



# Fall 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

*Published November 2021*

## Virtual 2021 CHAMPS Awards Ceremony & Annual CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting

Every year, CHAMPS awards staff and board members from Region VIII health centers and partner organizations for their outstanding achievements, leadership, and contributions to their health centers and communities.

The virtual 2021 CHAMPS Awards Ceremony will take place on Monday, November 22 at 9:00 AM MT/8:00 AM CT. Attendees will learn more about:

- ★ A generous Chief Financial Officer who focuses on the big picture while providing sensible, reliable communication.
- ★ A Board Member who exhibits a longstanding commitment to the agricultural workforce and passion for doing what is right.
- ★ A Chief Medical Officer who emphasizes and supports teamwork and patient access to care.
- ★ A Chief Dental Officer who is admired for her commitment to the welfare of others.
- ★ A Chief Executive Officer who focuses on advocacy and is a constant champion for vulnerable and underserved populations.
- ★ An Executive Director who tirelessly advocated for health centers while gaining respect from state officials and others throughout their state.
- ★ A VP of Medical Services who committed their career to community health and focused on the development of essential trainings for providers.

The CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting will begin after the Awards Ceremony at 10:00 AM MT/11:00 AM CT. CHAMPS board members will be joined by Jim Macrae, Bureau of Primary Health Care ([BPHC](#)) and Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, National Association of Community Health Centers ([NACHC](#)). If you are a board member and unable to attend, please arrange for proxy representation.

*Questions about the 2021 Awards Ceremony?  
 Visit the [CHAMPS Awards](#) webpage or contact the  
 CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).  
 Questions about the Board of Directors Meeting? Contact the CHAMPS [Executive Director](#).*

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## Honoring Stanley J. Brasher



On September 6, 2021, Stanley J. “Jerry” Brasher passed away peacefully in his home. Jerry was a founder of CHAMPS, CEO of Salud Family Health Centers (CO) for 40 years, and an impactful member of the community and migrant health center movement nationally. Jerry was a constant champion and advocate for CHAMPS and he passionately believed in its mission and values. Prior to this passing, in 2013, the CHAMPS Executive Committee created the Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award which honors individuals who have dedicated their careers to solving problems in the realm of health, poverty, and human rights, and have contributed to the mission and recognition of community and migrant health centers in the Mountain/Plains States. Jerry will be greatly missed and remembered for his steadfast commitment to the community health center movement.

*Read Jerry’s obituary to learn more about his life and service at [Keeper: Stanley “Jerry” Brasher](#).*

## NWRPCA/CHAMPS Virtual Fall Primary Care Conference Highlights

In October, hundreds of members of the health center community came together to attend the 2021 Virtual Fall Primary Care Conference hosted by NWRPCA and CHAMPS. The theme of this year’s conference was, “**Re-connect · Re-envisioning Community Health for 2022 & Beyond,**” which highlighted the collaboration among our communities, where long-held partnerships were **re-vitalized** and new connected forged. The months leading up to the NWRPCA/CHAMPS Virtual Fall Primary Care Conference demonstrated the ability of health centers to continue to adapt and innovate to effectively address unforeseen challenges, even in the most uncertain times. The theme looked toward the future with **re-kindled** energy and a commitment to a **re-vitalized** community health movement.



In addition to over 50 sessions across nine tracks, attendees were also able to participate in lunch and learns, roundtables, networking, and plenary sessions which provided rich opportunities to learn from clinicians, administrators, and board members. The Opening Plenary speakers included Jim Macrae, Bureau of Primary Health Care; Luis Padilla, Bureau of Health Workforce; Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, National Association of Community Health Centers; and Ben Money, National Association of Community Health Centers. The Closing Plenary featured motivational speaker and healthcare worker Christopher Ridenhour of Inspired2Results! who focused on the importance of kindness to one another and continuing the necessary work health centers perform daily. Continuing education credit hours were offered for physicians, nurses, accountants, human resources professionals, and social workers.

During the conference, attendees were able to engage in multiple ways to become prize winners. The winning team of the Networking Happy Hour & Trivia event, Those Who Cannot Be Named, received Target gift cards. Jania Arnoldi of Valley-Wide Health Systems (CO) and Nadine Boe of Northland Health Centers (ND) received prizes for their engagement with the Whova platform, and Bobbi Surplus of Mosaic Medical (OR) received a free 2022 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Conference registration for winning the 2021 Exhibitor Passport Contest Raffle. Thank you to all the attendees, speakers, and contributors who made the 2021 Fall Virtual Primary Care Conference possible.

*To review 2021 conference highlights, learn more about reimbursement opportunities for [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) and continuing education certificates, and stay updated on plans for the 2022 conference, visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference webpage](#). 2021 conference attendees will have access to session recordings and resources on the [NWRPCA Learning Vault](#).*

### Health Center Thank You Video

To honor health centers from across Regions VIII and X (Region 18) for the immensely important work they perform every day, the Closing Plenary during the 2021 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference featured a thank you video which provides a glimpse into the work of Regions VIII and X health centers over the past two years and features John Santistevan, CHAMPS Board President and Jesus Hernandez, NWRPCA Board Chair.

*To view the video, please visit the [CHAMPS YouTube Channel](#).*

### Meet the New CHAMPS Executive Committee Officers & Representatives

In September 2021, the CHAMPS Executive Committee voted on and approved changes to fill vacancies on the 2020-2022 CHAMPS Executive Committee:

- ★ John Santistevan: President/Chief Executive Officer of Salud Family Health Centers in Colorado and previous CHAMPS Vice President, was elected President following the resignation of Kristi Halvarson.
- ★ Tim Trithart: Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Center of the Black Hills in South Dakota, was elected to the South Dakota Representative position, previously held by recently retired John Mengenhausen.

### Meet the New CHAMPS Coordinators

CHAMPS is pleased to welcome new [staff members](#) **Emily Krizmanich** and **Catherine Galley**.

Emily joined CHAMPS in September 2021 as the Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce. She will be focused on the coordination and implementation of CHAMPS' programs in support of health center staff recruitment and retention and health professions education and training. Prior to starting at CHAMPS, Emily earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado Boulder in International Affairs and Anthropology, and a Master of Arts degree in International Development and Global Health from the University of Denver. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking and baking, crafting, cheering on the LA Dodgers, and binging her favorite TV shows. As a Colorado local she loves the great outdoors and exploring all the state has to offer, which includes many adventures with her rescue puppy Ralphie. Emily can be contacted via email at [Emily@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Emily@CHAMPSonline.org).



Catherine joined CHAMPS in October 2021 as the Programs Coordinator, Membership and Communications. Cat will be working on the coordination and implementation of CHAMPS' member services, contacts management, and communications efforts along with providing support for additional CHAMPS activities. She possesses a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Purdue University along with a Dual Master's in Social Work and International Development with a concentration in Organizational Leadership and Policy Practice from the University of Denver. Cat has worked in the nonprofit field for many years in a variety of roles, largely focusing on immigrant and refugee rights. Outside of work, Cat enjoys hiking with her dog Lilly, listening to podcasts, and hanging out with friends and family. She can be contacted via email at [Catherine@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Catherine@CHAMPSonline.org).

*Please visit the CHAMPS [Contact Us](#) webpage for more information about our team and contact details for all CHAMPS staff members.*



### Region VIII Health Center Directory Update

CHAMPS thanks all the Region VIII health centers that took the time to provide updates related to locations and staffing to assist in the development of the next CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Directory. The submitted changes are currently being processed, and the printed directory, anticipated to be released by early 2022, will be a complete listing of all Region VIII health center and Primary Care Association sites. This resource will highlight each organization, including descriptions of each health center along with names and contact information for administrative and clinical executive leadership staff.

The Region VIII Health Center Directory is created every two years with the intention of facilitating networking and sharing of best practices between Region VIII health centers. A free printed copy of the directory will be provided to all health centers that submitted updated information, and [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) will receive an additional free copy. A searchable version of the health center information, including the names of providers working for each site, is available on the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website.

*For questions regarding the Region VIII directory, please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development & Member Services Director](#).*

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## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

*Encouraging successful careers and strong, cutting-edge organizations by providing live and archived continuing education, recruitment and retention tools, and the latest information on current trends and statistics. Learn more [here](#).*

### Advertise Your Openings on the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank

The CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank](#) (JOB) is a great tool for posting open positions within Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs). This free resource can be utilized for Administrative/Management, Dental, Medical, Clinical Support, Behavioral Health, and Non-Clinical Support roles. CHAMPS attends job fairs to promote open positions within Region VIII and distributes monthly emails to prospective employees highlighting recently posted positions by [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#). Keep your jobs updated so CHAMPS has the most accurate information to share with prospective employees interested in rewarding careers in community health!



If you have open positions you would like to add to JOB, or an update regarding a currently posted position, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce](#).

*If you would like to sign up for the CHAMPS monthly JOB email, please visit the CHAMPS [Job Bank](#) webpage.*

### Preparing for the Future: the HHS Workforce Strategic Plan

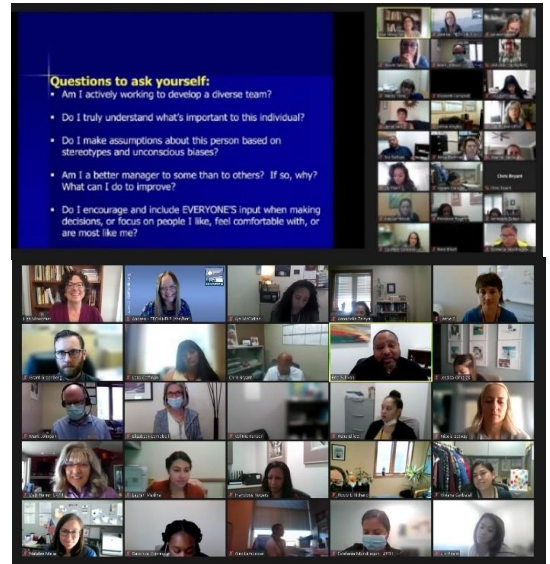
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released its [Health Workforce Strategic Plan](#). This document details HHS intentions to improve supply through expansion, ensure equitable distribution, improve quality, and enhance the use of data and evidence to improve program outcomes. The Workforce Strategic Plan will help coordinate efforts to address long-standing barriers to strengthening the health workforce.

*For more detailed information, please visit the [HRSA Health Workforce](#) webpage.*

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### Next Level Skills 2021 Highlights – Save the Dates for 2022

In September and October 2021, CHAMPS hosted the online Beyond CORE Competencies: Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers course with support from Association for Utah Community Health ([AUCH](#)), Colorado Community Health Network ([CCHN](#)), Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas ([CHAD](#)), Montana Primary Care Association ([MPCA](#)), and Wyoming Primary Care Association ([WYPCA](#)). Lead facilitator Lisa Mouscher of Sogence Training and Consulting used the six-part training to first recap crucial skills needed for supervisors and managers and then moved to higher-level topics like conflict mitigation, engaging with a diverse workforce, and strengthening decision processes. Forty participants from all six Region VIII states participated in the course by attending the weekly sessions and completing homework assignments designed to build their understanding of the material presented. This year, the favorite course topics were Behavioral Interviewing and Decision-Making Styles.



CHAMPS is excited to announce the dates for two supervisor/manager trainings in 2022:

**CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers** will be held virtually over five Wednesday mornings, April 27-May 25, 2022. For more information about the 2022 CORE Competencies Training and upcoming registration, visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage and download the [2022 CORE Flyer](#).

**Beyond CORE Competencies: Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers** will be held virtually over six Thursday mornings, September 1-October 6, 2022. For more information about the 2022 Next Level Skills (NLS) Training and upcoming registration, visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage and download the [2022 NLS Flyer](#).

*To learn more about the course, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.*

### Education on Your Schedule: CHAMPS Archived Distance Learning Events

CHAMPS strives to increase access to educational events and related resources. With the competing priorities faced by Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs), the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage can be a great resource for overcoming the challenges of attending live events. This page houses archived versions of prior CHAMPS clinic and quality, health equity, and workforce development webcasts, each of which is available for a year after the original event.

*Visit the CHAMPS [Distance Learning Library](#) to download handouts, evaluations, and other documents created for these and other past CHAMPS distance learning events.*

#### Workforce Focus: An e-Bulletin of HR/R&R/Pipeline Resources

The CHAMPS Workforce (WF) Focus is a resource for Region VIII workforce personnel within the areas of human resources (HR), recruitment and retention (R&R), and/or pipeline development. Distributed four to six times per year, the WF Focus includes brief updates on upcoming events, important announcements, and a quick overview of useful tools and resources. Sign up for the [WF Focus](#) today!

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### Now Open: Three NHSC Loan Repayment Programs

The Health Resources and Services Administration ([HRSA](#)) and National Health Service Corps ([NHSC](#)) have announced three loan repayment programs that are currently accepting applications. A significant amount of funding is available under the NHSC Loan Repayment Program, NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program, and the NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program. Eligible clinicians will provide medical, dental, or behavioral health care services, or evidence-based substance use disorder treatment, at a registered NHSC-eligible site.

All health centers should assume that their clinicians might receive NHSC loan repayment, regardless of the health center's HPSA score. For a health center's clinicians to be eligible, the health center first must [register as an NHSC-eligible site](#).



**Application Due Date: Thursday, December 16, 5:30 PM MT/6:30 PM CT.**

For more information, visit the [NHSC Loan Repayment Programs Comparison](#) webpage.

### Health Center RTAT Results Released



Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI) recently began distributing individualized reports of [Readiness to Train Assessment Tool \(RTAT\)](#) results to health centers across the country. These health center level RTAT reports were also shared with state and regional Primary Care Associations (PCAs) and will be used to drive the HRSA [Health Professions Education and Training \(HP-ET\) Initiative](#), which is designed to enhance the ability of health centers to recruit, develop, and retain their workforce by exposing health and allied health professions students, trainees, and residents to education and training programs conducted at health centers. PCAs across the country will also be utilizing the results of this assessment to target related training and technical assistance needs.

For more detailed information, please visit the [Readiness to Train Assessment Tool](#) webpage.

### NIMAA Externship Opportunity

*Submitted by Stephanie Ivers Heine, Community Health Center, Inc.*

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) works with health centers across the U.S. to address a critical healthcare workforce shortage by making high-quality medical assistant training and careers accessible to residents of medically underserved communities. NIMAA is currently inviting external partners to participate in its Fall 2022 cohort which features a unique educational model, accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES), and combines online learning with in-clinic experience to prepare students to successfully take the Medical Assistant certification exam in eight months. Externship organizations directly benefit from this experience as a pipeline for great employees is developed, students gain in-clinic experience related to health center specific needs, colleague satisfaction and retention may increase, and stronger ties to the community are created.

To learn more about becoming a NIMAA externship partner, email [Lori Nichols](#). To register for an upcoming information session, visit the [NIMAA Externship Organizations](#) webpage.

# MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

*Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians who practice in Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers in Region VIII to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of care to poor and underserved populations. Learn more [here](#).*

## CHAMPS 2022 Maternal Health Learning Collaborative: Supporting & Advancing Perinatal Health

Registration is now open for the CHAMPS 2022 Maternal Health Learning Collaborative: Supporting and Advancing Perinatal Health. This free series, created in partnership with the HRSA Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA) Region 8 Office, will feature speakers from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA), the [Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center](#) (MPATTC), and the [Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center](#) (MPMHTTC). Health center care team members will discuss the latest in maternal mortality and morbidity data as well as the impact of substance use disorders and perinatal mental health concerns in new mothers. Screening recommendations, clinical tools and resources, and community programs will be featured. Sessions will be held on the following Thursdays from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM MT/12:30 PM-2:00 PM CT.

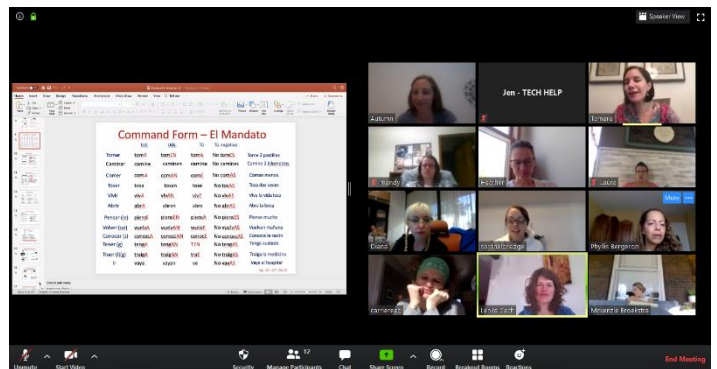
- ★ January 13, 2022: Reducing Stigma in Pregnant and Parenting Persons with Substance Use Disorders
- ★ January 27, 2022: Perinatal Substance Use Disorders: Increasing Awareness and Screening to Reduce Impact on the Maternal/Child Dyad
- ★ February 10, 2022: Perinatal Mental Health Awareness, Screening and Treatment

*To learn more about the CHAMPS 2022 Maternal Health Learning Collaborative, please visit the [CHAMPS Events and Trainings](#) webpage.*

## CHAMPS Spanish Language Trainings

Save the Dates for four CHAMPS Spanish Language Trainings for Health Care Professionals to be held online throughout April 2022 in partnership with Denver Medical Society (DMS), each providing Spanish language instruction from Ríos Associates for clinical staff at Region VIII health centers.

The traditional Medical Spanish Language Course for Beginner and Intermediate Speakers will be held over four half-days: Thursday, April 14, Friday, April 15, Thursday, April 21, and Friday, April 22, 2022. CHAMPS will also host three two-day courses. Spanish for Oral Health Providers will take place on Monday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 12, 2022, and is intended for dentists, dental hygienists, and other clinical dental personnel with beginner Spanish language skills. Spanish for Behavioral Health Providers will take place on Monday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 19, 2022, and targets psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health counselors, social workers, addiction counselors, and other behavioral health personnel with intermediate to advanced Spanish language skills. Finally, Medical Spanish for Advanced Spanish Speakers will take place on Monday, April 25 and Tuesday, April 26, 2022. The course is intended for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other clinical personnel with advanced Spanish language skills. Registration for all Spanish trainings will open in January 2022.



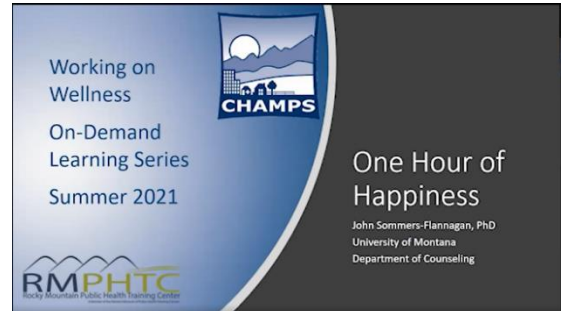
*For more information, please visit the [CHAMPS Events & Trainings](#) webpage.*



### Now Available: Working on Wellness On-Demand Learning Modules

CHAMPS is excited to announce the new [Working on Wellness \(WoW\) On-Demand Learning Modules](#). Designed in partnership with the [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) (RMPHTC), WoW provides Region VIII health center and Primary Care Association staff and practitioners with the opportunity to learn about wellness and resiliency on their own schedules. The pre-recorded videos highlight the knowledge of various experts on five topics:

- ★ [One Hour of Happiness: The Psychology of Happiness](#)
- ★ [The Science and Art of Meditation](#)
- ★ [Burnout and Well-Being: Regenerating YOUR Balance](#)
- ★ [The Inner Critic: Friend, Foe, or Neither?](#)
- ★ [Leveraging Neuroscience and Mindfulness to Maintain Well-Being in the Pandemic \(and Beyond\)](#)



Each module includes a video, presentation slides, and related resources provided by the speakers.

To view the online modules, visit the [WoW On-Demand Learning Modules](#) webpage.

#### MPCN Minute

Sign up for the [MPCN Minute](#), an e-bulletin for the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN), a program of CHAMPS. Recipients will receive the MPCN Minute once to twice a month with brief updates on upcoming events and quick overviews of useful tools and resources for a clinical and quality improvement audience.

## HEALTH EQUITY NEWS

Assisting Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations in pursuing health equity and addressing health disparities by affecting the social determinants of health in their communities. Learn more [here](#).

### CCHN/CHAMPS 2021 Health Equity Learning Series

In August 2021, CHAMPS partnered with the Colorado Community Health Network ([CCHN](#)) to host a second year of the Health Equity Learning Series. The three-part CCHN/CHAMPS 2021 Health Equity Learning Series built on the foundation of the 2020 Health Equity Learning Series and continued efforts to create a more equitable and just health system. The 2021 series included *It Starts with Us: The Journey of Dismantling Institutional Racism*, *Applying the Health Equity Lens: Serving Indigenous People*, and *Applying the Health Equity Lens: Weight Bias in Health Care*. All three events were recorded, and archives will be available to view until September 28, 2022.



To view the archived events visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

#### CHAMPS Region VIII Health Equity Digest

Sign up today for the [CHAMPS Region VIII Health Equity Digest](#)! This digest was designed to assist Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations in addressing health inequities. The digest focuses on health disparities, obstacles to health, social determinants of health, programs and resources to help close the gaps, and more. CHAMPS distributes this resource quarterly.



### 2022 Marketplace Open Enrollment Has Begun

The 2022 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OE9) began on November 1, 2021. For Federally Facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs), including Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, OE9 will run from November 1 through December 15, 2021. For Colorado, a State-Based Marketplace (SBM), Open Enrollment will run from November 1, 2021, through January 15, 2022. During Open Enrollment it is important to emphasize:

- ★ **Changes:** Plans and prices change every year, so it's important to check the options and see what's available, even if you have looked before, there might be a better deal than what you expected.
- ★ **Peace of Mind:** Comprehensive coverage and consumer protections have not changed. Plans offered at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) cover comprehensive benefits like preventative care, check-ups, prescriptions, hospitalizations, mental health care, and more. When shopping for a plan, you cannot be charged more based on your health status. When enrolling in an Affordable Care Act (ACA) plan, you will never be asked about your medical history. The only factors that influence the price of your plan are your geography, age, and whether you are a smoker.
- ★ **In-Person Support:** Health Centers are uniquely positioned to be at the forefront of helping clients to enroll in either SBMs or FFMs as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Health centers have years of experience in connecting people to affordable health care regardless of income.
- ★ **Special Circumstances:** Consumers who experience certain qualifying life events may be able to obtain Marketplace coverage outside of open enrollment through a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). People can apply for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at any time of year.

Information available on the CHAMPS [Outreach & Enrollment Tips & Tools](#), CHAMPS [Marketplace Outreach & Enrollment Resources](#), and CHAMPS [Post-Open Enrollment Resources](#) webpages are provided to assist health center staff with outreach and enrollment needs and help educate health center patients how to understand and utilize health insurance.

*For an overview of CHAMPS' O&E online resources, please download the [CHAMPS Outreach & Enrollment Online Resources](#) flyer.*

### A Coffee Break Webinar: Screening for Structural Vulnerability

*Submitted by Liam Spurgeon, Health Outreach Partners*

In this pre-recorded webinar, Health Outreach Partners (HOP) describes the importance of screening for structural vulnerability in order to provide patients with compassionate, comprehensive care that takes into consideration structural factors that impact health and wellbeing outside the clinic. During the event, HOP describes the Structural Vulnerability Checklist and how it can be used to screen for structural factors that can impact the effectiveness of care.



*To access the webinar, visit the [HOP Screening for Structural Vulnerability](#) webpage.*

### Region VIII Call to Action to Address Social Isolation & Telehealth Adoption for the Rural Elderly

*Submitted by Debra Scott, HRSA*

On Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 2:00 PM MT/3:00 PM CT, the HRSA Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs in Region 8 will partner with regional Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs and Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO) on a Call to Action for rural communities to reach out to their elderly population to promote telehealth adoption and address social isolation. In this webinar, university geriatric programs from around the region and QIOs will present resources and best practices that are currently available for rural/frontier communities. Presentations will include actions that can be taken to access these resources and engage with established programs to improve outcomes for older adults.

*For more information, contact CAPT [Debra Scott](#) and join the webinar [here](#).*

*Providing resources, data, and support to Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations to assist in the response to the ongoing Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. Learn more [here](#).*

### CHAMPS COVID-19 Resources

The CHAMPS [COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Resources](#) webpage contains a continually updated clearinghouse of information pertinent to health center staff, operations, and training related to COVID-19. The webpage also contains resources on the current clinical guidelines for [COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines](#).

*If you have questions about these materials or would like to share additional resources, contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Pandemic Response and Recovery](#).*

### Vaccine Mandate in Place for Health Care Workers

On November 4, 2021, the Biden Administration issued two emergency rules to provide further guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate announced in early September. One set of rules outlines the requirements for health care facilities while the second set outlines those for private employers with 100+ employees.

*For more information on the vaccine mandate's impact on health centers, visit the CHAMPS [COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Resources](#) webpage.*

### Emergency Authorization for Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine

In October 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for emergency use in children aged five to 11 years old. Following this authorization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended in early November that children five to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine.

*For up-to-date information on Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines, visit the CHAMPS [Pediatric Vaccine Resources](#) webpage.*

### Newly Pregnant? Get Vaccinated Immediately

*Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network*

Do you have a patient who is considering pregnancy or is newly pregnant? Check out the [Migrant Clinicians Network's new trifold](#) which gives basic information on vaccination and why expecting mothers should get vaccinated against COVID-19. The trifold also covers the benefits of vaccination, the risks for unvaccinated people, what to expect after vaccination, why it is now safe for mother and baby, and why it is so urgent for pregnant people to choose to get vaccinated. The downloadable, customizable flyer is available in both [English and Spanish](#).

*To learn more about MCN's resources, including its upcoming trifold on COVID and children, check them out on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

### Provider Strategies to Boost COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence

*Submitted by Kimberly Patton, HRSA*

The HRSA Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs in Region 8 is hosting a webinar on vaccine confidence, Thursday December 9, 2021. The purpose of the webinar is to enhance providers' ability to engage with, motivate, and promote COVID-19 vaccine confidence in their patients so more individuals can be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The webinar is designed for healthcare providers, provider organizations, and healthcare practices and will highlight principals to increase trust and acceptance of the vaccine, targeted communication, behavior change strategies, and managing misinformation.

*If you would like more information, please contact [Kim Patton](#).*

### HRSA: New Find a Health Center Video

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released a new video in October 2021 to draw attention to health centers and assist patients in locating a health center near them.

To access and share the video, please visit [Find a Health Center by HRSA tube](#).

### FY 2021 ARP-Capital Improvements Program



The FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Capital Improvements Program provides one-time funding for health centers looking to begin construction, expansion, alterations, or other capital improvements to enhance their health center. In September 2021, 1,292 health centers (including 53 from Region VIII) were granted a total of over \$950 million, which will work to strengthen the primary health care infrastructure while supporting health equity and outcomes in underserved and vulnerable communities.

For more information and to view awardees, visit the Health Resources and Services Administration's [FY 2021 American-Rescue Plan-Health Center Construction and Capital Improvements](#) webpage.

### BPHC REACH Program Update

The Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) has implemented an organizational update after receiving feedback from health centers and strategic partners. This update, titled BPHC REACH: Reaching for Excellence & Advancing Community Health, will reflect a new operational model including new functions to monitor program requirements, help health centers meet/exceed requirements, reduce efforts by staff and health centers, new program funding oversight, capital development oversight, and more. The goals of BPHC REACH are to assist health centers to become a "best place to work" and to comply with program requirements, to implement grants successfully, to create high-performing grantees, and to be recognized as leaders in primary health care.



For more information, visit the [BPHC REACH: Reaching for Excellence & Advancing Community Health](#) webpage.

### Draft Text Released: Build Back Better Act

At the end of October, draft text for the \$1.75 trillion framework for the Build Back Better (BBB) Act was released. Democratic House Leadership is now looking to vote on the BBB Act and bipartisan infrastructure bill in November. Benefits to the BBB Act include specific investments in combatting climate change, affordable housing, childcare, and more. Highlights from the bill that would benefit health centers include:

- ★ \$2 billion for health center capital
- ★ \$2 billion for the National Health Service Corps
- ★ \$500 million for Nurse Corps
- ★ Medicare Expansion to cover hearing benefits
- ★ Strengthening of Medicaid and ACA benefits, including ACA tax credits

To learn more about the BBB Act, visit The White House's [Build Back Better Framework](#).

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

### National Funding Opportunities

- ★ [Primary Care Training and Enhancement - Physician Assistant Rural Training](#) (12/09/2021)
  - ★ [Rural Veterans Health Access Program](#) (12/10/2021)
  - ★ [Rural Residency Planning & Development Program](#) (12/20/2021)
  - ★ [Health Center Controlled Networks \(HCCN\)](#) (01/04/2022)
- ★ [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation](#) (01/13/2022)
  - ★ [2022-2026 State Loan Repayment Program](#) (05/08/2022)

### Region VIII in the News

- ★ Axis Health System: [Two Western Slope Health Care Systems Announce Merger](#) (*The Durango Herald*, September 7)
- ★ Family HealthCare: [Family HealthCare Launches Mobile Clinic to Meet Patients 'Where They Are'](#) (*Inforum*, September 13)
- ★ Axis Health System: [Axis Health System Receives Grant Allowing It to Combine Locations, Add Pharmacy](#) (*The Durango Herald*, October 14)
- ★ Tepeyac Community Health: [Colorado Health Clinics Prepare to Offer Pfizer COVID Vaccines to Younger Children](#) (*CBS Denver*, October 14)
- ★ Community Health Partners: [Bozeman Community Development Brings Affordable Housing, Childcare Center and Medical Clinic](#) (*Montanarightnow.com*, October 21)
- ★ Tepeyac Community Health: [With Vaccination Rates Lower for Latino Community, Doctor Says Door-to-Door Campaigns Help Build Trust](#) (*KULR8.com*, October 24)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [Riverstone Health Providing In-Home Vaccine Service](#) (*KULR8*, October 24)
- ★ Alluvion Health: [Great Falls College MSU and Alluvion Health Hosting COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic](#) (*Great Falls Tribune*, October 25)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [Graf Named Montana School Nurse of the Year](#) (*Billings Gazette*, October 31)
- ★ Colorado Community Health Network: [Colorado Health Centers Win Grant to Bridge Employment Equity Gap](#) (*Public News Service*, November 1)
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic: [CDC Approves Pfizer Vaccine for Kids Ages 5-11. Summit County to Begin Vaccinations This Week](#) (*Summit Daily*, November 3)
- ★ Mountain Family Health Centers: [RFSC Discusses Vaccines and Bilingual Communities](#) (*The Sopris Sun*, November 3)
- ★ Mountain Family Health Centers: [Confidentiality in School-Based Health Centers](#) (*Post Independent*, November 5)
- ★ Peak Vista Community Health Centers: [Peak Vista's 'Breakfast of Champions' Return to Help Underserved Communities](#) (*KRDO*, November 8)
- ★ Salud Family Health Centers: [Business of the Week: Sterling Salud Family Health](#) (*South Platte Sentinel*, November 9)
- ★ Tepeyac Community Health Center: [COVID in Colorado: Tepeyac Community Health Center Goes Door-to-Door, Helps Keep Residents Safe](#) (*CBS Denver*, November 8)
- ★ Alluvion Health: [Alluvion Health Receiving Award to Support Vaccine Ambassador Project](#) (*KHQ*, November 10)

Stay up to date with all the latest news and CHAMPS offerings and resources through the CHAMPS [LinkedIn Company Page!](#)

The LinkedIn logo, consisting of the word "LinkedIn" in white text on a dark blue rectangular background.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November

#### **CHAMPS Awards Ceremony & Annual Board of Directors Meeting**

November 22, 2021  
9:00 AM MT | 10:00 AM CT

#### **National Nurse-Led Care Consortium Community Violence & Mental Health: Supporting Health Center Staff & Building Resilience Webinar**

November 29, 2021  
12:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM CT

#### **MPCA Train-The-Trainer: Living Your Best Life (With Diabetes)**

November 30, 2021  
8:00 AM MT | 9:00 AM CT

#### **Farmworker Justice Webinar: Farmworker Housing as a Social Determinant of Health**

November 30, 2021  
10:00 AM MT | 11:00 AM CT

### December

#### **National LGBTQIA+ Education Center Webinar: Preventing HIV with PrEP: New Opportunities and Stories from the Field**

December 1, 2021  
11:00 AM MT | 12:00 PM CT

#### **AAPCHO Webinar: Diabetes Prevention for Patients of Color at CHCs Webinar**

December 1, 2021  
12:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM CT

#### **Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates**

December 1, 2021  
1:00 PM MT | 2:00 PM CT

#### **CCHN Triannual**

December 9, 2021

#### **NCHPH Webinar: Impact of Health Literacy on Diabetes Mellitus**

December 9, 2021  
11:00 AM MT | 12:00 PM CT

#### **Newsletter Contributors:**

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### January

#### **CHAMPS 2022 Maternal Health Learning Collaborative**

January 13 & 27, 2022  
11:30 AM MT | 12:30 PM CT

#### **AUCH Triannual Membership Meeting**

January 20, 2022  
9:00 AM MT | 10:00 AM CT

#### **AUCH Webinar: Foundation of Solution Focused Brief Therapy**

January 22, 2022  
8:00 AM MT | 9:00 AM CT

#### **Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates**

January 25, 2022  
12:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM CT

#### **HRSA Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Health Equity Technical Assistance Symposium**

January 31 & February 1, 2022

### Looking Forward

#### **CHAMPS 2022 Maternal Health Learning Collaborative**

February 10, 2022  
11:30 AM MT | 12:30 PM CT

#### **NACHC 2022 Policy & Issues Forum**

February 12-17, 2022  
Washington, DC

#### **NCFH Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health**

March 28-30, 2022  
Austin, TX

#### **CHAMPS CORE Competencies Training for Health Center Supervisors and Managers**

April 27-May 25, 2022

#### **NACHC 2022 Conference for Agricultural Worker Health**

May 2-4, 2022  
Denver, CO

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