

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Beth Fox, Director of Communications
(217) 541-7313
bfox@iphca.org

National Community Health Center Week Offers Chance to Celebrate Incredible Work of Illinois' 53 Community Health Centers

Governor Pritzker Proclaims August 7 – 13, 2022 as National Community Health Center Week in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., August 7, 2022 – The Illinois Primary Health Care Association is proud to join Governor J.B. Pritzker in celebrating National Community Health Center Week, taking place August 7 – 13. In honor of the vital contributions of health centers to communities across Illinois, Governor Pritzker issued a [proclamation](#) declaring this week as *National Community Health Center Week* in Illinois. This week is an ideal time to recognize the outstanding work Illinois' 53 Community Health Centers do every day, providing equitable and accessible care to all regardless of income, insurance, or immigration status.

President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" series of policy initiatives to eliminate poverty and racial injustice in the late 1960s was the catalyst for establishing our nation's first community health centers. The main tenant was to provide equitable healthcare for all, regardless of a person's ability to pay. Some of the nation's pioneering health centers were founded in Chicago to provide access for public housing residents. Today, health centers provide high-quality, affordable, and patient-centered care to approximately 1 in 11 people across the country. It is because of this rich legacy that we are so pleased to commemorate *National Community Health Center Week*.

For more than 30 years, *National Community Health Center Week* has been a chance to celebrate the important role health centers play as go-to providers of integrated primary medical care, behavioral health treatment, and dental services. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more pertinent than ever to uplift the heroic efforts of our nation's health centers, which have been on the front lines in hard hit communities disproportionately impacted by the virus.

Though each health center marks the occasion with different activities, this annual observance allows our sector to showcase its unique, innovative service model and show its appreciation for their staff, patients, and partners. While individual health centers provide care to their local communities, when looked at as a whole, the reach and impact made by health centers across the country is incredible.



Illinois health centers alone provide care for nearly 1.5 million people each year. Nationally, health centers care for nearly 29 million people – a number that is expected to climb to 35 million by 2030.

Each day of the week will provide an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the many facets of Community Health Centers.

Sunday, August 7, 2022 – Public Health in Housing

Monday, August 8, 2022 – Healthcare for the Homeless

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 – Agricultural Worker Health Center

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 – Patient Appreciation

Thursday, August 11, 2022 – Stakeholder Appreciation

Friday, August 12, 2022 – Health Center Staff Appreciation

Saturday, August 13, 2022 – Children’s Health

About Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) – IPHCA is a non-profit 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 roughly 1.5 million patients annually across more than 400 service sites in underserved rural, urban, and suburban communities.

###