



Overview of Federally Qualified Health Centers

Presented By:
Doreen Bradshaw, Executive Director
Shasta Consortium of Community Health Centers

What is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)?

- ✓ **Non-profit or public health care organization**
- ✓ **Serves predominantly uninsured or medically underserved**
- ✓ **Located in or serving a Federally designated Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA or MUP)**
- ✓ **Operates under a consumer Board of Directors governance structure**

What is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)?

- ✓ Provides comprehensive primary health, oral and mental health/substance abuse services in all stages of the life cycle
- ✓ Provides services to all persons regardless of ability to pay
- ✓ Charges for services on a Board approved sliding-fee scale

FQHC Status Community Benefits

- ✓ **The community directs services**
- ✓ **The center will be a medical home so non-emergent cases in hospital rooms are reduced**
- ✓ **Economic impact of bringing more jobs and potential for future federal investment**
- ✓ **Reduction in the number of uninsured due to FQHC assistance with Medi-Cal and Healthy Families enrollment**
- ✓ **Referral arrangements for for FQHC patients provides better access to other health providers.**

FQHC Status Community Health Center Benefits

- Access to federal grants to support costs of uncompensated care
- Enhanced revenue due to the Prospective Payment System reimbursement for services for Medicaid and Medicare patients
- Access to medical malpractice coverage under Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA)
- PHS Drug Pricing Discounts for pharmaceutical products
- Federal and state grant support and federal loan guarantees for capital improvements.

FQHC Status Community Health Center Benefits

- **Reimbursement by Medicare for “first dollar” of services because deductible is waived if FQHC is providing services**
- **Improvement of general public health because of access to Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program (for uninsured children)**
- **Access to National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Placements to provide medical dental and mental health provider staff.**

Who Do Federally Qualified Health Centers Serve?

- ✓ Nationally, community health centers are medical homes to 15 million people annually
- ✓ Half of health center patients reside in rural areas
- ✓ 70% have incomes below 200% of FPL
- ✓ 40% of health center patients are uninsured
- ✓ 36% depend on Medicaid

Our Nation's Health Centers

- ✓ Office of Management and budget rank the health center program as #1 for cost efficiency and effectiveness out of 15,000 Health and Human Service programs.
- ✓ The community health centers represent the largest health care system in the nation-serving over 50 million individuals.
- ✓ Independent studies show services provided in community health centers provide a savings of 30% to 60% over private health sector settings.