

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **IPHCA Commends President Biden and Congress on the Passage of the American Rescue Plan – Strengthening Investment in Community Health Centers**

SPRINGFIELD – Today, President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion [American Rescue Plan](#) into law, representing one of the single largest investments in community health centers in our nation’s history. This package contains critical emergency COVID-19 relief funds as well as investments to advance the President’s health equity agenda.

For far too long, structural racism has plagued our health care system, resulting in a lack of investment and persistent inequities. On behalf of Illinois’ 52 community health centers and the 1.5 million patients they serve annually, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) thanks President Biden and Congress for leading the way to strengthen investment in underserved communities and alleviate racial health disparities. This ambitious package includes funds that will equip health centers to continue to respond to the pandemic and keep highly impacted communities safe. In addition, the Plan will increase investment in public health workforce programs and improve affordability for those purchasing health plans through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace.

Key provisions of the American Rescue Plan impacting community health centers and their patients include:

- \$7.6 billion to community health centers for COVID-19 prevention, testing, treatment, outreach, vaccination, and other response efforts;
- \$800 million for the National Health Service Corps, \$330 million for the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education program, and \$200 million for the Nurse Corps;
- \$47.8 billion to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement a national testing strategy and contact tracing surveillance;
- \$7.5 billion to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for vaccine administration and distribution; and
- Improved affordability of health care coverage by capping premiums and extending subsidies to a broader range of ACA Marketplace consumers.

Community health centers have a long track record as go-to sources for health care and information. The investments outlined in the American Rescue Plan are a testament to the important role that community health centers have played in bridging the gaps in access to care in underserved communities not only during the pandemic, but for the decades prior to the devastating arrival of COVID-19.



In addition to delivering high-quality, integrated care, our member community health centers assist patients with applications for health coverage and other benefits programs, offer referrals to specialty care and local organizations to address patients' social determinants of health, and lead community outreach and education campaigns. Community health centers are more than health care providers; they are community hubs and vital to the infrastructure that enables Illinoisans to live well and thrive.

**About Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA)** – IPHCA is a non-profit trade association that represents community health centers throughout the state. Illinois' 52 community health centers provide comprehensive, integrated primary care including medical, behavioral, and oral health care to nearly 1.5 million patients annually across nearly 400 service sites in underserved rural, urban, and suburban communities.

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