

CHC AMBASSADOR NEWSLETTER

MPCA HOSTS LEGISLATIVE & BUSINESS LEADERS BREAKFAST AND CHC ADVOCACY DAY IN AUGUSTA

On Wednesday, January 29, more than 100 Community Health Center representatives, community partners and members of the legislature joined MPCA for its 2025 Legislative & Business Leaders Breakfast and CHC Advocacy Day. This year's breakfast included a timely and informative panel discussion on the importance of the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

MPCA also presented Representative Jack Ducharme (R-Madison), Representative Joshua Morris (D-Turner) and Rep. Samuel Zager (D-Portland) with its 2025 Community Health Center Champion Award. Following the breakfast, Community Health Centers made their way to the State House to share with legislators the incredible work they are doing to promote the health and well-being of all Maine people.



COALITION UNVEILS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM

During the CHC Advocacy Day at the State House, a coalition of health care organizations led by the [Maine Primary Care Association](#), [Maine Hospital Association](#), [Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists](#) and [Maine Pharmacy Association](#) gathered in the Welcome Center with members of the Legislature to announce state-level legislation aimed at protecting the 340B Drug Pricing Program from attacks by pharmaceutical manufacturers. "An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Communities" prevents discrimination by pharmaceutical manufacturers, Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), and their agents against pharmacies and healthcare providers that participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program. For more information about the bill, click [here](#).

[BILL OVERVIEW](#)

[UNDERSTANDING THE 340B PROGRAM](#)

[340B PROGRAM INTEGRITY](#)



CHCs IN THE NEWS

Pines Health Services

Pines and Cary Medical Center welcomed the 200th baby of 2024. "Cary is a family-centered organization and we recognize that childbirth is a very special time in one's life. We have an exceptional partnership with Pines and this collaboration allows us to deliver seamless care between both organizations. We are absolutely thrilled and honored by families throughout the County who choose Cary and Pines as they grow their families," said Kris Doody, RN, Cary Medical Center & Pines Health Services CEO.

Sacopee Valley Health Care

The M&T Bank Rural Clinical Rotation Stipend from the M&T Charitable Foundation is aimed at growing rural health care providers in the state. This program supported Caitlyn Daly (D.M.D., '25), who worked at Sacopee Valley Health Center for her clinical rotation at the University of New England's College of Dental Medicine.

Greater Portland Health

Maine Public reported on a visit by 20/20 Onsite, a Boston based "vision van" providing no-cost vision screenings, eye exams and glasses, to Portland Public School students. In addition to the van visit, GPH which provides health services at Casco Bay, Deering and Portland high schools, will be expanding their services to provide full vision exams. Students will be able to order glasses at school through MaineCare, without needing an outside optometry appointment.

LEARN MORE ABOUT 340B

For over 30 years, the 340B Program has increased access to care for rural and underserved communities. Efforts to restrict this program only serve to increase profits for pharmaceutical companies at the expense of patient care across Maine.

The program is an essential source of support for CHCs, allowing them to stretch increasingly scarce federal resources and reinvest in patient care (at no cost to taxpayers). The program allows health centers to purchase outpatient drugs at significantly reduced costs. Health centers pass the savings on to their patients through reduced drug prices and invest additional savings to expand access and improve health outcomes. CHCs are required – by statute and regulation, as well as by mission – to invest all 340B savings into activities that support their Federally-approved goal of expanding access to care for medically-underserved patients.


340B SAVINGS ARE USED TO PROVIDE CRITICAL SERVICES





- Comprehensive diabetes programs and insulin availability
- Cancer treatment programs and prevention
- Behavioral and mental health care
- Workforce (community health workforce, support staff, outreach & enrollment, etc.)
- Access to free and discounted drugs
- HIV/AIDS care
- Substance use disorder treatment
- Wrap around services including transportation, heating assistance, and food pantries


MPCA SOCIAL MEDIA


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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

