

Spring 2020 Quarterly Newsletter

Published May 2020

CHAMPS Coronavirus Response

Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) sincerely thanks our Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) health centers and Primary Care Association (PCA) partners for the tremendous, courageous, and inspiring work you are doing to care for your communities. CHAMPS wants to ensure you have the resources you need to serve your patients and communities during this difficult time; please do not hesitate to [Contact Us](#) if we can be of assistance.

CHAMPS has been working diligently to support Region VIII health centers and PCAs during the current novel coronavirus outbreak, striving to optimize learning and promote public health by providing online resources, targeted trainings, region-specific data, and more. For example:

- ★ CHAMPS has released a robust webpage of **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resources** (see page 2).
- ★ CHAMPS has also published a new webpage of **Resiliency Resources** (see page 4).
- ★ The CHAMPS **CORE Competencies for First-Time CHC Supervisors and Managers** and **Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals** trainings were held virtually and content was updated to address the pandemic (see pages 6 and 8).
- ★ CHAMPS is hosting a new Resiliency Learning Community in May, **Building Resiliency Skills: Walking Together Towards Healing in a Time of Collective Loss** (see page 7).
- ★ The CHAMPS **Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity in Primary Care** Project ECHO Learning Community Series in May/June will include considerations for the pandemic (see page 7).
- ★ The CHAMPS **Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening** Learning Community series held in March was adjusted to address coronavirus and recordings are available (see page 8).
- ★ CHAMPS recently hosted **Pandemic Lessons Learned**, a call with New York health center Chief Medical Officers to discuss their experiences (see page 9).
- ★ CHAMPS compiles Region VIII results from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) **Weekly COVID-19 Health Center Survey** (see page 11).

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Meet the New CHAMPS Coordinator

CHAMPS is pleased to welcome new staff member **Ashley Hussein** (pictured at right). Ashley joined the CHAMPS team as the Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications in March. She is responsible for facilitating communications between CHAMPS and Region VIII health centers, supporting health center workforce recruitment and retention efforts, planning distance learning events, promoting the organization through the CHAMPS website and LinkedIn page, and tracking Region VIII Health Center weekly COVID-19 survey responses. To contact Ashley about CHAMPS' communications or workforce activities, please email Ashley@CHAMPSonline.org.



New Webpage: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resources

CHAMPS published a new resource in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. The [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) webpage contains a carefully curated clearinghouse of resources pertinent to health center staff. It provides a wealth of information about operations and training, as well as resources that address and promote mental, physical, financial, and familial wellness during and beyond this pandemic.

Please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#) if you have any questions about these materials or would like to share any other useful resources.

CHAMPS 2020-2021 Membership

CHAMPS sincerely thanks the health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) that have recently become **2020-2021 CHAMPS Organizational Members**. The CHAMPS membership year corresponds with our fiscal year, April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021. In honor of CHAMPS' 35 years of service to Region VIII, a 35% discount on CHAMPS Organizational Membership Dues is being offered if dues are paid before June 1, 2020.

The benefits of CHAMPS Organizational Membership include:

- ★ Two seats on the **CHAMPS Board of Directors**.
- ★ Free access to all CHAMPS live and archived **webcasts, teleconferences, podcasts, Project ECHO Learning Communities, Communities of Practice, etc.** developed in 2020-2021.
- ★ Two free copies of the 2020-2021 **CHAMPS Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Reports** and electronic access to the **2020 CHAMPS Staffing and Productivity Expectation Reports**.
- ★ Option to join the **CHAMPS Employee Screening Preferred Pricing Program (PPP)**.
- ★ Option to participate in the **CHAMPS/CliftonLarsonAllen Financial Benchmarking Project**.
- ★ Discounted registration fees for **CHAMPS-sponsored intensive trainings**, including Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals and Supervisor/Manager Trainings.
- ★ Discounted registration plus opportunities for registration and clinical travel reimbursement for the **CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference**.
- ★ Access to the **Members Only section** of the CHAMPS website, including a searchable Region VIII health center directory and printable CHAMPS salary survey reports.
- ★ Direct advertising of new **CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)** posts to job seekers.

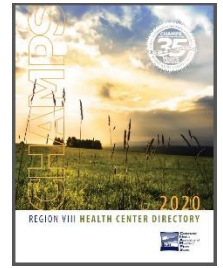
2019-2020 Organizational Members enjoy a 60-day grace period in the new membership year. Member benefits for 2019-2020 members that have not paid 2020-2021 dues will expire on June 1, 2020.

*Visit the [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) webpage for a list of current members.
Questions about membership?*

Contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

Now Available: 2020 Region VIII Health Center Directory

The 2020 Region VIII Health Center Directory provides details about all Region VIII Community, Homeless, and Migrant Health Centers, including contact information for each organization's main ("administrative") and satellite sites as well as for the executive, administrative, and clinical staff working at those sites. Hard copies of the directory were recently mailed to CHAMPS Organizational Members as well as to non-member organizations that provided updates to their contact information. CHAMPS board members may download a PDF version of the 2020 directory, and also have access to an online version that is searchable by state, organization name, staff name, and more; these features are available in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website.



If you have any questions regarding the directory, please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

CHAMPS 35th Anniversary Timeline

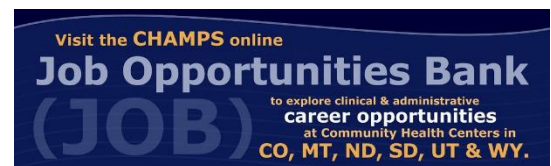
CHAMPS is celebrating our 35th Anniversary throughout 2020, and we invite you to explore the [Celebrating 35 Years of Service to Region VIII](#) webpage to learn more about CHAMPS history, leadership, and membership. Visit the full interactive [CHAMPS Timeline](#) for CHAMPS and Region VIII Health Center accomplishments over the past 35 years.

CHAMPS timeline highlights include:

- ★ 1985: CHAMPS Founded
- ★ 1988: First Spanish Language for Medical Professionals Training
- ★ 1990: Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Established
- ★ 1992: First Region VIII Clinicians Directory
- ★ 1997: First Website
- ★ 1997: First Joint CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Conference
- ★ 2003: Workforce Development Program Established
- ★ 2004: Region VIII Job Opportunities Bank (JOB) Launched
- ★ 2004: First Webcast
- ★ 2004: First Region VIII Recruitment & Retention Survey
- ★ 2004: First Quarterly Newsletter
- ★ 2005: First Region VIII Health Center Directory
- ★ 2005: First Region VIII Health Center Salary Survey Report
- ★ 2007: Clinicians Listserv Launched
- ★ 2007: First Annual Immunization Update Training
- ★ 2007: Educational Health Center Initiative (EHCI) Founded
- ★ 2011: Education Health Center Toolkit Released
- ★ 2012: First Region VIII/Region X Mid-Level Managers Training
- ★ 2012: LinkedIn Company Page Launched
- ★ 2013: First Region VIII CORE Competencies Training
- ★ 2013: First Region VIII Annual Measure of Finance, Operations, and Productivity (AMFOP)
- ★ 2013: Outreach & Enrollment Program Established
- ★ 2014: Region 18 Logo Launched
- ★ 2014: First Medical Staffing and Productivity Expectations Reports
- ★ 2016: First Project ECHO Learning Community
- ★ 2017: First Region VIII Health Care for the Homeless Grantee Collaborative
- ★ 2017: First Podcast
- ★ 2018: First Resiliency Collaborative
- ★ 2018: Rural Social Determinants of Health Game Toolkit Created
- ★ 2018: CHAMPS Substance Use Disorder Programming Begins
- ★ 2019: First AIHM Fellowship Offered
- ★ 2020: New Education Health Center Guide Published



1985: CHAMPS Founded – First CHAMPS Logo



2004: JOB Bank Launched



2014: Region 18 Logo Launched

What does CHAMPS mean to you? Email the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#) with a word or short phrase about CHAMPS and/or the value of a regional association. At the end of our 35th Anniversary year CHAMPS will create and share a word cloud.

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 2020 Salary Survey Now Open

Every two years CHAMPS undertakes a Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey of all health centers within Region VIII. Data collection for 2020 began in mid-April and all data should be submitted by **Monday, June 15, 2020**. Soon after the data collection period opened, CHAMPS hosted a "How to Complete the 2020 Region VIII Health Center Salary Survey Tool" webcast which provided information and tips to help health centers participate in this valuable project. Reports of the submitted data will be distributed beginning in October/November 2020.



To view the archived "How to Complete the 2020 Region VIII Health Center Salary Survey Tool" event, please visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

If you have any questions regarding the 2020 Salary Survey, please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

New Webpage: Resiliency Resources

The CHAMPS [Resiliency Resources](#) webpage introduces resiliency concepts and contains articles, tools, personal resilience resources, and guides for organizational programming. These resources have been selected to help health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs), as well as individuals employed in these organizations, practice strength, compassion, and mindfulness as they build resiliency skills.

The American Psychological Association (APA) considers resilience to be the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress. The health care field presents a unique set of challenges for health care workers of all types, from providers to non-clinical health care staff. As a result, burnout has become pervasive. Resilience is fundamental to enhancing quality of care and sustainability of the health care workforce.

Please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#) if you have any questions about these materials or would like to share any other useful resources.

New CHAMPS Staff Wellness Podcast Episode



The second episode in the CHAMPS Staff Wellness Best Practices Interview Series is now available. This series highlights interesting and innovative ways that Primary Care Associations (PCAs) and health centers in Region VIII are addressing staff wellness and promoting employee satisfaction, engagement, and retention. In the second episode, recorded on February 11, 2020, CHAMPS interviews Northwest Colorado Health's Dr. Diana Hornung, Medical Director, and Amanda Arnold, Senior Director of Quality and Human Resources. Their conversation is focused on how their community health center developed a comprehensive plan to implement staff wellness into their organization, including how the effort started, barriers they faced when implementing their plans, future goals, and advice for other health centers.

To learn more and download episode two of the CHAMPS Staff Wellness Best and Promising Practices Podcast Series, please visit the CHAMPS [Podcasts](#) webpage.

Are you or your health center interested in being interviewed as part of this series? Please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Education Health Center Initiative Updates

The Education Health Center Initiative (EHCI), a partnership between CHAMPS and Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), recently released the [Education Health Center Guide](#) intended to assist health centers and primary care residency programs with utilizing both traditional Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the more recent Teaching Health Center GME (THCGME) funding. This 84-page electronic document provides an overview of Education Health Center models and addresses issues related to governance, administration and operations, and finance, as well as legal considerations.

EHCI is now offering free weekly Zoom meetings focusing on supporting education efforts of all types. EHCI's resident expert, Kiki Nocella, and members of the EHCI team will be available to answer questions, provide updates on changing requirements and regulations, and share best practices. This is also a great way to hear about promising practices being put into place by your peers. Join the meeting every Wednesday from 1:30PM–2:30PM MT / 2:30PM–3:30PM CT via Zoom [here](#) (Meeting ID: 561 581 631). To join via phone, click [here](#) to find your local number.

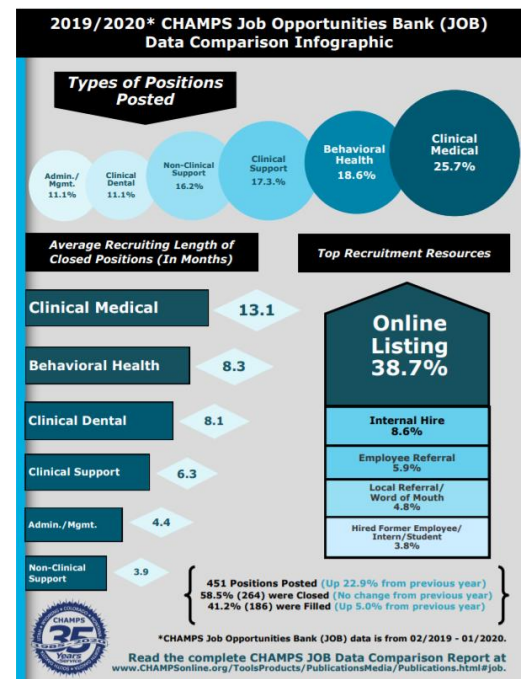
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced the [Rural Residency Planning and Development Program](#). They will be funding 11 organizations up to \$750,000 to plan and develop rural residency programs. Applications for this grant are due June 30, 2020. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how your organization or a combination of organizations can pursue this opportunity, the EHCI team is happy to meet with you pro-bono to discuss strategies and how EHCI can support you through the process of applying, standing up a new program, and exploring whether this can be applied to existing programs.

*To request a pro-bono meeting, please email NWRPCA Director of Program Support [Kelly Rondou](#).
To learn more about EHCI and Education Health Centers, visit the CHAMPS [Education Health Center Initiative](#) webpage.*

CHAMPS Region VIII Job Opportunities Bank Report

The online CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#) is a free resource where Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) can advertise open positions. Each February, CHAMPS creates a report comparing two years of data relating to these posts, presenting recruitment trends and achievements throughout the region. Highlights for the most recent year of data (February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020) include:

- ★ 45 different Region VIII health centers advertised 451 career opportunities.
- ★ The average recruitment length for positions that were closed during the year was 7.4 months; average recruitment lengths increased for Clinical Dental and Clinical Medical postings. The average recruitment lengths for Administrative/Management, Behavioral Health, Clinical Support, and Non-Clinical Support postings decreased from the prior year.
- ★ Over 41% of the health center postings in the 2019-2020 period were reported as having been filled.
- ★ The top four reported successful recruitment resources were online listings, internal hire, employee referral, and local referral/word of mouth representing almost 60% of the recruitment resources cited for filled postings.



*To download the report and related infographic (seen above), visit the CHAMPS [Publications](#) webpage.
To post open positions on the CHAMPS JOB Bank, contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#).*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

CHAMPS 2020 Virtual CORE Competencies Training

The virtual CORE Competencies Training for First-Time CHC Supervisors and Managers took place via Zoom over three days in April and May. CHAMPS hosted this training with support from Colorado Community Health Network ([CCHN](#)), Montana Primary Care Association ([MPCA](#)), and Wyoming Primary Care Association ([WYPCA](#)) bringing together fifteen participants from seven health centers to learn best practices for hiring, training, developing, engaging, and retaining health center staff. Additionally, attendees discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health center workforce, including shifting state and national regulations, staff engagement, best practices for effective communication while masked, customer service when providing services via telehealth, etc. Participants reported the small group interactions as their favorite aspect of this event. Lead trainer Lisa Mouscher of Sogence Training and Consulting will also guide participants through their Capstone Projects, supporting each in implementing new skills back in their home health center, and reconvene with the group on a June 17, 2020 networking conference call to discuss challenges and celebrate successes.



2020 Virtual CORE Competencies Training attendees with CHAMPS staff and lead trainer Lisa Mouscher.

NHSC Loan Repayment Application

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) provides loan repayment to clinicians in exchange for a two- or three-year service commitment working in NHSC-approved Health Care Sites. NHSC has extended their application deadline for the [2020 NHSC Loan Repayment Program](#) to Thursday, **May 21, 2020** at 5:30PM MT / 6:30PM CT. They have also extended the employment start date to **September 1, 2020**. If you are a current NHSC Loan Repayment Program recipient that is experiencing issues meeting program requirements due to the COVID-19 crisis, visit the [NHSC Service Commitments: COVID-19](#) webpage for resources.

Medical Assistant Education in the Time of COVID-19

Submitted by Ali Murray, National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA)

In early March, the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) was able to successfully launch its first ever spring cohort, with three partner health organizations in three states. COVID-19 created some unexpected challenges for NIMAA's spring cohort; however, thanks to their long-standing distance-learning model, they were able to transition to this new reality smoothly and with minor adjustments. Their students were able to continue their didactic learning without skipping a beat. While their in-clinic experience was paused, students are gaining new and timely skills as they wait to complete their externship work later in the program. Students are learning about COVID-19 and, through NIMAA's partners at the Weitzman Institute, about telehealth and the role it plays during this global pandemic. In addition, NIMAA staff have been supporting other organizations by sharing their knowledge as subject matter experts in the field of online education through blog posts via [nimaa.org](#) and in a webinar series on [The Role of the Medical Assistant](#) (MA). The clinic environment will be forever altered when students re-start their externship, and NIMAA is ensuring their instruction and the student experience reflect this new reality. Applications are currently open for the fall 2020 cohort, and they look forward to welcoming a new class of future MAs and new health center partners, including their first partner in Montana, this September.

Continuing Education on Your Schedule

Live CHAMPS distance learning events are recorded to give health center staff extra opportunities to enhance professional development, gain clinical knowledge, and learn workforce strategies. View current offerings [here](#).

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](#).

Congratulations to the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network

As CHAMPS celebrates 35 years of service this year, the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) is celebrating 30 years of clinicians from health centers in Region VIII working together to ensure the delivery of the highest quality health care to their communities. Take a look at MPCN's [30th Anniversary eCard](#).

To learn more about MPCN events and resources, view the CHAMPS [MPCN eFlyer](#).

Region VIII Clinician Awarded AIHM Scholarship

Congratulations to Carmel Kelly, LCSW from Denver Health. Carmel is the Spring 2020 Region VIII clinician selected to receive a full scholarship to participate in the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine's (AIHM) Fellowship Program. This opportunity was open to medical, dental, and behavioral health providers working for CHAMPS Organizational Members.

The AIHM Fellowship Program is an interprofessional program that blends online learning with clinical immersion and three retreat experiences located in San Diego, CA. The program takes place over the course of two years that began in April 2020 and will total 1,000 hours of training. Carmel joins the three Region VIII recipients who received scholarships to participate in the AIHM Fellowship last fall.



To learn more, visit the AIHM [Fellowship in Integrative Health and Medicine](#) webpage.

CHAMPS/WMT AHEC Building Resiliency Skills: Walking Together Towards Healing in a Time of Collective Loss

The Resiliency Learning Community was developed by CHAMPS and Western Montana Area Health Education Center (WMT AHEC) and sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RMPHTC). It provides health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) in Region VIII access to four, 60-minute interactive learning sessions focused on building individual resiliency skills. This learning community is free and open to all staff from Region VIII health centers and PCAs.

Sessions will be held from 12:30-1:30PM MT / 1:30-2:30PM CT on Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2020. Registration will remain open even after the series begins, and recordings will be available.

To learn more and register, visit the CHAMPS [Project ECHO Learning Communities](#) webpage.

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity in Primary Care Learning Collaborative

CHAMPS and Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RMPHTC) have partnered with the Lifestyle Medicine Department of Children's Hospital Colorado to offer a five-part ECHO series for health center care teams. Children's Hospital specialists will serve as faculty for this series addressing topics that include dietetics, introducing exercise, comorbidity screening, effective communication strategies, and when to refer patients to specialists. This learning collaborative will meet via the Zoom video platform so that participants can engage in conversations with the subject matter experts and their health center peers.

Sessions will be held from 11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT on Wednesdays, May 27 through June 24, 2020.

To learn more and register, visit the CHAMPS [Project ECHO Learning Communities](#) webpage.

CHAMPS 2020 Immunization Update Webcast



On Thursday, June 4, 2020 from 11:30AM-1:00PM MT / 12:30-2:00PM CT, CHAMPS will host its annual Immunization Update webcast. JoEllen Wolicki, RN, BSN, Nurse Educator for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will address the 2020 vaccine schedules and the latest recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Clinical leadership, clinicians, clinical support staff, and other interested healthcare professionals at health centers in Region VIII are encouraged to attend this event.

To learn more and register, visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

CHAMPS/DMS Spanish Language Virtual Training

For the first time in over 30 years, CHAMPS and the Denver Medical Society (DMS) hosted the annual Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals as an online event. In late April 2020, fifteen participants were immersed in four days of medical Spanish language training in two separate classes, beginner and intermediate/advanced. In addition to the traditional content related to medical diagnosis, role-plays, visual aids and cross-cultural diagnosis, attendees engaged in cultural competency discussions related to the pandemic and learned pandemic-related vocabulary. Participants reported that the immersive and joyful teaching style, conversations and discussions, practice scenarios, and the opportunity to get to know other Region VIII health center staff were the best aspects of the training.



The 2020 Spanish Language for Health Professionals Training Beginner Class.

CHAMPS plans to offer the training in person in Spring 2021 in Denver, CO. Check the CHAMPS [Events & Trainings](#) webpage in early 2021 for exact dates and to register.

For more medical Spanish resources, visit the CHAMPS [Spanish Language Resources](#) webpage.

Archive Now Available: CHAMPS/RMPHTC Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community



CHAMPS and Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RMPHTC) honored Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month by offering a three-part learning series for Region VIII health center clinical and quality improvement (QI) staff in March 2020. The Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community covered the following topics: Colorectal Cancer Screening Messaging, Follow-up After Abnormal Screen, and Special Considerations for Special and Vulnerable Populations.

To view these recorded events, please visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Archive Now Available: Pandemic Lessons Learned: New York CHC CMOs Share Their Experiences with Region VIII CHC Providers

On April 23, 2020, Region VIII provider peers gathered to hear how New York CHC providers are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This informal Zoom conversation began with an overview from the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS), followed by brief updates and highlights from four NY CHC CMOs and one provider.

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

OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT NEWS

Assisting Primary Care Associations and health centers in maximizing health insurance coverage for health center patients and communities across Region VIII. Learn more [here](#).

Outreach & Enrollment During COVID-19

As the COVID-19 global pandemic unfolds, various portions of the healthcare system are affected differently. While clinical staff are working on the front lines, Outreach & Enrollment staff also serve an incredibly important role ensuring community members have access to the care they need. While HealthCare.gov has not opened a COVID-19 Special Enrollment Period (SEP), the same life events can qualify individuals for an SEP in the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). Colorado, Region VIII's only State-Based Marketplace (SBM), held an SEP from March 20 through April 30, 2020.

To help assisters and consumers navigate Marketplace coverage during the pandemic, HealthCare.gov recently published a new webpage: [Marketplace Coverage & Coronavirus](#).

Additionally, the two most recent [CHAMPS Region VIII Outreach & Enrollment Digests](#) contain a plethora of resources for Outreach & Enrollment staff to utilize during the pandemic.



To learn more, visit CHAMPS [Outreach & Enrollment Tips and Tools](#) webpage. To learn more about SEP, check out the [Community Catalyst SEP Fact Sheet](#).

CHAMPS Region VIII Outreach & Enrollment Digest Archive

The CHAMPS Region VIII Outreach & Enrollment (O&E) Digest is designed to assist Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) in maximizing health insurance coverage for health center patients and communities across Region VIII. [An archive of this monthly resource](#) is available on the CHAMPS website.

To learn more, visit CHAMPS' [Region VIII Outreach & Enrollment Digest](#) webpage.

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](#).

Health Disparities During COVID-19



While most cities and states are not reporting race as they provide numbers of confirmed cases and fatalities due to COVID-19, a [New York Times article](#) states that initial indications show that the virus is impacting people of color, and black communities specifically at much higher rates.

In addition to cases and fatalities rates, a [Pew Research Center study](#) shows that "older adults, black and Hispanic people, and those with no college experience are especially likely to view the coronavirus as a major threat to their own health...46% of black people and 39% of Hispanics view the coronavirus as a major threat to their own health, compared with 21% of white adults."

For more information, check out the [Spring 2020 CHAMPS Region VIII Special Populations Digest](#).

Serving Specific Populations During the Pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic has laid bare the inequities in the American healthcare system. As health centers rise to the occasion of serving both existing and new patients in the wake of this global event, it is more important than ever to serve individuals with cultural grace, humility, and appreciation. CHAMPS' [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) webpage offers a [Specific Populations Resources](#) section that offers information on serving various populations including children and pregnant women, the elderly, re-entry populations, Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers, people experiencing homelessness, and many more.

To learn more about serving various populations, also visit the CHAMPS [Cultural Competency Resources](#) webpage.

Take Migrant Clinicians Network's 2020 Poll: What Is Changing for Immigrant and Migrant Patients?

Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)

In the last three years, clinicians who have taken Migrant Clinicians Network's (MCN's) annual poll have confirmed that forces outside of the clinic interrupt health care access for immigrant and migrant patients. For some, fear and anxiety has driven patients to avoid getting the care they need. For others, policy and enforcement have directly limited access to care. How does COVID-19 factor into immigrant and migrant access to health care and perception of health care? What has changed in the last year? What has changed in the last month?

For the fourth year, Migrant Clinicians Network asks clinicians of all types to answer a short list of questions to fill in the picture. It is open to any U.S.-based clinician, including health promoters, outreach workers, and community health workers. The poll will take four to eight minutes to complete, and it is available in English and Spanish.

*To take the MCN 2020 poll in English, click [here](#).
To take the MCN 2020 poll in Spanish, click [here](#).*

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Coronavirus Funding for Health Centers

Beginning in March of 2020, the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has provided several rounds of funding to Health Center Program grantees to aid them in responding to COVID-19. The first award (H8C) provided \$1 million in funding, and the second award (H8D, from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act) provided an additional \$1.3 billion. These two awards have similar allowable uses including ensuring safety of staff and patients, addressing COVID-19 (testing, treatment, and education), expanding telehealth, and the purchase of equipment and supplies. The H8D funding can also be used for maintaining or increasing health center capacity, and for minor alterations and renovations. Most recently, HRSA awarded an additional \$583 million to expand COVID-19 testing in health centers. Region VIII health centers received over \$83 million via these three awards. Find more information regarding H8C funding [here](#), H8D funding [here](#), and the COVID-19 testing funding [here](#).

Reminder: Recipients of CARES Act funding (H8D) must post the price charged for COVID-19 testing in a public portion of their website.

Coronavirus Weekly Survey

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) requests FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes complete a weekly survey to help track the number of patients who have undergone COVID-19 testing, along with other critical information about clinic operations during the pandemic. Each health center and look-alike will receive the survey on Friday afternoons from BPHCanswers@hrsa.gov. All health centers are strongly encouraged to complete this survey each week. Find out more about the survey in the "Health Center Program Resources" section of the HRSA [COVID-19 Information for Health Centers and Partners](#) webpage.

CHAMPS compiles the Region VIII state results from the HRSA COVID-19 Health Center Survey each week, comparing Region VIII figures with national data and illustrating the current Region VIII response to, and resource needs related to, COVID-19. Survey results help CHAMPS better serve Region VIII health centers and the findings also influence policy and funding decisions at a national level. To review the Region VIII results of this survey (updates posted each week), visit the CHAMPS [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) webpage.

New HRSA Website for Health Center Technical Assistance on Integrating Behavioral Health

Submitted by Elizabeth Costello, HRSA Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Technical Assistance

There is an urgent need for mental health and substance use disorder care as we grapple with supporting patients and communities during COVID-19. The HRSA Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Technical Assistance (COE for BHTA) has launched bhta.hrsa.gov, a new website to support HRSA grantees with integrating mental health and substance use services in primary care settings. Health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) are invited to first [create an account](#) (one-time process) to view and sign up for upcoming TA offerings, including:

- ★ A May 20, 2020 webinar on [Getting Started with Telebehavioral Health](#) plus two Communities of Practice on [Alternative Pain Management](#) and [Telebehavioral Health](#) starting in June 2020.
- ★ Two March-August 2020 ECHO series to provide clinical feedback on patient cases and behavioral health integration strategies: [Integrating Primary Care and Behavioral Health Service Delivery ECHO](#) and [Addressing Opioid Use Disorder \(OUD\) in Primary Care ECHO](#) (health centers can "drop in" to the weekly ECHO sessions).
- ★ [Virtual technical assistance](#) or [practice transformation coaching](#) on request, related to integrated behavioral health topics including financial sustainability, telehealth/telebehavioral health, and provider wellness.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

HRSA Bulletin: Updated PALs

The Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has updated two Program Assistance Letters (PALs) relating to health centers' coronavirus response. The first updated PAL addresses requesting a change in scope to add temporary service sites in response to emergency events. No new policy was established, but key terms were clarified. Additionally, health centers can now request an extension of the temporary site beyond 90 days. The second updated PAL relates to telehealth; two additional telehealth scenarios were added.

To learn more about the updated PALs, visit the HRSA [Scope of Project](#) webpage.

NACHC Office Hours—Telehealth

Telehealth is becoming increasingly important in meeting health center patients' needs and overcoming clinical workforce shortages. This is especially true in rural areas, where many patients face long distances between their home and their health care provider. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is now offering monthly telehealth office hours the second Thursday of every month at 12PM MT / 1PM CT. The office hours are for any health center, Primary Care Association (PCA), and Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN) staff who have questions or want to share information regarding telehealth related policies and operational activities.

To learn more, visit the NACHC [Telehealth](#) webpage. To register, email telehealth@nachc.org.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has launched its own **Year of the Nurse 2020 Campaign** to celebrate health center nurses across the country. Click [here](#) to recommend a nurse to be highlighted.

Stand Up, Stand Together: Health Center Advocacy



Health centers are on the front lines of combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a personalized approach to healthcare, health centers have taken the extra steps to ensure primary care continues to be accessible by transitioning swiftly to telehealth and drive through testing centers. These organizations have and will continue to care for everyone who needs help.

Furthermore, health centers are welcoming new patients as unemployment rates rise and the demand for care from safety net organizations increases. Thus, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is calling on advocates to [tell their Members of Congress](#) to pass emergency and long-term funding to stabilize this essential network of health care providers. Additionally, NACHC is mobilizing advocates to engage Wednesday, May 20 in a national day of action, "[Stand Up, Stand Together: Save Community Health Centers Now!](#)"

To learn more about advocating for health centers, visit CHAMPS [Education & Advocacy Communications Resources](#) webpage.

Planning for Future Health Center Payroll Protection Needs

Submitted by Meredith Tzouros, Capital Link

A reminder for CFOs – whether you received an approval, have an application still in process, or did not apply for a Small Business Administration (SBA) Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan, please be sure to fill out the online [SBA Payroll Protection Program Assessment](#) so the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and Capital Link can better understand health centers' experiences in accessing this funding. The results of this assessment are critical to identifying current health center funding gaps and planning for future funding.

Visit Capital Link's [COVID-19 Resources](#) webpage to learn more about SBA PPP and more.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Region VIII in the News

- ★ 4th Street Clinic: [Salt Lake County Works to Protect Homeless Amid Coronavirus Concerns](#) (*KUTV*, March 17)
- ★ Alluvion Health: [Alluvion Health Opens Temporary Viral and Respiratory Clinic](#) (*KRTV*, March 19)
- ★ Wyoming Primary Care Association: [COVID-19 Highlights Long-Standing Rural Health Care Provider Shortage](#) (*Wyoming Public Media*, March 27)
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic: [Summit Community Care Clinic Works to Take Pressure Off the Hospital Emergency Department During Coronavirus Outbreak](#) (*Summit Daily*, March 30)
- ★ Bullhook Community Health Center: [Local Health Facilities Dealing with COVID-19 Crisis](#) (*Havre Daily News*, April 1)
- ★ Horizon Health Care: [Rural Healthcare Key for Coronavirus Treatment](#) (*Argus Leader*, April 3)
- ★ Northland Community Health Center: [Community Health Center Starts COVID Hotline](#) (*KFYRTV*, April 3)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Partnership Health Center Lands New Chief Medical Officer](#) (*Missoula Current*, April 3)
- ★ Educational Health Center of Wyoming: [UW Health Sciences Students, Clinics Provide Support During Pandemic](#) (*University of Wyoming*, April 14)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Partnership Health: Consequences Dire if Insurers Don't Pay for Telehealth](#) (*Missoulian*, April 15)
- ★ Peak Vista Community Health Centers: [Peak Vista Community Health Centers Begins COVID-19 Drive-Through Testing](#) (*KOAA*, April 17)
- ★ Flathead Community Health Center: [Flathead Unites on Emergency Shelter Project](#) (*Daily Inter Lake*, April 18)
- ★ Axis Health System: [Axis Health System Expands Telehealth Services for Patients](#) (*Durango Herald*, April 19)
- ★ Family HealthCare: [North Dakota Dentists Work Through Pandemic, Only Accepting Emergency Patients](#) (*KVRR Local News*, April 19)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Missoula's Partnership Health Accepting New Patients](#) (*KGVO*, April 20)
- ★ STRIDE Community Health Center: [Earning a Diploma on COVID-19's Front Lines](#) (*RED*, April 20)
- ★ Montana Health Centers: [Expanded Tele-Health Services Could Continue Post-COVID, Health Professionals Say](#) (*Montana Public Radio*, April 21)
- ★ Valley-Wide Health Systems: [Valley-Wide COVID Testing at 2 Locations](#) (*La Junta Tribune-Democrat*, April 23)
- ★ Salud Family Health Centers and Sunrise Community Health: [Northern Colorado Healthcare Leaders Ask Weld County to Reconsider 'Safer-at-Work' Plan](#) (*9 News*, April 26)
- ★ Southwest Montana Community Health Center: [Community Health Center to Resume Some In-Person Visits](#) (*Montana Standard*, April 27)
- ★ STRIDE Community Health Center: [STRIDE Community Health Center Is Offering Antibody Tests In Aurora And Wheat Ridge](#) (*CBS Denver*, April 27)
- ★ Southwest Montana Community Health Center: [Guest View: As Transition Begins, Gratitude for Responsible Citizens](#) (*Montana Standard*, April 28)
- ★ Educational Health Center of Wyoming: [UW Educational Health Clinics Use Telehealth to Advance Patient Care During Pandemic](#) (*University of Wyoming*, April 30)
- ★ Clinica Family Health: [Drive-Thru COVID-19 Tests Available at Clinica Family Health in Lafayette for Those with Symptoms](#) (*Colorado Hometown Weekly*, May 4)
- ★ Peak Vista Community Health Centers: [Peak Vista Expands COVID-19 Testing in Kiowa](#) (*Elbert County News*, May 8)
- ★ Horizon Health Care: [Northwestern Energy provides help to Horizon Health Care](#) (*Keloland*, May 10)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAMPS sincerely thanks all the brave and selfless Community Health Center heroes for:

- Healing us in our time of need with sensitivity and compassion
- Educating us on how to be healthy and safe
- Responding to a multitude of demands and needs
- Overcoming formidable challenges with courage and grace
- Empowering and inspiring all of us to do our part
- Saving lives and spreading hope



May

CHAMPS/WMT AHEC Resiliency Learning Community

May 21 and 28, 2020
12:30PM-1:30PM MT / 1:30PM-2:30PM CT

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

May 26, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Learning Collaborative to Prevent and Treat Childhood Obesity in Primary Care

May 27, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

June

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Learning Collaborative to Prevent and Treat Childhood Obesity in Primary Care

Wednesdays in June
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

CHAMPS Immunization Update Webcast

June 4, 2020
11:30AM-1:00 PM MT / 12:30PM-2:00 PM CT

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

June 9 and June 23, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

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

Looking ahead...

National Health Center Week

August 9-15, 2020

CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference

October 17-20, 2020
Denver, CO

This publication was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$569,941 with 27% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.