2020 MISSISSIPPI QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM REPORT

ADVANCING POPULATION HEALTH AND PROMOTING VALUE-BASED PRIMARY CARE
Impact Stories

Joey Wilson has been hypertensive for years. As a self-employed Mississippi Delta businessman, he didn’t have health insurance coverage and was unable to afford medication to control his high blood pressure. His poor health had been a worry of his daughter, Alex Cummins. She knew her father couldn’t afford blood pressure medicine, so he avoided doctors. His uncontrolled blood pressure put him at risk for stroke. The plans Joey had of walking his daughter, Alex, down the aisle at her wedding were uncertain. Luckily, Alex convinced Joey to see a health care provider at Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. He received the care he needed and was able to get the medication to keep him healthy and see a provider to help keep him well. Now, Joey can afford the blood pressure medication and sees his healthcare provider regularly at the Community Health Center. Thankfully, Joey Wilson’s story has a happy ending. His hypertension is under control with the help of his health care provider and access to needed medications that he can afford through 340B pricing through the community health center. He was also able to walk Alex down the aisle and have the first dance with her at her wedding.

Kizmet Cleveland takes three medications to manage her diabetes. With the retail price for her insulin pens at $1,020 per month and another diabetes management medication at $50 per month, the community health worker could not afford these medications and take care of her family’s needs. Her employer offered health insurance coverage that could help with the prescription drug pricing, but like so many Mississippi workers, the premiums were out of reach for her monthly budget. When Kizmet learned about the 340B discount prescription drug program available at her local community health center, G.A. Carmichael in Canton, Miss., she was relieved to know help was available to keep her well. She has a regular health care provider at the community health center to help her manage her diabetes. And purchasing medications through the 340B program reduced the cost of her life-saving medications. Her family saw an immediate change for the better. Now, Kizmet’s stress level is reduced because she knows she can afford to pay the discounted price of her medications each month. The money not spent on prescription drugs helps provide more for her daughter, who has just started a community college culinary program.
Dear Legislators:

Thank you for your continued support of the Mississippi Qualified Health Center (MQHC) program. The Mississippi Qualified Health Center (MQHC) program grantees are the state’s Community Health Center leaders. Community Health Centers are on the front line in rural communities in providing primary care and have been an important resource in responding to COVID-19 pandemic by offering testing and symptom treatments.

We ask for your continued support during the 2021 Legislative session and full funding of the MQHC program.

Mississippi Qualified Health Centers / Community Health Centers (CHC) are on the front line of providing primary health care services and caring for more than 317,000 patients and their families. During the novel coronavirus pandemic, community health centers gave 59,424 tests between March 30 and October 30, 2020 and 24% of all health center visits were conducted virtually via telehealth.

In 2019, data from the Health Resources and Services Administration Uniform Data System reports that an increase 3.2% or 9,850 of patients seen occurred from 2018 to 2019. As a result of the MQHC program, 63,179 patients received care in the state fiscal year 2020.

The State of Mississippi’s investment of $3,358,507 in CY20 equates to $53.16 per person served directly by these funds. These funds are money well-spent, saving hundreds of dollars in unnecessary emergency room charges in each case, by keeping the most vulnerable Mississippians out of emergency rooms when services at a primary care clinic are more appropriate.

Community Health Centers demonstrate significant return on investment in the value-based payment/accountable care arena. As our 2019 Quality Program outcomes from Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reflect, Mississippi Community Health Centers saved CMS over $8.5M. In total, participating Mississippi CHCs saved CMS more than $24M from 2014 to 2019. Further, research consistently demonstrates that CHCs provide primary care services at costs 24% lower when compared to other providers.

Please consider to increase the fund for equal allocations to the 20 Community Health Center entities of no less than $200,000 per health center, as authorized in the original legislation. This reauthorization request for the program is equal to or greater than $4 million.

Thank you for entrusting the Community Health Centers in Mississippi with these funds in the past. We ask for your continued support and partnership in 2021.

Sincerely,

Rashad Ali
Rashad N. Ali, MD, JD, FACOG
President-Elect

Janice Sherman
Chief Executive Officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHC</th>
<th>MQHC Grant Award</th>
<th>Total # of Patients Served by MQHC Funds</th>
<th># of Uninsured Patients</th>
<th># of Indigent Patients</th>
<th>Services Provided with MQHC Grant Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CHC 1 | $ 153,596 | 1,475 | 900 | 575 | Primary and Preventive Care  
Mental Health  
Health Education  
Women's Health  
Social Services |
| CHC 2 | $ 162,096 | 2,159 | 79 | 2,080 | Primary Care  
Mobile Unit  
School Based  
Dental Services  
Pediatric |
| CHC 3 | $ 170,000 | 3,605 | 1,314 | 2,291 | Primary Care  
Urgent Care  
Nutrition Education |
| CHC 4 | $ 145,690 | 254 | 183 | 71 | Primary Care  
Preventive Care  
In-house Laboratory  
Radiology  
Health Education  
Coordinated Care Programs  
Referrals for Specialized Care |
| CHC 5 | $ 162,096 | 1,278 | 496 | 782 | Primary Care  
Pharmacy Assistance  
Specialty Care Referrals  
Family Planning  
Health Education |
| CHC 6 | $ 170,000 | 1,750 | 875 | 875 | Primary Care  
Dental Services  
Outreach Services  
Patient Education  
Mobile Unit |
| CHC 7 | $ 153,856 | 4,266 | 2,326 | 1,940 | Dental Services  
Social Services  
Medication Assistance |
| CHC 8 | $ 145,690 | 1,137 | 437 | 700 | Primary Care  
Preventive Dental |
| CHC 9 | $ 162,096 | 2,252 | 1,926 | 326 | Primary Care  
Diagnostic Imaging  
Patient Assistance with Medications |
| CHC 10 | $ 153,596 | 9,843 | 9,219 | 624 | Primary and Preventive Care  
Dental Services  
Social Services  
Transportation |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CHC</th>
<th>MQHC Grant Award</th>
<th>Total # of Patients Served by MQHC Funds</th>
<th># of Uninsured Patients</th>
<th># of Indigent Patients</th>
<th>Services Provided with MQHC Grant Funds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHC 11</td>
<td>$ 162,096</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>1,226</td>
<td>School-based Clinic, Pharmacy, Diagnostic, Primary Care, Transportation</td>
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<td>CHC 12</td>
<td>$ 170,000</td>
<td>3,022</td>
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<td>1,753</td>
<td>Primary and Preventive Care Services, Translation Services, Specialty Referrals, Tobacco Education</td>
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<td>10,390</td>
<td>3,527</td>
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<td>CHC 14</td>
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<td>1,673</td>
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<td>285</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>Dental Services</td>
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<td>CHC 16</td>
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<td>1,020</td>
<td>2,701</td>
<td>Primary Care, Dental, Mental Health, Specialty Referrals</td>
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<td>CHC 17</td>
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<td>Diabetic Care Services</td>
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<td>Primary and Preventive Care, Diabetic Services, Dental Services, Medication Assistance, Car Safety Seats</td>
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<td>CHC 19</td>
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<td>Dental Services, Mobile Unit, Primary Care</td>
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<td>CHC 20</td>
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<td>1,994</td>
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<td>997</td>
<td>Primary Care, Chronic Disease Prevention and Management</td>
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<td>CHC 21</td>
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<td>2,688</td>
<td>1,093</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>Dental Services, Pharmacy, Health Education</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$3,358,507</td>
<td>63,179</td>
<td>36,869</td>
<td>26,310</td>
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The growth of Mississippi health centers has impacted the community by substantially increasing the amount of individuals employed by health centers. From 2013 to 2019, there was a 22% increase in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) health center employees in Mississippi, employing 2,063 FTEs in 2019.
About the Mississippi Qualified Health Center Program

The Mississippi Qualified Health Center (MQHC) Program emerged from the need to address the immense disparities and access barriers to primary health care for uninsured and medically indigent patients in Mississippi.

The MQHC program was established under House Bill 403 during the 1999 Legislative session and funded through the Health Care Expendable Fund.

The Legislature allocated funding for a five-year, $20 Million program to be distributed at $4M per year for FY 2000-2004 with no federally qualified health center in Mississippi receiving more than $200,000 annually.

MQHCs are Community Health Centers (CHCs). CHCs are non-profit 501c3 entities that provide comprehensive primary health care services and meet the following criteria:

1) Have a community-based board of directors. The majority of the members of the CHC boards of directors are patients at the health center.
2) Accept all people as patients that come in for services, no matter what their insurance status is or ability to pay. Health Centers use a sliding-fee-schedule to determine patient payments; and
3) Serve a designated medically underserved area or population, as provided in Section 330 of the Public Health Services Act of the U.S. Government.

During FY 2020, 20 Community Health Centers operated more than 200 delivery sites around the state and received annual grant awards from the MQHC program, ranging from $145,690 to $170,000. See pages 4 and 5 for a complete listing of funds awarded.

The Community Health Centers have used grant awards to provide increased access to preventive and primary care services for uninsured or medically underserved patients and to augment existing services. Many CHCs have new services available made possible solely through the MQHC program grants.

Since the MQHC program inception, more and more people have become patients of Mississippi’s Community Health Centers. This increase demonstrates the success of the program in reaching more of Mississippi’s most vulnerable populations, the underinsured, the uninsured, and the medically indigent.

Primary health care is the foundation of keeping a person healthy and chronic disease managed. The MQHC Program has been successful in providing comprehensive primary health care to many underinsured, uninsured, and medically indigent Mississippians.
MISSION STATEMENT
Community Health Center Association of Mississippi (CHCAMS) is an organization which supports its members in their collaborative efforts and advocates for the provision of equal access to quality, comprehensive health care services and the elimination of health disparities in the state.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT CHCAMS
Janice Sherman, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
jsherman@chcams.org
6400 Lakeover Road
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
Phone: (601) 981-1817
Fax: (601) 981-1217
www.chcams.org

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