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Winter 2020 Quarterly Newsletter

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CHAMPS Celebrates 35th Anniversary!

February 19, 2020 marked the 35th anniversary of the founding of **Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)**. Countless individuals and organizations have been instrumental in the success of CHAMPS, contributing their talents, wisdom, resources, and vision to enable CHAMPS to serve Region VIII for three and a half decades.

We want to thank and acknowledge the leadership of CHAMPS: CHAMPS' amazing and devoted [Executive Committee](#) who is an essential part of CHAMPS' success; the CHAMPS Board of Directors who are so dedicated and supportive; and the [Mountain/Plains Clinical Network Steering Committee](#) who ensures the voices of providers across Region VIII are heard. We also extend an enormous amount of appreciation to CHAMPS steadfast and generous Organizational and Individual Members.

Recognition is also due to CHAMPS' wonderful partners: our terrific federal partners at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), our outstanding State Primary Care Association (PCA) partners in Region VIII as well as our fabulous Regional PCA partner Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), our fantastic national partner National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), and our many other partners who have collaborated with CHAMPS over the years.

CHAMPS members know that they will always gain more when they work collectively and that there is much power in association. CHAMPS remains committed to strengthening the Region VIII health center network and ensuring the health of all individuals who reside in Region VIII by offering innovative and high-quality education, training, and networking opportunities for health center staff and board members and supporting workforce development. It is a testament to the thoughtful, creative contributions of CHAMPS staff, members, and partners that CHAMPS is celebrating this milestone.

As CHAMPS celebrates 35 years of service to Region VIII, it honors and sincerely thanks member health centers and SPCAs for their support of and belief in the value of a regional association.



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Thank You CHAMPS Members!

CHAMPS would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the 55 Region VIII health centers and State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) who supported CHAMPS through organizational membership in 2019-2020.

Organizational members are what make CHAMPS' quality programs and services possible. Throughout this issue you will find articles with information about CHAMPS members and about upcoming programs in 2020.

CHAMPS Membership Milestones

By sifting through years of Organizational Membership archives, CHAMPS has created a membership history dating back to January of 1993. In celebration of our 35th year of service to Region VIII, we recognize 37 of our current Organizational Members that have exhibited long-term commitment to our organization and support of our programs through 15 or more years of CHAMPS membership.

25+ Years of CHAMPS Organizational Membership

Association for Utah Community Health, UT	Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Council, Inc., MT
Clinica Family Health, CO	Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc., CO
Colorado Community Health Network, CO	PureView Health Center, MT
Community Health Center of the Black Hills, SD	RiverStone Health, MT
Community Health Centers, Inc., UT	Rural Health Care, Inc., SD
Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas, SD	Salud Family Health Centers, CO
Denver Health Community Health Services, CO	Southwest Montana Community Health Center, MT
Falls Community Health, SD	STRIDE Community Health Center, CO
Frontier Community Health Center, CO	Uncompahgre Medical Center, CO
Green River Medical Center, UT	Wayne Community Health Center, UT
Horizon Health Care, Inc., SD	

20+ Years of CHAMPS Organizational Membership

12th St. Health Care for the Homeless Clinic, WY	Mountain Family Health Centers, CO
Community Health Partners, MT	Peak Vista Community Health Centers, CO
Family HealthCare, ND	Sunrise Community Health Center, Inc., CO
Montana Primary Care Association, MT	Wyoming Primary Care Association, WY

15+ Years of CHAMPS Organizational Membership

Coal Country Community Health Center, ND	Northwest Community Health Center, MT
Glacier Community Health Center, MT	Partnership Health Center, MT
HealthWorks, WY	Spectra Health, ND
Northland Health Centers, ND	Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., CO

Plus, we extend Special Recognition to our CHAMPS Founding Officers/Directors

John Mengenhause, President, East River Health Care, Howard, SD
 Joe Stolns, Vice President, NOWCAP, Worland, WY
 Lil Anderson, Secretary, Yellowstone City-County Health Department, Billings, MT
 Donna Olsen-Arbab, Treasurer, Utah Migrant Health Program, Midvale, UT
 Jerry Brasher, Plan de Salud del Valle, Fort Lupton, CO
 Rose Carson, Tri-County Health Care, Wessington Springs, SD
 Carla Anderson, Mercer-Oliver, Center, ND
 Alan Strange, Butte, MT

CHAMPS sincerely appreciates all of our dedicated Organizational Members, from our founders to our newest Newly Funded and Look-Alike members. Thank you for your support!

Click [here](#) to download an extended Membership Milestones flyer, recognizing all current 2019-2020 CHAMPS Organizational Members.

Visit the CHAMPS [Celebrating 35 Years of Service to Region VIII](#) webpage to learn more about CHAMPS' history, leadership, and membership.

Region VIII Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment Results

CHAMPS thanks the 283 individuals representing 91% of the region’s health centers for responding to the October 2019 Region VIII Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment, providing input about current challenges, concerns, and T/TA needs.

Participants’ top ranked challenges/concerns were:

1. Retention of Staff (also ranked #1 in the prior year’s assessment)
2. Billing/Coding Issues
3. Burnout
4. Recruitment of Providers
5. Meeting Patient Targets/Projections

Participants also ranked their need for T/TA relating to topics in the areas of Access to Comprehensive Primary Care, Executive Development and Operational Advancement, Workforce, Clinical Quality and Performance, and Value-Based Care Delivery. The top ranked T/TA topics for Region VIII were:

1. Analyzing Impact of Proposed Payment Models on Revenues and Operating Cash Flows
2. Performance/Value-Based Financial Incentives for the Care Team
3. Staff Capacity for Change
4. Identifying and Addressing Preventable High Costs within the Patient Population
5. Managing and Tracking Incentive Programs, Transformation Efforts, and/or Payment Models with Different Payers and Plans
6. Patient Engagement via Non Face-to-Face Visits
7. Leadership Development and Training
8. Support Staff Professional Development Series
9. Creating Workflows to Track and Address Patient Needs
10. Funding to Support Staff that Address Social Determinants of Health

CHAMPS and each Region VIII State Primary Care Association 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 the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

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](#).

Register Now: CHAMPS Webcast Addresses R&R Findings from Region VIII Health Center Staff

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 CHAMPS will broadcast **Maximize the Impact of Your Recruitment & Retention (R&R) Strategies**, a 90-minute webcast presenting findings from the CHAMPS [2019 Region VIII Recruitment & Retention Survey](#). Over 1,000 employees representing 94% of the region’s health centers submitted information about why they work for a health center, their employment history and job seeking practices, and factors impacting both their job satisfaction and their engagement at work. You’ll understand the unique preferences and tendencies of Region VIII health center staff, be able to use the report to tailor recruiting and retention practices, and learn extra provider-specific details not presented in the original report. Advanced registration is required, and participation in this live event is free for all Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations.



Visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details, and click [here](#) to register.

Register Now: CHAMPS CORE Competencies for First-Time CHC Supervisors and Managers

Join CHAMPS April 30-May 1, 2020 in Lakewood, CO for a two-day course for new supervisors and managers at 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, Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), and/or Wyoming Primary Care Association (WYPCA), and \$800 for non-members.



CHAMPS thanks our generous supporters.

To learn more about the training and to register, visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage. Visit the [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) webpage to see if your organization is a current member. Questions? Contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce & Communications](#).

Coming Soon: 2020 Region VIII Health Center Salary Survey

2020 is a data collection year for the **CHAMPS 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.

Archived 2019 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Conference Sessions



Pictured above: Annual Conference attendees participate in a round table discussion during a conference session.

Video recordings of sessions from the 2019 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference, which was held October 5-8, 2019 in Seattle, WA, are now available to conference participants via [NWRPCA's Learning Vault](#) (login required). Slides and other support materials are also available.

To learn more about this conference, please visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage. For directions on accessing recordings in the Learning Vault, please click [here](#).

Continuing Education on Your Schedule

Don't forget about the CHAMPS Online Archived Distance Learning Events webpage! CHAMPS' live distance learning events are recorded to provide health center staff extra opportunities to enhance professional development, gain clinical knowledge, and learn workforce strategies. Currently available archives address [Clinical and Quality](#), [Care Coordination Essentials](#), [Outreach and Enrollment](#), [Special and Vulnerable Populations](#), and [Workforce](#) topics.

Visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Post Your Openings on the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank

The CHAMPS Region VIII Job Opportunities Bank (JOB) receives over 3,000 views each month, advertising administrative, clinical, dental, behavioral health, clinical support, and non-clinical support openings at health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) throughout Region VIII. CHAMPS advertises career opportunities at Region VIII health centers not only through JOB posts but also by advertising those JOB postings at local, regional, and national career fairs and through monthly emails to candidates interested in health center career opportunities. Keep your jobs updated so we have the most accurate information to share with job seekers!

Visit the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#) to review all active postings.
Need to post a new job or update a currently listed opening?
Contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#).



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

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 Spanish Language Training

Register today for the annual CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals, to be held April 24-27, 2020 in Denver, CO. This popular event, offered in partnership with Denver Medical Society (DMS), provides medical Spanish language training for clinicians at Region VIII health centers. This four-day course is an intensive, conversational, and medical Spanish workshop consisting of medical dialogues, role-plays, visual aids, cross-cultural discussions, and daily practice. The course curriculum provides an experience of immersion learning, 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. The course fee is \$649 for CHAMPS and/or DMS Members and \$799 for Non-Members and includes Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. The registration deadline is March 25, 2020, or when registration is full. Register early, this class fills up quickly!

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.

New This Year: CHAMPS Medical Spanish For Clinical Support Staff

Registration is also open for a new event to be held April 28-29, 2020 in Denver, CO. The same great instructors from our popular four-day training, Rios Associates, will provide a two-day version. The new course is intended to provide intermediate-advanced Spanish speaking Medical Assistants, Registered Nurses, Care Coordinators, Patient Navigators, and other clinical personnel who work in primary care with the opportunity to increase their Spanish fluency and enhance their interpersonal skills to effectively care for Spanish speaking patients and their families. The course fee is \$299 for CHAMPS and/or DMS Members and \$349 for Non-Members and includes Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. The registration deadline is March 25, 2020, or when registration is full.

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.

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community

CHAMPS and [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) (RMPHTC) will honor Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month by offering a new learning community for Region VIII health center clinical and quality improvement (QI) staff. Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community will allow participants to meet via the Zoom video platform to learn from subject matter experts and engage in conversations with peers. These learning community sessions will be held at 11:00AM-12:30PM MT / 12:00-1:30PM CT on the following Thursdays in March:

- ★ March 12: Colorectal Cancer Screening Messaging Workshop
- ★ March 19: Follow up after Abnormal Screen
- ★ March 26: Special Considerations for Special and Vulnerable Populations

New registrants are welcome even after the series begins. Registration is free for all Region VIII health centers.

To learn more about and to register for the CHAMPS/RMPHTC Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community, please visit the CHAMPS [Project ECHO](#) webpage.

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

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 at 11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT on most Wednesdays April 29 through June 3. No session will be held on May 6.

Additional details and registration information will be coming soon. To learn more, visit the CHAMPS [Project ECHO](#) webpage.

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative is Back!

The CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative is a facilitated peer support group that uses concepts from the evidence-based framework, Finding Meaning in Medicine, in an online format. Each session will begin and end with a practice of mindfulness techniques. The remaining time of each session will be comprised of group discussion on topics selected by the participants. This cohort will meet for five months at no cost to participants. Sessions will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays, February through June 2020. Each session will be held from 11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT. Enrollment was open to medical, behavioral, and oral health providers from health centers in Region VIII. This cohort, capped at 20 providers, filled to capacity quickly and registration is closed.

For more information or to be added to a waitlist for a future cohort, please visit the CHAMPS [Events & Trainings](#) webpage or contact the CHAMPS [Clinical Quality Improvement Director](#).

AIHM Scholarship Opportunity for Region VIII Clinicians

The [Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine](#) (AIHM) is offering a new opportunity for CHAMPS member clinicians to be awarded a full scholarship to participate in the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine's Fellowship Program. This opportunity is open to medical, dental, and behavioral health providers. The [AIHM Fellowship Program](#) is an interprofessional program that blends online learning with clinical immersion and two retreat experiences located in San Diego, CA. The program takes place over the course of two years that will begin April 6, 2020 and will total 1,000 hours of training. The application period is now open through March 13, 2020 at 1:00PM MT / 2:00PM CT.

For more information and to apply, please visit the CHAMPS [Events & Trainings](#) webpage. Visit the CHAMPS [Organizational Members](#) webpage to see if your organization is a current member.

CHAMPS Substance Use Disorder Podcast Series

Season two of the CHAMPS Substance Use Disorder Podcast Series is underway! In an upcoming episode, CHAMPS will speak with an alcohol epidemiologist from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to discuss the landscape of alcohol use in Region VIII. These episodes are designed for anyone interested in or currently working to address substance use disorders, from health center staff, students, and board members to those at partner organizations or Primary Care Associations. Episodes will be downloadable as MP3 files on the CHAMPS website, and typed transcriptions will also be available. More episodes are currently in production; please sign up for the CHAMPS [Clinicians Listserv](#) to receive email updates when new episodes are posted.

To learn more and download episodes of the CHAMPS SUD Podcast Series, please visit the CHAMPS [Podcasts](#) webpage.

Interested in sharing what your health center is doing to address substance use disorders? Contact the CHAMPS [Program Coordinator, Population Health](#) to discuss participation in this series.

Engage, Inspire, Transform: Practical Approaches to Becoming an Employer of Choice

On January 14 and 15, the Western Clinicians Alliance, whose members include [Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers](#) (AACHC), [California Primary Care Association](#) (CPCA), [Northwest Regional Primary Care Association](#) (NWRPCA), [Western Clinicians Network](#) (WCN), and CHAMPS, held an intensive and interactive in-person training in Seattle, WA. Forty-five health center leaders from across the three regions (VIII, IX, and X) attended and took home practical steps to establish their health center as an employer of choice. Topics focused on individual development, organizational leadership, and systemic engagement.

To learn more about additional leadership trainings, visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) 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](#).

After Open Enrollment 7

Open Enrollment Seven (OE7) officially ended in Region VIII on Wednesday, January 15 when Colorado, Region VIII's only State-Based Marketplace (SBM), finished their Open Enrollment Period (OEP). With Open Enrollment over, the next steps in Outreach & Enrollment work begins. This involves communicating with consumers about paying their first month's premiums, how to use their health insurance, Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs) options, and Medicaid Enrollment.

Regarding health insurance acquired or updated during OE7, consumers should:

- ★ Pay their premiums each month.
- ★ Review their insurance card and their Summary of Benefits and Coverage to better understand their plan.
- ★ Choose a primary care doctor – preferably at a health center – and schedule an annual checkup.
- ★ Report any changes in household that might affect their health insurance.

Beyond Marketplace enrollment, consumers may qualify for an SEP if they experience a loss of coverage or other life-changing events. Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) allow enrollment year-round.

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

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 Webpages: Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking, Victims and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

CHAMPS has published two new webpages. [Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking](#) and [Victims and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence](#) contain tools, articles, and guides on serving and offering culturally competent and humble services to these populations.



Human Trafficking is the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation. U.S. law defines human trafficking as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts or labor or services against their will. The one exception involves minors and commercial sex. Inducing a minor into commercial sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion.

This webpage contains information including:

- ★ [Human Trafficking Introduction](#)
- ★ [Articles and Reports](#)
- ★ [Education and Training](#)
- ★ [Provider Resources](#)
- ★ [Patient Resources](#)
- ★ [Other Resources](#)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) refers to behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors. This definition covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners.

This webpage contains information including:

- ★ [Intimate Partner Violence Introduction](#)
- ★ [Articles and Reports](#)
- ★ [Education and Training](#)
- ★ [Provider Resources](#)
- ★ [Patient Resources](#)
- ★ [LGBTQ Specific IPV Resources](#)
- ★ [Other Resources](#)

Visit the CHAMPS [Special Populations](#) webpage for more information or contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#).

CHAMPS Homeless and Public Housing Resources

The CHAMPS [Homeless and Public Housing Resources](#) webpage was compiled in response to requests by Region VIII members striving to provide quality services to individuals experiencing homelessness and residents of public housing. The page provides updated reports and information, healthcare provider resources, continuing education, outreach and enrollment, state specific resources, and much more!

For more information and related resources, visit the CHAMPS [Special Populations](#) webpage.

CHAMPS Special Populations Digest

The [CHAMPS Region VIII Special Populations Digest](#) is designed to assist Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) in maximizing services for special and vulnerable populations (SVP). CHAMPS distributes this resource quarterly. This digest provides updates on:

- ★ Best practices
- ★ CHAMPS resources and trainings
- ★ Emerging special populations issues
- ★ Health policy changes impacting SVP programs
- ★ Upcoming training opportunities, webinars, and other resources for SVP staff

To subscribe to this digest, click [here](#) or contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#).

HRSA Health Center Program Updates

Missed the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) "Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates" on January 28, 2020? Watch it [here](#) to catch up on important program updates including the [Service Area Considerations Request for Information \(RFI\)](#), the [Telehealth Program Assistance Letter \(PAL\)](#), HRSA's [Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Resources](#), and more.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming "Today with Macrae" webcasts in 2020:

- ★ Tuesday, March 24, 12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT
- ★ Tuesday, May 19, 12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT
- ★ Tuesday, July 28, 12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT

Visit the HRSA [Technical Assistance \(TA\) Calendar](#) webpage for more information. Sign up for the [Primary Health Care Digest](#) to get the latest news and updates from BPHC.

New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Resource

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a new resource: [Physical Activity Breaks for the Workplace Resource Guide](#). This guide provides insight as to why workplace health promotion and physical activity for employees is important, the challenges to getting physical activity into the workplace, as well as how to build physical activity into the workplace. This guide not only provides helpful tips for employees but also lists ways employers can help support physical activity such as providing access to exercise facilities or establish walking clubs or competition that encourages motivation. The resource also includes activities to do at work such as chair exercises, walking around, yoga, and stretching.

To view the guide, visit the CDC's [website](#). For related resources, visit the CHAMPS

[Overweight and Obesity Treatment and Prevention Resources](#) webpage or the CHAMPS [Staff Wellness and Resiliency](#) section of the CHAMPS [Retaining CHC Staff](#) webpage.

New Federal Poverty Guidelines Released

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released the 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines; simplified versions of the Poverty Thresholds, used to determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs. Programs that use these guidelines include Head Start, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the National School Lunch Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The Poverty Thresholds are used specifically for calculating all official poverty population statistics. Percentage multiples of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are used as an eligibility criterion for various services, including sliding scale services at Federally Qualified Health Centers.

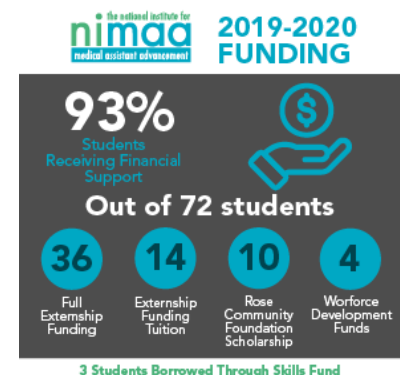
To view the new Poverty Guidelines, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [Poverty Guidelines](#) webpage. For more resources on poverty, visit the CHAMPS [National Data Resources](#) webpage

NIMAA Shares Results of Eight-Month Training Program

Submitted by Ali Murray, NIMAA

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) is proud to share the results of the [Eight-Month Training Program](#) for medical assistants in 2019. NIMAA is also excited by the commitment their partner health centers are making to support students through the NIMAA program in their community.

If you are interested in becoming a NIMAA externship placement site, please visit NIMAA's website at www.nimaa.org or contact Teri Brogdon at teri.brogdon@nimaa.org.



REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Valley-Wide Health Systems: [ASU, La Puente Magic](#) (*Valley Courier*, December 10)
- ★ Horizon Health Care: [Web Conferencing Shows Promise in Mental Health Treatment](#) (*Sioux Falls Business*, December 12)
- ★ Northwest Colorado Health: [Northwest Colorado Health: Honor Those Lost This Holiday Season](#) (*Steamboat Pilot & Today*, December 15)
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic: [Vail Resorts Gives \\$3.3 Million in Grant Support to 49 Summit County Nonprofits](#) (*Summit Daily*, December 15)
- ★ PureView Health Center: [Public Health: The Little Sidewalk that Could...Lead to Better Health](#) (*Independent Record*, December 18)
- ★ Inner City Health Center: [Inner City Health Center Offers Help to Denver Area's Uninsured, Underinsured](#) (*Denver Post*, December 19)
- ★ Clínica Tepeyac: [2019, A Look Back](#) (*La Voz Colorado*, December 26)
- ★ Community Health Partners: [Thanks to You](#) (*TDN*, December 27)
- ★ Horizon Health Care: [Horizon Health Foundation Raises Over \\$20,000 in 24 Hours](#) (*Yankton Daily*, December 29)
- ★ Creek Valley Health Clinic: [For the First Time in Over a Decade, Hildale and Colorado City Have a Health Care Clinic](#) (*Fox 13*, December 31)
- ★ Southwest Montana Community Health Center: [The Public's Health: Here's to Your Health in New Year, New Decade](#) (*Montana Standard*, December 31)
- ★ Midtown Community Health Center: [Davis Volunteer Medical Center Provides Medical Care to the Underinsured](#) (*abc4*, January 2)
- ★ Flathead Community Health Center: [Flathead Warming Center Looks at Adding More Beds](#) (*NBC Montana*, January 7)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Despite Conservative Opposition, Missoula City Council Approves Funding for Health Clinic at Food Bank](#) (*Missoula Current*, January 8)
- ★ Salud Family Health Centers: [State of the School of Medicine: Strong Upward Trend Continues](#) (*CU Anschutz Today*, January 10)
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic: [Community Care Clinic Awarded \\$212,000 Grant for Dental Care](#) (*Summit Daily*, January 11)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [Montana Retailers Adjusting to New 21-Year-Old Age Limit for Tobacco Purchases](#) (*KPVI*, January 12)
- ★ Salud Family Health Centers: [Politics: Hickenlooper Talks Health Care Policy at Salud in Fort Morgan](#) (*The Fort Morgan Times*, January 13)
- ★ Axis Health System: [Clinic Earns National Recognition as Patient-Centered Medical Home](#) (*The Journal*, January 22)
- ★ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: ["Practically Instant Housing": This Was a Hotel. Now It's a Place for People Who've Been Trying to Find a Place to Live in Denver](#) (*Denverite*, January 22)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [Preventing Novel Coronavirus](#) (*KULR 8*, January 27)
- ★ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: [Denver Tried to Count Thousands of People Living in Homelessness All in One Day. Here's Who We Met While Tagging Along](#) (*Denverite*, January 28)
- ★ Community Health Center of the Black Hills: [January is Cervical Health Awareness Month](#) (*News Center*, January 29)
- ★ Association for Utah Community Health: [Pursuing a Career With Personality](#) (*My Weber Media*, January 31)
- ★ Colorado Community Health Network: [CO Lawmakers to Consider Expanding Access to Telemedicine](#) (*Public News Service*, February 4)
- ★ Northwest Colorado Health: [Northwest Colorado Health: Connecting with Others Good for Heart](#) (*Steamboat Pilot & Today*, February 16)

National Funding Opportunities

- ★ HRSA [Rural Health Care Coordination Program](#) (March 12)
- ★ SAMHSA [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) (March 23)
- ★ HRSA [Support for Opioid-Impacted Families](#) (April 13)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Tuesday, February 25, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

March

CHAMPS Webcast: Maximize the Impact of Your Recruitment & Retention Strategies

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

MPCA Advancing Integrated Care Training

Thursday, March 5, 2020
Great Falls, MT

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community

Thursday, March 12, 2020
11:00AM-12:30PM MT / 12:00-1:30PM CT

NACHC Policy & Issues Forum (P&I)

March 16-19, 2020
Washington, DC

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community

Thursday, March 19, 2020
11:00AM-12:30PM MT / 12:00-1:30PM CT

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Tuesday, March 24, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Next Steps for Colorectal Cancer Screening Learning Community

Thursday, March 26, 2020
11:00AM-12:30PM MT / 12:00-1:30PM CT

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Please contact Yael Holzman Castellands at Yael@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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April



CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Tuesday, April 14, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

MPCA Annual Training

April 15-17, 2020
Helena, MT

CHAMPS Spanish Language Training

April 24-27, 2020
Denver CO

CHAMPS Medical Spanish Language for Clinical Support Staff

April 28-29, 2020
Denver, CO

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

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

Wednesday, April 29, 2020
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

CHAMPS CORE Competencies Training

April 30-May 1, 2020
Lakewood, CO



Looking Forward



WYPCA Power of Rural Conference

May 5-7, 2020

2020 CHAD Members Conference

May 6-7, 2020

CCHN Triannual Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2020

2020 National Health Care for the Homeless Council Conference & Policy Symposium

May 11-14, 2020

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

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

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

AUCH Triannual Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2020

NACHC Conference for Agricultural Worker Health

May 19-21, 2020

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

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Grantee Collaborative (HCH Collaborative)

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

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

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

