



# Health Center Capital

## Investing in Health Center Facilities to Continue to Meet the Needs of Patients

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the inequities of the health care system for our rural, minority, veteran, senior, and homeless communities. Now, more than ever, health centers have been essential stakeholders in the public health system – providing much-needed primary and behavioral health services during the throes of an international pandemic. As the nation prepares for life after this deadly disease, Community Health Centers need significant capital improvements to serve their current patients more comprehensively and meet the projected demand for services.

Health centers have grown since 2010 from serving 18 million patients every year to nearly 29 million patients annually in 2020. During that time, Congress has invested resources in capital, but the demand continues to be high.

### Facilities

A 2021 study by Capital Link, found that Community Health Centers' infrastructure needs totaled at least \$17.5 billion.

**Nearly all (97%) Community Health Centers and Look-Alikes already have at least one capital project planned to build, expand, or renovate their facilities to take care of patients.** The top planned projects would boost medical, mental health, and oral health services to patients.

New and modernized facilities will be critical to continue to provide high-quality care to current patients that may have health conditions that have been left unaddressed due to the pandemic and the 8.5 million new patients anticipated by 2025. Significant federal investments in health center capital combined with other existing programs, such as HRSA Loan Guarantees, New Market Tax Credits, and the USDA Community Facilities Program, make these much-needed capital improvements feasible.

### Economic Impact

Over the past 50 years, Community Health Centers have proven their value to local economies. **In 2019 health centers generated 455,000 full-time jobs (253,000 direct, 202,000 indirect) and created more than \$63.4 billion in economic activity.** Further infrastructure investments in Community Health Centers will generate additional economic opportunities and jobs for residents of rural and underserved communities.

## How you can help:

- **Support at least \$2 billion in Health Center Capital Funding** for the alternation, renovation, remodeling, expansion, construction, and other **capital improvement costs** so health centers can continue to meet the health needs of their growing patient populations and the communities they serve.