



**Congressional  
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

---

# The Community Health Center Fund: In Brief

**Elayne J. Heisler**

Specialist in Health Services

February 12, 2015

**Congressional Research Service**

7-5700

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

R43911

## **Contents**

|                                                     |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| Background.....                                     | 1 |
| CHCF as a Percentage of Health Center Funding ..... | 2 |
| CHCF Grants Awarded .....                           | 2 |

## **Figures**

|                                                    |   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|
| Figure 1. The CHCF and Health Center Funding ..... | 2 |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|

## **Tables**

|                                                          |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Table 1. CHCF-Supported Grant Programs .....             | 3 |
| Table 2. CHCF Funds Awarded, by State and Territory..... | 4 |

## **Contacts**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Author Contact Information..... | 6 |
| Acknowledgments .....           | 6 |

## Background

The Health Center Program, which is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration within the Department of Health and Human Services, awards grants to outpatient health care facilities that provide care to medically underserved populations.<sup>1</sup> The program's annual funding has more than doubled between FY2002 and FY2015, increasing from \$1.3 billion to \$4.9 billion. This funding increase—a result of both increases in annual discretionary appropriations and supplemental funding<sup>2</sup>—has resulted in more health centers, more patients seen and more services available to these patients.<sup>3</sup> The program's funding increase is due, in part, to the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF),<sup>4</sup> a mandatory multibillion dollar fund established in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148, as amended). This fund is available between FY2011 and FY2015. It was intended to increase health center appropriations above the level the program received in FY2008;<sup>5</sup> however, the CHCF has partially supplanted annual appropriations since it began. The CHCF also supports the National Health Service Corps, a scholarship and loan repayment program that places providers in underserved areas including at health centers. Since FY2012, the CHCF has been that program's sole funding source.<sup>6</sup>

CHCF funds have been used for a range of health center activities including funding new health centers, increasing services provided at existing health centers, and implementing care coordination initiatives.<sup>7</sup> The CHCF represents more than 70% of the Health Center Program's FY2015 funding and is set to expire at the end of the current fiscal year. For funding to continue at its current level, Congress would need to either extend the CHCF or appropriate additional discretionary funds.<sup>8</sup> This report provides information on the CHCF that may be useful for discussions about the fund's future. Specifically, it includes information on: the types of grants awarded, total funds disbursed, and the amount of CHCF funds that facilities in each state and territory received.

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information on health centers, see CRS Report R42433, *Federal Health Centers*.

<sup>2</sup> Annual discretionary appropriations during this time period and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) provided supplemental funding in FY2009 and FY2010. See Table 3 in CRS Report R42433, *Federal Health Centers*, and CRS Report R40181, *Selected Health Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*.

<sup>3</sup> Peter Shin et al., *Community Health Centers: A 2012 Profile and Spotlight on Implications of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions*, The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Issue Brief, Washington, DC, September 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Section 10503 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) established the CHCF. Though the fund is named for community health centers (the most common type of health center), its funds are available for use by all four types of health centers: (1) community health centers, (2) health centers for the homeless, (3) migrant health centers, and (4) health centers for residents of public housing.

<sup>5</sup> The FY2008 appropriation was \$2.1 billion; see Table 3 in CRS Report R42433, *Federal Health Centers*.

<sup>6</sup> CRS Report IN10185, *Congress Faces Calls to Address Expiring ACA Funds for Primary Care*.

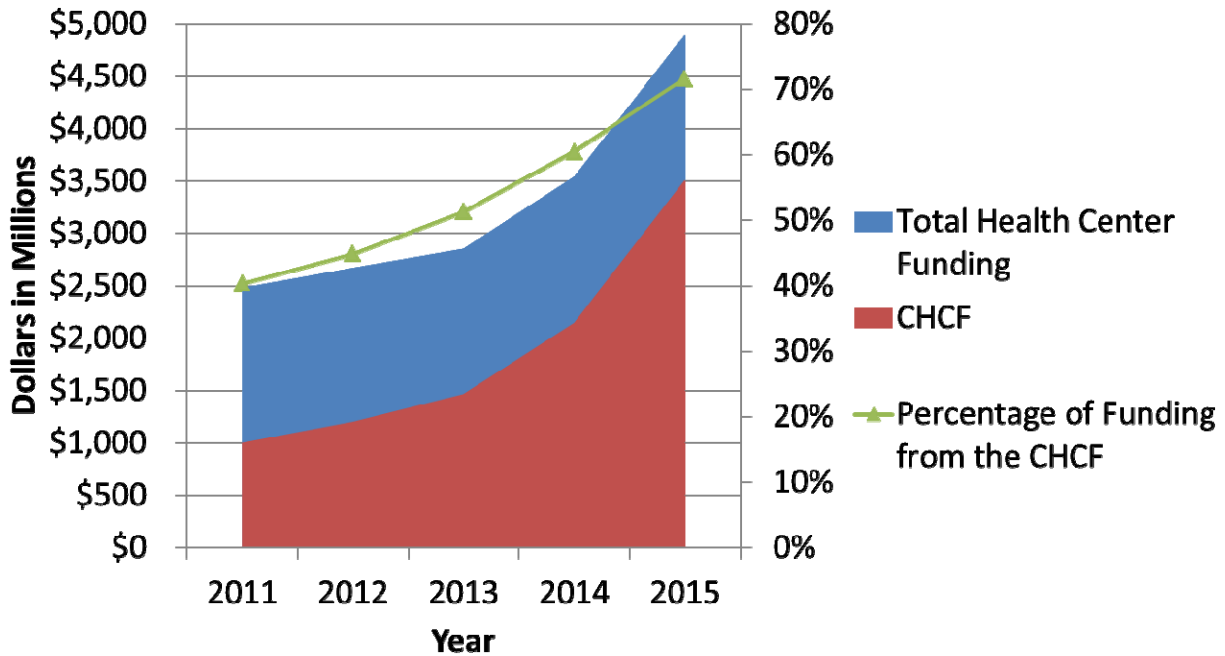
<sup>7</sup> See **Table 1**.

<sup>8</sup> CRS Report IN10185, *Congress Faces Calls to Address Expiring ACA Funds for Primary Care*.

## CHCF as a Percentage of Health Center Funding

The CHCF as a total percentage of federal funding for health centers has increased from 40% to 72% from FY2011 through F2015 (see **Figure 1**).

**Figure 1. The CHCF and Health Center Funding**



Source: CRS analysis of HRSA’s Congressional Budget Justifications.

## CHCF Grants Awarded

ACA’s language creating the CHCF specified rather broad purposes—that the fund be used to “provide for expanded and sustained national investment in community health centers.”<sup>9</sup> CHCF funds have been used to support operating grants at existing health centers and to support a number of specific grant programs (see **Table 1**).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> ACA Section 10503(a).

<sup>10</sup> The ACA also provided, for use between FY2011 and FY2015, \$1 billion dollars to be used for health center construction and renovation. Grant awards from this program were made in FY2011 and FY2012 and supported 398 projects at 190 centers; see CRS Report R42433, *Federal Health Centers*.

**Table 1. CHCF-Supported Grant Programs**

| Name                                                                  | Description                                                                                                                         | Funds Awarded                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New Access Points                                                     | Grants to support new health center sites.                                                                                          | \$28.8 million (FY2011); \$128.6 million (FY2012); \$19 million (FY2013); \$150 million (FY2014); \$100 million (FY2015, expected) |
| Expanded Services                                                     | Grants for hiring new staff to extend hours and expand care that a health center provides.                                          | \$295 million (FY2014)                                                                                                             |
| Health Center Outreach and Enrollment Assistance                      | Grants to hire staff for in-person enrollment and eligibility assistance to uninsured individuals.                                  | \$150 million (FY2013); \$58 million (FY2014)                                                                                      |
| Behavioral Health Integration                                         | Grants to expand behavioral health services by increasing the number of providers and services offered.                             | \$54.6 million (FY2014); \$51.3 million (FY2015)                                                                                   |
| Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH)                                 | Grants to assist facilities with meeting the requirements to be certified as a PCMH.                                                | \$32 million (FY2011); \$44 million (FY2012)                                                                                       |
| Quality Improvement/ Base Adjustment                                  | Adjustments to health center base funding for ongoing operations and quality improvement activities.                                | \$48 million (FY2013)                                                                                                              |
| PCMH Facility Improvement                                             | Grants for PCMH construction and facility renovations.                                                                              | \$35.7 million (FY2014)                                                                                                            |
| Health Center Controlled Network- Health Information Technology (HIT) | Grants to expand the use of advanced HIT.                                                                                           | \$21 million (FY2013)                                                                                                              |
| State and Regional Primary Care Association                           | Cooperative agreements with state and regional organizations to provide health center training and technical assistance.            | \$5.2 million (FY2011); \$6.4 million (FY2013)                                                                                     |
| HIV Service Integration                                               | Grants to support HIV services with primary care service integration.                                                               | \$5 million (FY2012); \$6.2 million (FY2014)                                                                                       |
| Planning and Development                                              | Grants to support organizations to plan and become health centers.                                                                  | \$10 million (FY2011)                                                                                                              |
| Beacon Community Supplemental Funding                                 | Grants to support health center HIT adoption so as to improve health outcomes, improve care quality, and achieve cost efficiencies. | \$8.4 million (FY2011)                                                                                                             |
| Training and Technical Assistance                                     | Cooperative agreements to provide technical assistance to organizations that support health centers.                                | \$2.8 million (FY2011)                                                                                                             |

**Sources:** CRS analysis of data from the HRSA data warehouse; CRS communication with HRSA's Office of Legislation, January 5, 2015; and HRSA and HHS press releases obtained by searching <http://www.hrsa.gov> and <http://www.hhs.gov/news/>.

CHCF funds were awarded from FY2011 through FY2015 to facilities and organizations in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories (see **Table 2**).

**Table 2. CHCF Funds Awarded, by State and Territory**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

| State                          | FY2011    | FY2012    | FY2013    | FY2014    | FY2015 <sup>a</sup> | Total     |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| Alaska                         | \$15,176  | \$16,651  | \$21,855  | \$31,370  | \$1,042             | \$86,094  |
| Alabama                        | \$19,803  | \$23,584  | \$29,280  | \$39,000  | \$1,680             | \$113,347 |
| Arkansas                       | \$11,603  | \$13,637  | \$16,951  | \$23,823  |                     | \$66,014  |
| American Samoa                 | \$1,089   | \$901     | \$1,146   | \$1,899   |                     | \$5,035   |
| Arizona                        | \$18,945  | \$20,195  | \$24,729  | \$37,004  | \$2,100             | \$102,972 |
| California                     | \$120,920 | \$140,404 | \$178,975 | \$275,331 | \$12,176            | \$727,806 |
| Colorado                       | \$25,431  | \$29,531  | \$37,523  | \$45,921  | \$3,057             | \$141,464 |
| Connecticut                    | \$12,973  | \$15,168  | \$18,923  | \$22,080  |                     | \$69,144  |
| District of Columbia           | \$4,644   | \$5,147   | \$5,731   | \$8,542   | \$128               | \$24,192  |
| Delaware                       | \$3,290   | \$4,372   | \$6,164   | \$6,280   |                     | \$20,106  |
| Florida                        | \$48,926  | \$59,567  | \$73,248  | \$117,934 | \$4,873             | \$304,549 |
| Federated States of Micronesia | \$423     | \$438     | \$476     | \$1,123   |                     | \$2,459   |
| Georgia                        | \$21,263  | \$26,182  | \$37,181  | \$47,576  | \$1,901             | \$134,102 |
| Guam                           | \$501     | \$519     | \$683     | \$1,059   |                     | \$2,762   |
| Hawaii                         | \$6,879   | \$6,795   | \$8,606   | \$13,448  | \$1,048             | \$36,777  |
| Iowa                           | \$8,507   | \$9,537   | \$12,555  | \$16,899  | \$378               | \$47,875  |
| Idaho                          | \$9,026   | \$10,223  | \$13,255  | \$18,743  | \$889               | \$52,137  |
| Illinois                       | \$41,748  | \$50,684  | \$64,450  | \$88,207  | \$1,365             | \$246,454 |
| Indiana                        | \$12,420  | \$13,695  | \$17,216  | \$28,441  | \$1,707             | \$73,479  |
| Kansas                         | \$7,397   | \$9,633   | \$13,030  | \$18,278  | \$1,167             | \$49,504  |
| Kentucky                       | \$13,683  | \$17,800  | \$21,803  | \$31,162  | \$406               | \$84,854  |
| Louisiana                      | \$17,792  | \$19,316  | \$24,680  | \$43,095  | \$2,742             | \$107,625 |
| Massachusetts                  | \$24,757  | \$26,155  | \$32,222  | \$54,646  | \$2,577             | \$140,358 |
| Maryland                       | \$13,633  | \$13,585  | \$16,069  | \$27,776  | \$1,701             | \$72,765  |
| Maine                          | \$8,751   | \$9,965   | \$11,100  | \$17,724  | \$1,744             | \$49,283  |
| Marshall Islands               | \$295     | \$306     | \$338     | \$704     |                     | \$1,643   |
| Michigan                       | \$23,757  | \$27,282  | \$33,868  | \$55,030  | \$3,745             | \$143,681 |
| Minnesota                      | \$8,829   | \$10,938  | \$13,775  | \$18,646  | \$547               | \$52,736  |
| Missouri                       | \$20,092  | \$22,840  | \$28,811  | \$45,233  | \$794               | \$117,770 |
| Northern Mariana Islands       |           | \$608     | \$732     | \$738     |                     | \$2,078   |
| Mississippi                    | \$18,919  | \$19,150  | \$23,681  | \$34,055  | \$149               | \$95,953  |
| Montana                        | \$8,669   | \$10,250  | \$13,772  | \$18,292  | \$64                | \$51,046  |
| North Carolina                 | \$26,443  | \$31,974  | \$42,027  | \$57,132  | \$948               | \$158,522 |

| State              | FY2011      | FY2012      | FY2013                   | FY2014                   | FY2015 <sup>a</sup>      | Total       |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| North Dakota       | \$1,902     | \$1,818     | \$2,447                  | \$4,211                  | \$580                    | \$10,959    |
| Nebraska           | \$3,830     | \$4,891     | \$6,211                  | \$9,385                  | \$59                     | \$24,376    |
| New Hampshire      | \$4,280     | \$4,927     | \$7,334                  | \$10,909                 | \$557                    | \$28,006    |
| New Jersey         | \$18,029    | \$18,509    | \$25,263                 | \$37,524                 | \$1,253                  | \$100,578   |
| New Mexico         | \$17,132    | \$19,064    | \$25,423                 | \$32,981                 | \$877                    | \$95,476    |
| Nevada             | \$3,963     | \$3,802     | \$7,030                  | \$6,265                  | \$562                    | \$21,622    |
| New York           | \$54,430    | \$69,550    | \$84,280                 | \$114,257                | \$5,420                  | \$327,937   |
| Ohio               | \$27,229    | \$32,877    | \$37,969                 | \$60,811                 | \$2,820                  | \$161,706   |
| Oklahoma           | \$12,270    | \$15,626    | \$19,901                 | \$22,992                 | \$1,507                  | \$72,296    |
| Oregon             | \$18,770    | \$23,679    | \$29,405                 | \$41,563                 | \$1,515                  | \$114,932   |
| Palau              | \$358       | \$371       | \$292                    | \$577                    |                          | \$1,597     |
| Pennsylvania       | \$27,426    | \$31,807    | \$40,399                 | \$55,918                 | \$2,230                  | \$157,779   |
| Puerto Rico        | \$19,894    | \$24,701    | \$30,063                 | \$38,782                 | \$265                    | \$113,706   |
| Rhode Island       | \$7,259     | \$6,713     | \$7,671                  | \$11,673                 | \$1,043                  | \$34,360    |
| South Carolina     | \$20,082    | \$23,988    | \$31,938                 | \$37,320                 | \$113                    | \$113,441   |
| South Dakota       | \$4,150     | \$4,523     | \$5,597                  | \$8,434                  |                          | \$22,705    |
| Tennessee          | \$17,968    | \$21,473    | \$26,127                 | \$36,560                 | \$3,515                  | \$105,643   |
| Texas              | \$60,559    | \$68,428    | \$86,323                 | \$121,729                | \$5,110                  | \$342,149   |
| Utah               | \$6,805     | \$6,834     | \$10,814                 | \$16,712                 | \$1,250                  | \$42,414    |
| Virginia           | \$19,176    | \$22,143    | \$27,601                 | \$38,361                 | \$2,295                  | \$109,576   |
| Virgin Islands     | \$673       | \$789       | \$959                    | \$1,339                  |                          | \$3,761     |
| Vermont            | \$3,791     | \$4,126     | \$5,439                  | \$10,222                 | \$59                     | \$23,636    |
| Washington         | \$27,932    | \$30,811    | \$40,902                 | \$57,496                 | \$4,004                  | \$161,145   |
| Wisconsin          | \$8,326     | \$11,069    | \$13,051                 | \$18,617                 | \$1,247                  | \$52,311    |
| West Virginia      | \$13,499    | \$15,001    | \$20,198                 | \$29,218                 | \$640                    | \$78,556    |
| Wyoming            | \$1,730     | \$1,921     | \$2,386                  | \$3,999                  | \$475                    | \$10,512    |
| Total <sup>b</sup> | \$978,047   | \$1,136,477 | \$1,439,875              | \$2,075,045              | \$86,321,866             | \$5,716,765 |
| CHCF Allocation    | \$1,000,000 | \$1,200,000 | \$1,465,000 <sup>c</sup> | \$2,145,000 <sup>c</sup> | \$3,509,000 <sup>c</sup> | \$9,319,000 |

**Source:** CRS communication with HRSA's Office of Legislation, January 5, 2015.

**Notes:** Blank cells indicate that no funds were received by that state or territory in that year.

- a. Data available as of January 5, 2015. Blank cells indicate that no funds were awarded to health centers in that state as of January 5, 2015. This report will be updated throughout FY2015 to reflect additional grants awarded to facilities in each state.
- b. Total indicates amount of grants awarded; it is lower than the amount appropriated to the CHCF as some funds are used by HRSA to administer these grant programs.
- c. The FY2013, FY2014, and FY2015 amounts were reduced by the sequester required under the Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25). For more information, see CRS Report R42433, *Federal Health Centers*.

## **Author Contact Information**

Elayne J. Heisler  
Specialist in Health Services  
eheisler@crs.loc.gov, 7-4453

## **Acknowledgments**

LaTiesha Cooper, Research Assistant, prepared the tables and figures included in this report.