MERGE offers three rural rotations for resident physicians to support HealthReach's patient population in addiction medicine, geriatrics, or adolescent health.

HealthReach also [announced](#) that Bethany Shalit has joined their Governing Board of Directors. Shalit is the Director of Education at Redington-Fairview General Hospital and a member of the Skowhegan Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



## READING CORNER

The 340B Drug Pricing Program is an essential source of support for Community Health Centers, allowing them to stretch increasingly scarce federal resources and reinvest in patient care. Check out this infographic to learn more about how health centers use savings from the 340B program to improve patients' access to health care.

### [340B Improves Access for Health Center Patients](#)

## MPCA SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us online to stay up to date on the latest news across the CHC network.



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## 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'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER NETWORK

