

# About the Mississippi Qualified Health Center Program Report

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 or medically indigent patients and the insured population.

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 the rate of \$4 million per year for SFYs 2000-2004 with no federally qualified health center in Mississippi receiving more than \$200,000 annually.

MQHCs are the state's Community Health Centers (CHCs). CHCs are public or nonprofit 501(c)(3) entities that provide comprehensive primary care services and meet the following criteria:

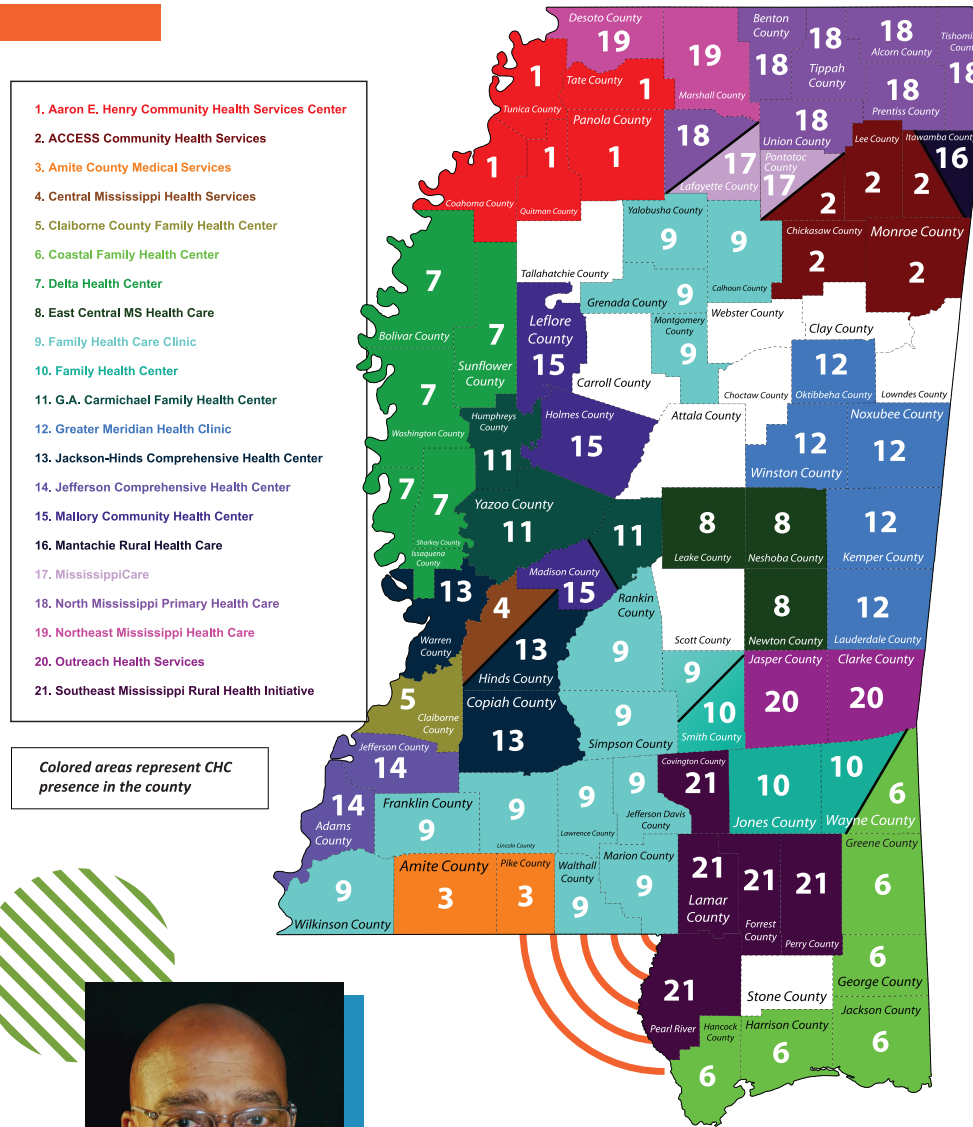
- 1) Have a community-based boards of directors. More than 50% of the members of a CHC board are patients at the respective health center served.
- 2) Accept all people as patients that come in for services, no matter what the patient's insurance status is or ability to pay, and utilize a sliding-fee-schedule for payments; and
- 3) Serve a designated medically underserved area or population, as provided in Section 330 of the Public Health Services Act.

During CY2020, 21 Community Health Centers operated more than 200 delivery sites around the state, and received annual grant awards ranging from \$ 132,469 to \$ 172,661 under the MQHC Program.

The Community Health Centers use grant awards to provide increased access to preventive and primary care services for uninsured or medically indigent 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 Mississippians who are underinsured, uninsured and medically indigent.



Colored areas represent CHC presence in the county



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**Community Health Center Association of Mississippi**

*Together We Care*



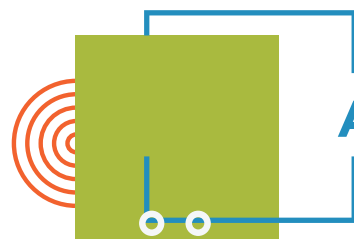
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# 2021

## Mississippi Qualified Health Center Program Report

**Advancing Population Health & Promoting Value-Based Primary Care**



## A Letter to the Mississippi Legislators

Dear Legislators:  
Thank you for your continued support of the Mississippi Qualified Health Center program.

The Mississippi Qualified Health Center (MQHC) program grantees are the state's Community Health Centers. Community Health Centers serve rural communities by providing primary health care. Grantees have been an important resource in responding to COVID-19 pandemic by offering testing, COVID-19 vaccinations, and treatments.

We ask for your continued support during the 2022 Legislative session and full funding of the MQHC program. **This reauthorization request for the program is equal to or greater than \$4 million.**

Mississippi Qualified Health Centers / Community Health Centers (CHC) are on the front line of providing primary care health services, caring for more than 303,000 underserved patients and their families. In 2020, data from the Health Resources and Services Administration Uniform Data System reports that a decrease of 4.3% or 13,781 occurred from 2019 to 2020. That decrease was primarily a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, as a result of the MQHC program, 112,832 patients received care in the state fiscal year 2021.

The State of Mississippi's investment of \$3,403,601 in CY21 equates to \$30.16 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 is more appropriate.

Community Health Centers demonstrate significant return on investment in the value-based payment/accountable care arena. As our 2020 shared savings program outcomes from Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reflect, Mississippi Community Health Centers saved CMS over \$16M. In total, participating Mississippi CHCs saved CMS more than \$40M from 2014 to 2020. Further, research consistently demonstrates that CHCs provide primary care services at costs 24% lower when compared to other providers.

Please consider an increase to the fund for equal allocations to the 21 Community Health Center entities of no less than \$200,000 per health center, as authorized in the original legislation.

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

Sincerely,

*Geroldean Dyse*  
Dr. Geroldean Dyse, Board Chair

*Terrence Shirley*  
Terrence Shirley, CEO

Community Health Center Association of Mississippi

## Mississippi State Department of Health Mississippi Qualified Health Center Grant Program Summary SFY 2021

CHC	Award Amount	Total Number of Patients Served by MQHC Funds	# of Uninsured Patients	# of Indigent Patients	Services Provided with MQHC Funding
CHC 1	\$ 172,661	1,118	23	23	Medical Health Screening and Treatment, Dental Care Screenings, Education, and Treatments, and School Based Clinic Services
CHC 2	\$ 172,661	5,621	2,167	2,390	Diabetic Care Services and Tobacco Education
CHC 3	\$ 152,073	828	482	346	Dental Services and Tobacco Education
CHC 4	\$ 164,161	1,493	1,133	0	Pediatric Medicine, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Behavioral Health, Diabetic Self-Management
CHC 5	\$ 155,661	1,914	206	375	Dental Services and Tobacco Education
CHC 6	\$ 164,161	27,627	15,505	3,712	Pharmacy Services, Phone Triage, and Tobacco Education
CHC 7	\$ 132,469	14,596	7,814	13,501	Medical Care Services, Dental Services, Tobacco Education, Immunizations, Chronic Disease Management, and Pharmacy Services, Behavioral/Mental Health Counseling, Transportation, Social Services, and HIV Testing
CHC 8	\$ 164,161	2,485	361	719	Comprehensive Medical Care, Laboratory Services, Urgent Medical Care, Family Planning, Pap Smears, Immunizations, Diabetic Foot Care, and Tobacco Education
CHC 9	\$ 155,661	6,942	1,004	1,535	Gynecology, Family Planning, Prenatal Care, Intrapartum Care, Postpartum Care, Sonography, Dental Services, Nutrition Services, Translation Services, Tobacco Cessation Counseling, Substance Use Disorders, and Tobacco Education
CHC 10	\$ 164,161	6,705	1,990	1,176	Diabetic Eye Medications, Exams, and Glasses, Car Safety Seats for Newborns, Laboratory Services, Patient Assistance Program, Translation Services, and Tobacco Education
CHC 11	\$ 155,661	3,911	1,686	162	Diabetic Care Services, Laboratory Services, Self-Management, Wound Care, School Based Clinic Services, and Tobacco Education

CHC	Award Amount	Total Number of Patients Served by MQHC Funds	# of Uninsured Patients	# of Indigent Patients	Services Provided with MQHC Funding
CHC 12	\$ 155,661	1,540	664	664	Immunizations, Wellness/Sport Physicals, EPSDT Screening, Well Child Exams, COVID Testing, COVID Vaccinations, Dental Care Services, Rectal Exams, EKG, Laboratory Services, Nutritional Services, IM injections, Tobacco Cessation, Diabetic Care Services, and Pap Smears
CHC 13	\$ 172,661	423	102	303	Comprehensive Medical Services, Hearing and Vision Screenings, Vaccinations, Tobacco Cessations, Oral and Dental Screenings and Education, Transportation Services, Preventive Health, and Vision
CHC 14	\$ 155,661	5,725	150	398	Primary Care, Mammograms, X-Ray Services, Dental Services, Pharmacy Services, School Based Clinics, Tobacco Education, and Laboratory Services
CHC 15	\$ 172,661	3,798	1,564	1,564	Primary Health and Medical Referral, Diet and Nutrition, Medical Assistance Services, Health and Wellness Center, Vision Screening, WIC, Behavioral Health Counseling, Top Teens/Prevention Services, and School Link Services
CHC 16	\$ 172,661	6,982	1,292	2,086	Primary Care, Women's Health, Nutrition Counseling, Diabetic Care Services, Dental Services, Laboratory Services, Diagnostic Screenings, Behavioral Health, Substance/Alcohol Abuse, Telehealth Psychiatry, Health Education, Tobacco Cessation Counseling, and Education, Translation, and Transportation
CHC 17	\$ 172,661	1,248	709	161	Preventive Health, Tobacco Cessation, and Dental Services
CHC 18	\$ 164,161	2,603	479	903	Ambulatory Outpatient Family Practice, Pharmacy Assistance, Lab Referrals, X-Ray Services, Mental Health Services, Telehealth for Mental Health Services, Transportation, Substance Abuse, Case Management, and Tobacco Education
CHC 19	\$ 155,661	3,111	1,639	1,424	Family Health Care, Preventive Health Care, Dental Services, Primary Care, Chronic Disease Management, Hypertension, Diabetic Care, Digital Services, Referrals for Specialty Care Services, Community Health Fairs, Outreach and Enrollment, Patients Education and Case Management, Tobacco Cessation Counseling, Screenings, and Education, Depression, Hypertension, Patient Education/Case Management, and Dental Referrals
CHC 20	\$ 164,161	3,350	1,241	1,465	Dental Health Services, Health Education, Pharmaceutical Education, Dentures, Preventive Care, and Tobacco Education
CHC 21	\$ 164,161	10,812	1,029	885	Medication Assistance, Preventive Health Services for Dental Care, Primary Dental Care Services and Treatment, and Tobacco Education
	<b>\$ 3,403,601</b>	<b>112,832</b>	<b>41,240</b>	<b>33,792</b>	