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Illinois Community Health Centers Receive \$35.7M to Modernize, Expand Clinics

SPRINGFIELD – The United States’ Healthcare Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently [announced](#) \$1 billion in funding for community health center capital projects, including \$35.7 million going to 42 Illinois community health centers. These awards were made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act and represent a down payment on the critical investments needed to strengthen our nation’s public health system.

As the nation’s largest primary care network in underserved areas, community health centers are the backbone of our healthcare safety-net. In fact, Illinois health centers are leading the pack in vaccinating communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic – [vaccinating a larger proportion of racial and ethnic minorities](#) than health centers in any other state in the nation.

“These awards are the first major capital investment our sector has received in more than a decade from the federal government. We thank our elected officials for their leadership in securing these funds for our community health centers; the investment is sorely needed. We hope that Congress will build on this important step toward strengthening health equity and ensuring our nation’s public health system is well-equipped to respond to future emergencies by preserving the \$10 billion for health center construction grants proposed by the House as a part of the Build Back Better reconciliation package,” said Ollie Idowu, President + CEO of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association, the statewide association representing Illinois’ community health centers.

Community health centers nationally serve more than 30 million patients annually, a number that is expected to grow by 8.5 million over the next 4 years. According to an [April 2021 Capital Link study](#), community health centers will need \$17.5 billion by 2025 to maintain existing equipment and facilities, and increase access for their growing patient base. With additional resources, Illinois’ health centers hope to expand access in underserved areas and modernize facilities so that they can continue to provide high-quality, integrated care that reduces health disparities and empowers people to live well.

About IPHCA – The Illinois Primary Health Care Association is a nonprofit trade association that represents community health centers throughout the state. Illinois’ 53 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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