

www.CHAMPSonline.org

Winter 2018 Quarterly Newsletter

Published February 2018

Don't Miss These 2018 CHAMPS Trainings!

CHAMPS will offer a variety of face-to-face and distance trainings for Region VIII health centers in the coming months. More information about these valuable learning opportunities can be found in the list below, throughout this newsletter, and on the CHAMPS website, www.CHAMPSonline.org.

- ★ Register today for the four remaining webcasts in the CHAMPS/CCHN **Team-Based Care Series** (see page 4).
- ★ Don't miss the popular annual CHAMPS **Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals** April 20-23, 2018 in Denver, CO (see page 6).
- ★ Join CHAMPS for the **CORE Competency Training for New CHC Supervisors and Managers** course April 24-25, 2018 in Golden, CO (see page 4).
- ★ This year's CHAMPS/NWRPCA **Annual Primary Care Conference**, October 20-23, 2018 in Denver, CO will offer a range of sessions for professional development and discussion. Visit the CHAMPS [Annual Conference](#) webpage for more details as they become available.
- ★ More information coming soon about **upcoming trainings** on the following topics: 2018 Region VIII HC Salary Survey, UDS reporting on agricultural workers, resiliency and change for HC leaders, recruiting oral and behavioral health providers, veterans affinity groups, and more!

Thank You CHAMPS Members!

CHAMPS would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the 57 Region VIII health centers and State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) who supported CHAMPS through organizational membership in 2017-2018.

Organizational members are what make CHAMPS' quality programs and services possible. Throughout this issue you will find articles with information about the offerings CHAMPS provided to Region VIII last year (see "Membership Year in Review," page 2), and about upcoming programs in 2018.

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CHAMPS Membership Year in Review

Between April 2017 and March 2018, CHAMPS...

Offered face-to-face and remote **Learning Opportunities** to more than 750 participants who earned over 2,200 hours of continuing education credit at:

- ★ The [Annual Primary Care Conference](#), with 60 sessions and nine networking events
- ★ 10+ [Live Distance Learning Events](#)
- ★ Three [ECHO Learning Communities](#)
- ★ [Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals](#)

Provided professional, administrative, and educational support to clinicians through the **Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN)**:

- ★ [MPCN Steering Committee](#)
 - ★ [Clinicians Listserv](#)
- ★ [Project ECHO Learning Communities](#)
 - ★ New [DynaMed Plus Preferred Pricing Program](#)

Addressed workforce needs through promotion of **Health Center Career Opportunities** and collaboration with regional and national partners:

- ★ Nearly 400 positions advertised via the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#)
 - ★ Over 600 job seekers received monthly [JOB Highlights emails](#)
- ★ [Education Health Center Initiative](#)
 - ★ [Employment Screening Preferred Pricing Program](#)
- ★ [New Sample Job Descriptions](#)

Supported **Outreach & Enrollment (O&E)** and **Special Populations** efforts through resources, trainings, and communications:

- ★ [O&E](#) and [Special Populations](#) online resources updated regularly with the newest trainings, toolkits, outreach materials, etc.
 - ★ Four new and archived [Distance Learning Events](#)
- ★ Regular updates to PCA and health center staff via [social media](#) and the [O&E](#) and [Special Populations](#) email listservs
- ★ New [O&E Digest Online Archive](#)
- ★ New [Health Center for the Homeless Grantee Collaborative](#)

Maintained and enhanced the **CHAMPS website**, www.CHAMPSonline.org, which remains a vital resource for staff and board members of Region VIII health centers:

- ★ New [Offsetting Patient Costs](#) webpage
 - ★ New [Colorectal Cancer Screening](#) webpage
- ★ New webpages on CHC Board [Corporate Compliance](#) and [Conflicts of Interest/Standards of Conduct](#)
- ★ New [Immigration Resources](#) webpage (Members Only)
- ★ Overhauled [CHC Advantages](#) webpage

Published **Region-Wide Data, Trends, and Contacts** to assist with future planning and to facilitate sharing of best practices:

- ★ [CHAMPS Quarterly Newsletters](#)
- ★ [Region VIII Health Center Directory](#)
- ★ [Region VIII CHC Annual Measure of Finance, Operations, and Productivity](#)
 - ★ [Region VIII Data Summaries](#)
 - ★ [Region VIII BPHC UDS Summaries](#)
- ★ [Region VIII JOB Comparison Report](#)
- ★ [Region VIII CHC T/TA Needs Assessment](#)

The 2018-2019 CHAMPS Membership Year begins April 1, 2018. Membership requests will be sent in late March. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Health Center Needs Assessment Results Guide CHAMPS Planning

In early January 2018, CHAMPS and Region VIII's State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) distributed the **2018 Region VIII Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment** to leadership staff at the region's 65 health centers. Over 230 people from 92% of the region's health centers responded, providing information about their organizations' T/TA needs.

Participants' top ranked challenges/concerns were:

- ★ Meeting Patient Targets/Projections
- ★ Staff Retention
- ★ Billing/Coding Issues
- ★ Recruitment of Providers
- ★ Clinic Operations

Participants also ranked their need for T/TA relating to topics in the areas of Access to Care, Operational Excellence, and Health Outcomes and Health Equity.

The top 10 ranked topics for Region VIII were:

1. Preparing for Payment Reform
2. Burnout Prevention
3. Role of Health Centers in Alternative Payment Models (APMs)
4. Support Staff Professional Development Series
5. Care Coordination Billing
6. Staff Engagement/Satisfaction
7. Aligning APM Outcome Metrics
8. Building Value-Based Care Competencies
9. Improving Care Delivery through APMs
10. Leveraging APMs for Funding Non-Medical Services



CHAMPS and each Region VIII SPCA will use these results, as well as more in-depth analysis of various topics, to update current programs and services, identify new areas for T/TA, and guide short-term and long-term planning in support of successful health centers.

Questions? Contact Andrea Martin, CHAMPS Workforce Development & Member Services Director, at Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org or 303-867-9581.

View NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Conference Session Recordings



Video recordings of many sessions held during the 2017 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Primary Care Conference, which took place October 21-24, 2017 in Seattle, WA, are now available to conference participants via [NWRPCA's Learning Vault](#) (login required).

To learn more about this conference, please visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

To read directions for accessing recordings in the Learning Vault, please [click here](#).

Don't forget about these online CHAMPS resources!

The CHAMPS website, www.CHAMPSonline.org, serves Region VIII health centers and PCAs by providing educational resources and training opportunities, supporting a strong workforce, enhancing clinical quality, promoting collaboration, and disseminating information. Visit today to learn more:

- ★ **About Us**
- ★ **Events & Trainings**
- ★ **Tools & Products**
- ★ **Job Opportunities Bank**
- ★ **Links**
- ★ **Contact Us**
- ★ **Site Map**
- ★ **Members Only**

Want to be the first to know about new CHAMPS resources?

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay updated on all the latest CHAMPS offerings!

CHAMPS thanks the more than 200 individuals who evaluated the CHAMPS website in late 2017!

Your input is being used to improve CHAMPS resources and design future additions to the site.

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](#).

CHAMPS 2018 CORE Competency Training for New CHC Supervisors and Managers

Join CHAMPS April 24-25, 2018 in Golden, CO for this two-day course for new supervisors and managers at community health centers. Lead trainer Lisa Mouscher of Sogence Training and Consulting will provide intensive, hands-on, and immediately applicable skill-building to help participants successfully navigate management and supervisory roles in the fast-paced health center environment. Designed for health center supervisors and managers who have been in their positions for 18 months or less, this training will offer a balance of face-to-face, virtual, group, and one-on-one educational and networking components. The course fee is \$600 for members of CHAMPS, Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH), Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), and/or Wyoming Primary Care Association (WYPCA) and \$800 for non-members.

To learn more about and to register for this training, visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Visit the [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) webpage to determine if your organization is a current CHAMPS member.

This training is supported by:



CHAMPS/CCHN Team-Based Care Distance Learning Series

This five-part webcast series brings together locally and nationally recognized experts focusing on the specific skills that clinical support staff, providers, and others need to be effective in implementing team-based care and health equity-focused initiatives. These events are tailored to health center clinical teams and support staff, although staff from all areas are welcome. Registration is separate for each individual event; space is limited, so individuals from the same organization are encouraged to share a computer. Please visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage to learn more about and to register.

The four remaining live events in this series take place on Wednesdays at 12:00PM MT / 1:00PM CT:

1. February 21, 2018: Strategies for Maximizing the Team
2. March 14, 2018: Effective Team Communication with the Patient in Mind
3. April 18, 2018: Integrating Motivational Interviewing into Clinic Workflows
4. May 23, 2018: Sustaining Team-Based Care

To view the archive of the first webcast, *Understanding and Implementing Foundations of Team-Based Care*, which occurred on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, please [click here](#).



NCA Supports Health Centers' Clinical Workforce Pipeline Development

Submitted by Anna Rogers, NCA for Clinical Workforce Pipeline Development

Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI) and its Weitzman Institute are the National Cooperative Agreement (NCA) for Clinical Workforce Pipeline Development, addressing the most fundamental need of health centers now and for the coming decades: a clinically expert, deeply committed staff representing all roles and disciplines in primary care that is trained to a high-performance model of team-based care. This NCA provides training and technical assistance to health centers establishing postgraduate Nurse Practitioner or postdoctoral Clinical Psychology residency programs, engaging and hosting health professions students from academic partners, and/or implementing or advancing models of team-based care. Through webinars, learning collaboratives, in-person trainings, and one-on-one virtual support, the NCA for Clinical Workforce Pipeline Development is prepared to help health centers in Region VIII and across the nation.

Learn more at www.chc1.com/nca, or contact NCA@chc1.com to set up a virtual consultation.

Continuing Education on Your Schedule...

Live Distance Learning Events are recorded to give health center staff extra opportunities to enhance professional development, gain clinical knowledge, and learn workforce strategies. Current offerings include:

- ★ **2016 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data**
- ★ **2017 Immunization Update**
- ★ **Building an Effective Physician Recruitment Strategy**
- ★ **From PINs to Procedures: Ensuring Credentialing and Privileging Practices are Operational Site Visit Ready**
- ★ **Institutional Strategies for Promoting Resilience and Reducing Burnout**
- ★ **Staff Retention through Workplace Wellness**
- ★ **Understanding and Implementing Foundations of Team-Based Care**



Visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details. See page 7 for information about archived CHAMPS Outreach & Enrollment Distance Learning Events.

Are you a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse?

The **NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program**

is accepting applications through **March 8!**

[Click here](#) to learn more and apply today!

Do you know about A.T. Still University's **Hometown Scholars Program?**

Health centers leaders can identify and advocate for young people in their home communities, helping them become the dedicated, motivated, and qualified health center clinicians of the future.

[Click here](#) to learn more!

Don't forget about the **Education Health Center Initiative** (EHCI), a collaboration between CHAMPS and the Northwest Regional

Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) that provides consulting services, educational materials, and information about developing relationships between health centers and residency programs.

[Click here](#) to learn more!

2018 is a data collection year for the **Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey project!**

CHAMPS has been working with an advisory committee of Region VIII health center and PCA staff to fine-tune the project, and data collection will begin in April. Watch for more information coming soon, and contact Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org with questions.

Introducing STAR² Center Self-Paced Online Courses

Submitted by Mariah Blake, STAR² Center

The STAR² Center recently launched [self-paced online courses!](#) These interactive courses are the latest addition to the growing variety of STAR² Center resources and training opportunities for health center workforce teams looking to enhance their recruitment and retention efforts. The STAR² Center Online Courses site [can be accessed here](#). The newly released pilot courses include "Advertising and Sourcing Candidates" and "Screening and Interviewing Candidates." These courses were designed to include "101"-level information on pieces of the recruitment process and take approximately 30 minutes to complete. [Click here](#) to access a brief overview of how to access and register to complete these courses; please reach out to Mariah Blake at mblake@clinicians.org with any questions.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

JOB Data Comparison Report Highlights Recruitment Trends

The online CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB) is a free resource where health centers and PCAs in Region VIII can advertise open positions. Each February CHAMPS creates a report comparing two years of annual data relating to these posts, illustrating recruitment efforts and trends throughout the region including types of openings, average recruitment lengths, and successful recruitment resources. Highlights for the most recent year of data (February 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018) include:

- ★ 36 different Region VIII health centers advertised 391 job opportunities.
- ★ There was an 8.9% increase in clinical dental positions and a 1.6% increase in clinical medical positions as compared to the previous year.
- ★ Of the filled positions, the longest average recruitment length was for clinical medical positions (13.9 months).
- ★ The top four recruitment resources were online listings, internal hiring, employee referrals, and hiring of former employees, interns, and/or students.

[Click here](#) to download the Region VIII JOB Opportunities Bank (JOB) Data Comparison Report.

To post an opening in the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank, contact Rachel Steinberg, CHAMPS Programs & Communications Coordinator, at Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org.

MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians that practice in Region VIII health centers to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of care to poor and underserved populations. Learn more [here](#).

CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals

Register today for the annual CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals, to be held April 20-23, 2018 in Denver, CO. This popular event, offered in partnership with Denver Medical Society (DMS), provides medical Spanish language training for clinicians and clinical support staff at Region VIII health centers. The four-day course is an intensive and conversational Spanish workshop consisting of medical dialogues, roleplays, visual aids, cross-cultural discussions, and daily practice. Participants will experience an immersion learning curriculum, an approach that is highly suitable for those with limited time and who must use their new language skills immediately with their Spanish-speaking patients.



Beginner and intermediate skill levels will be offered, with separate classes for each level. The cost of the course is \$649 per person for CHAMPS and DMS member organizations, \$799 for non-members, and includes Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. Register early, as space is limited!

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

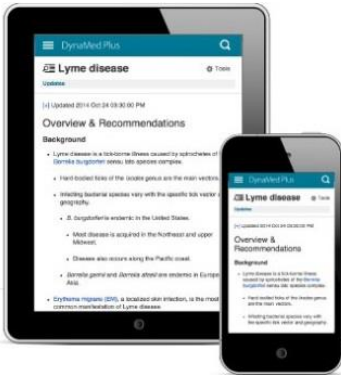
Visit the [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) webpage to see if your organization is a current member.

February is National School Based Health Care Awareness Month and Children's Dental Health Month!

Have you seen these child and adolescent health resources?

- ★ School-Based Health Alliance – [National SBHCA Month Resources](#)
- ★ American Dental Association – [Children's Dental Health Month Resources](#)
- ★ [Adolescent Health Initiative](#) – Contact AHI Director [Lauren Renalli](#) for more information.

DynaMed Plus Preferred Pricing Program Enrollment Ends 2/28!



CHAMPS is pleased to offer a new Preferred Pricing Program (PPP) for DynaMed Plus, a clinical decision support tool to provide clinicians with evidence-based, peer-reviewed information via both computers and mobile devices. DynaMed Plus can also be integrated into health center EHR systems at no additional cost. Subscribers will receive access to DynaMed Plus through July 31, 2018 at a cost of \$185 per provider from CHAMPS organizational member health centers; for non-members from Region VIII health centers the cost is \$235 per provider. The final enrollment deadline for the CHAMPS DynaMed Plus PPP is February 28, 2018.

To learn more, visit the CHAMPS [DynaMed Plus PPP](#) webpage, or view this 25-minute [video introduction](#) on the features of DynaMed Plus.

Health centers may purchase subscriptions for any or all of their providers by contacting Jen Anderson, CHAMPS Clinical Quality Improvement Director, at Jen@CHAMPSonline.org.

Take Action Against the Flu!

This flu season has been especially harsh for many communities.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [2017-2018 Flu Season](#) webpage to access news updates, tools for providers and patients, and other helpful information.

New CHAMPS Offsetting Patient Costs Webpage

The CHAMPS [Offsetting Patient Costs Resources](#) webpage is designed to help health center patients identify ways to afford the preventative care and treatment they need. This diverse compilation includes condition-specific resources for diseases from breast cancer to hypertension, as well as resources for medical device assistance and prescription assistance. A selection of social determinants of health-related resources have also been included to help patients and health center staff identify programs for food assistance, energy assistance, low-cost exercise, and more.



If you utilize a resource that is not included on this webpage, please contact Jen Anderson, CHAMPS Clinical Quality Improvement Director, at Jen@CHAMPSonline.org.

OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT NEWS

Assisting health centers and Primary Care Associations with outreach and enrollment efforts to increase patients accessing care at health centers across Region VIII. Learn more [here](#).

Continuing Education on Your Schedule...

For the past four summers CHAMPS has partnered with Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) to offer webcasts about outreach and enrollment. Many of these events are archived on the CHAMPS YouTube channel to allow for ongoing learning on topics including:



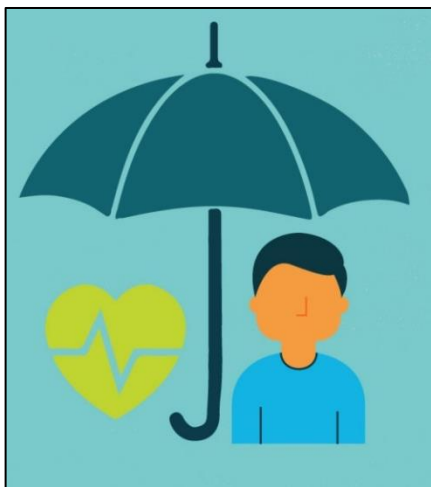
- ★ A Guide to Storytelling: Unleashing the Power of Personal Narrative
- ★ Leveraging O&E Assistants in Community Health Centers
- ★ Strengthening Your Compassion Resiliency Toolkit
- ★ Preparing for Open Enrollment 5: Addressing Changes in the Marketplace

For more information, visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

See page 5 for information about other archived CHAMPS webcasts.

OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Open Enrollment Has Ended – Now What?



Region VIII's Open Enrollment Five (OE5) officially concluded on Friday, January 12, when Colorado's State-Based Marketplace's Open Enrollment Period ended (Federally-Facilitated Marketplaces' OE5 ended December 15, 2017). Assisters, including Certified Application Counselors, Enrollment Specialists, Navigators, etc., will now shift their focus to Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs). An SEP is an opportunity for consumers to enroll in Marketplace coverage outside of the yearly Open Enrollment Period (OEP) due to certain life events, including losing health care coverage, moving, getting married, having a baby, or adopting a child. In general, consumers who qualify for an SEP have up to 60 days following a qualifying life event to enroll in a plan. Those that miss this window must wait until the next OEP to apply for health care coverage. However, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) are open for enrollment all year, without SEP restrictions.

For more information about SEPs, visit www.healthcare.gov (MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY) or <http://connectforhealthco.com> (CO).

For additional Outreach & Enrollment information, see CHAMPS' [Post-Open Enrollment Resources](#).

2018 Tax Season Has Begun – Are Your Assisters Prepared?

The 2018 Tax Filing Season began on Monday, January 29 and will end Tuesday, April 17. With the passage of tax reform legislation in December 2017, many consumers are uncertain about healthcare coverage requirements, potential penalties for lack of coverage, and how to prove healthcare coverage status. Here are some helpful tips for assisters as they help consumers through this year's tax season:

- ★ Refer consumers to their local [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance](#) (VITA) program, as assisters are not permitted to help consumers file their taxes.
- ★ Help consumers understand Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1095-A, which contains information about 2017 health coverage for any member of a consumers' household; this form comes from the Marketplace via mail and is also uploaded to consumers' Marketplace accounts. Form 1095-A helps consumers reconcile their Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTCs) via Form 8962, which ensures that consumers received the right amount of APTCs for a given plan year.
- ★ Remind consumers that the December 2017 tax bill repeals the penalty for not having health insurance starting in 2019. It is important that assisters educate consumers that they must still prove coverage in 2017 and maintain coverage in 2018, as the penalty for not having 12 months of healthcare coverage remains in place until 2019 for individuals who are not exempt.

For more information visit the [IRS](#) and CHAMPS [Tax Filing Resource](#) webpages, or [In the Loop's](#) article on the Individual Mandate (login required).

CMS Guidance: Opportunities to Promote Work and Community Engagement Among Medicaid Beneficiaries

On Thursday, January 11, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [released new guidance](#) "announcing a new policy designed to assist states in their efforts to improve Medicaid enrollee health and well-being through incentivizing work and community engagement among non-elderly, non-pregnant adult Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicaid on a basis other than disability."

Several organizations have published articles on the potential results of this policy, including:

- ★ [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](#)
- ★ [The New York Times](#)
- ★ [Urban Institute](#)

SPECIAL & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS NEWS

Increasing the ability of Region VIII health centers to effectively serve populations with limited access to health care by increasing knowledge and enhancing collaborations. Learn more [here](#).

New Region VIII Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative

In August 2017, CHAMPS hosted the first Region VIII Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Grantee Collaborative video conferencing call. This quarterly Collaborative is designed to facilitate discussion and partnership-building among Region VIII HCH grantees and Primary Care Association special population leads with subject matter experts from Region VIII and across the nation. The Collaborative acts as a platform for Region VIII HCH grantees to share best practices, discuss challenges, hear from experts in their field, and identify desired training/technical assistance needs; meeting topics and direction are determined by session participants with CHAMPS support in implementation.



Interested in participating? Please contact Valerie Steinmetz, CHAMPS Programs/Outreach & Enrollment Coordinator, at Valerie@CHAMPSonline.org.

Paper Identifies Policy Opportunities for Advancing Rural Health



In January 2018 the Rural Policy Research Institute published a report titled *Taking Stock: Policy Opportunities for Advancing Rural Health*, which outlines seven areas that have implications for rural people and the rural health care delivery system: Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, insurance Coverage and Affordability, Quality, Health Care Finance and System Transformation, Workforce, and Population Health. The paper examines the progress of health system transformations – including those implemented by the Affordable Care Act, state governments, and insurance providers – and the impact the remaining gaps have on rural people and rural health care delivery systems.

To access this report, please visit the [Rural Policy Research Institute](#) website.

New Agricultural Worker Identification Educational & Training Video

The National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) recently released a five-minute digital story to help health center patients understand why staff ask them questions specific to their agricultural worker status. This digital story is meant to be played in health center waiting rooms, at agricultural worker outreach events, and/or as a health center staff training tool.



To view this digital story on YouTube, [click here](#).

To download this digital story, please visit the [NCFH Dropbox](#).

Updated Federal Poverty Guidelines



Each year the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issues new poverty guidelines – sometimes referred to as the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – which are used for administrative purposes such as determining eligibility for certain federal programs. Updated poverty guidelines took effect as of January 13, 2018. It is important to note that the poverty guidelines differ from the more complex poverty thresholds, which are also issued annually by the Census Bureau and are primarily used for statistical purposes. The January 2018 poverty guidelines are calculated by adapting the 2016 Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds to adjust for price changes between 2016 and 2017 using the Consumer Price Index. The poverty guidelines also rely on formulas that adjust the data to allow for standardized increments among family sizes.

To access the updated 2018 Poverty Guidelines, please visit the HHS [Poverty Guidelines](#) webpage.

For more information about the difference between poverty guidelines and poverty thresholds, visit the HHS [Frequently Asked Questions Related to the Poverty Guidelines](#) webpage.

Uniform Data System Reminders & Updates

February 15, 2018 was the last day health centers were able to submit Uniform Data System (UDS) reports for calendar year 2017. UDS reviewers will work with health center staff to finalize data submissions between now and March 31, which is the last day to make changes to UDS reports.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has also approved changes to the UDS for calendar year 2018. Program Assistance Letter (PAL) 2017-08 highlights these updates, which will be used by Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes for reporting data starting January 1, 2019. Changes include updates to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) electronic-specified clinical quality measures, the removal of the redundant Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) measure, an expanded telehealth question, and updates to the Medication-Assistant Treatment (MAT) and Meaningful Use questions. Additional details will soon be available via the 2018 UDS Manual.

To read about the 2018 UDS updates, access [PAL 2017-08](#).

To view annual UDS summaries for Region VIII health centers, please visit the CHAMPS [Publications](#) webpage.



Payment Reform Readiness Assessment Tool



The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and John Snow, Inc. (JSI) are working together to update the [Payment Reform Readiness Assessment Tool](#) and [online submission form](#). The purpose of this effort is to ensure that both materials reflect current and emerging trends in payment reform efforts, and to enhance these resources by linking users to tools that can help them address their findings. NACHC and JSI are seeking user input as they update these materials; participants will be asked to take two to four hours to review the current assessment tool and online submission form, respond to five to seven questions, and participate in a one-hour discussion with other reviewers to brainstorm improvement ideas and suggest other relevant resources.

If you are interested in providing input, please click [here](#) to sign up for a focus group time slot.

Please contact the [NACHC team](#) with any questions or for more information.

Region VIII in the News

- ★ **RiverStone Health:** [Take a Sneak Peek at RiverStone Health's New Clinic](#) (*Billings Gazette*, January 12)
- ★ **Coal Country Community Health Centers:** [New North Dakota Facility Integrates Critical Access Needs, Community Health Services](#) (*Medical Construction and Design*, January 12)
- ★ **Midtown Community Health Center:** [Help Build a Healthy, Vital Community: Support the Teddy Bear Den](#) (*Standard-Examiner*, January 11)
- ★ **Salud Family Health Centers:** [More Health Care Resources Coming to Trinidad](#) (*9News*, January 9)
- ★ **Horizon Health Care:** [ACS Grant Helps Patients Access Diagnostic Colonoscopies](#) (*Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*, January 7)
- ★ **Wyoming Primary Care Association:** [Wellness on Wheels Offers Full Menu of Services](#) (*Lovell Chronicle*, January 4)

Health Center Program Receives Two Years of Funding



In the early hours of Friday, February 9, 2018 Congress passed legislation to fix the Health Center Funding Cliff. The bill provided two years of extended funding, including \$600 million additional dollars to support health center operations and address unmet needs. The National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Centers Program also received two years of additional funding. Thank you to

all the health center advocates – including health center and Primary Care Association staff, leadership, and board members – who fought hard for this long-awaited victory. (Pictured above: CHAMPS staff wear red for the National Day of Demonstration on Tuesday, February 6, 2018.)

Subscribe Today to the HRSA Primary Health Care Digest!

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Primary Health Care Digest emails provide important weekly updates specifically for Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes, as well as partner organizations like Primary Care Associations, National Cooperative Agreements, and Health Center Controlled Networks. Stay up to date on everything from new compliance manuals and UDS reporting deadlines to all-programs webcasts and training and technical assistance opportunities.



Visit the Bureau of Primary Health Care [Email Subscription](#) webpage to sign up to receive this digest.

Funding Opportunities

- ★ [Research on PrEP to Prevent HIV in Health Disparity Populations Grant](#) (due February 28)
- ★ [Rural PREP Microresearch Funding](#) (due March 1)
- ★ [Integration of HIV-Related Mental Health and Primary Care Grant](#) (due March 5)
- ★ [Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness and Mental Health Disorders Program](#) (due March 5)
- ★ [Rural Health Clinic Policy and Assessment Program](#) (due March 16)
- ★ [Adolescent and Young Adult Health National Capacity Building Program](#) (due March 27)
- ★ [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Health Leaders Programs](#) (due February-March, depending on discipline)
- ★ [Health Workforce Research Center Cooperative Agreement Program](#) (due April 12)
- ★ [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program](#) (due April 17)
- ★ [School-Based Health Center Capital Program](#) (due April 17)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

[National Association of Community Health Centers \(NACHC\) Policy & Issues Forum](#)

March 13-18
Washington, D.C.

[CHAMPS/Colorado Community Health Network \(CCHN\) Team-Based Care Webcast #3: Effective Team Communication with the Patient in Mind](#)

March 14
12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT

[Wyoming Primary Care Association \(WYPCA\) Retaining Talent in an Employee-Driven Market Webcast](#)

March 21
12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT

April

[CHAMPS/CCHN Team-Based Care Webcast #4: Integrating Motivational Interviewing into Clinic Workflows](#)

April 18
12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT

[Montana Primary Care Association \(MPCA\) Annual Meeting](#)

April 18
Fairmont, MT

[CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals](#)

April 20-23
Denver, CO

[CHAMPS CORE Competency Training for New Health Center Supervisors and Managers](#)

April 24-25
Golden, CO

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May

[Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas \(CHAD\) Annual Members Conference](#)

May 1-2
West Fargo, ND

[Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#)

May 1-3
San Antonio, TX

[National Health Care for the Homeless Conference](#)

May 15-18
Minneapolis, MN

[Wyoming Primary Care Association \(WYPCA\) Rural Health Conference](#)

May 16-17
Casper, WY

[Association for Utah Community Health \(AUCH\) Annual Primary Care Conference](#)

May 17-18
West Valley City, UT

[CHAMPS/CCHN Team-Based Care Webcast #5: Sustaining Team-Based Care](#)

May 23
12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT

[CHAMPS Healthcare for the Homeless Grantee Collaborative Video Conferencing Call](#)

May 23
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

[HRSA Healthy Grants Workshop](#)

May 30-31
Rockville, MD

Looking Ahead...

[National School-Based Health Care Convention](#)

June 24-27
Indianapolis, IN

[Healthy Aging Summit](#)

July 16-17
Washington, D.C.

[Association of Clinicians for the Underserved \(ACU\) Annual Conference](#)

July 29-August 1
Washington, D.C.

[CHAMPS/Northwest Regional Primary Care Association \(NWRPCA\) Annual Primary Care Conference](#)

October 20-23
Denver, CO

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Please contact Rachel Steinberg at Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org with questions or comments about the CHAMPS newsletter, to sign up to receive the newsletter, to change your subscription email address, or to submit articles for publication.

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