



Winter 2023 Quarterly Newsletter

Published March 2023

Celebrating 2022 CHAMPS Awardees

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, CHAMPS recognized six individuals for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the health center community. These awardees provide invaluable knowledge and exceptional commitment, encompassing the essence of the Community Health Center Movement in Region VIII.

Congratulations to the 2022 CHAMPS Awardees!

Exceptional Administrative Leadership Award

Lori Wright, Chief Executive Officer, [Family Healthcare](#), UT

Exceptional Board Leadership Award

Carol Lewis, Board Chair, [Denver Health Community Health Services](#), CO

Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award

Michelle Scholtz, DDS, Chief Dental Officer, [Horizon Health Care, Inc.](#), SD

Outstanding Advocate of the Underserved Award

Tiffany Klein, Community Health Advocate, [One Health](#), MT

Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award

Mary Lynne Shickich, Policy Consultant, [Wyoming Primary Care Association](#), WY

Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award

Laurie Francis, Retired Executive Director, [Partnership Health Center](#), MT



To learn more about this year's awardees and to listen to their introductions and acceptance speeches, please visit the [CHAMPS Awards](#) webpage.

The next CHAMPS Awards Call for Nominations is anticipated to open in early summer 2023. Visit the [CHAMPS Awards](#) webpage for more details and nomination forms when available.

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Board Of Directors Meeting

The annual CHAMPS Board of Directors meeting was held on December 7, 2022, directly after the CHAMPS Awards Ceremony. During the meeting, Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, Interim CEO of the National Association of Community Health Centers ([NACHC](#)), and Jim Macrae, Associate Administrator of the Bureau of Primary Health Care ([BPHC](#)), provided key insights into the health center program, imparted invaluable knowledge, and answered participant questions. After the national and federal updates, CHAMPS leadership shared progress reports on essential information. The Board also voted to adopt a new strategic plan and elected a new Executive Committee. Thank you to everyone who attended the Board meeting. We are grateful for your continuous support.

*To download the board meeting packet please click [here](#).
View the strategic plan [here](#) or
visit the CHAMPS [Board Resources](#) webpage (log-on credentials required).*

CHAMPS Executive Committee Election

The CHAMPS Board of Directors elected the following individuals to serve on the [2022-2024 CHAMPS Executive Committee](#):

President: John Santistevan, President/Chief Executive Officer, [Salud Family Health](#), CO

Vice President: Maria Clemons, CPA, Executive Director, [Northwest Community Health Center](#), MT

Immediate Past President: Keith Horwood, MD, Associate Medical Director,
[Community Health Centers, Inc.](#), UT

Secretary: Colette Mild, Vice President of Business Operations & Finance, [One Health](#), WY

Treasurer: Tim Trithart, Chief Executive Officer, [Community Health Center of the Black Hills](#), SD

Clinical Representative (Chair of the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network Steering Committee):
Chastity Dolbec, RN, BSN, Director of Patient Care and Innovation,
[Coal Country Community Health Centers](#), ND

CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Conference Sessions Available

The [2022 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Primary Care Conference](#) took place in October 2022. The hybrid conference allowed participants to learn from a variety of subject matter experts while engaging with other attendees. Session materials and available recordings from the 2022 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Primary Care Conference can be accessed by participants in the [NWRPCA Learning Vault](#).



Save the Dates: The [2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Primary Care Conference](#) will be held in Seattle, WA, October 21-24, 2023.

Thank You CHAMPS Members

*I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks.
William Shakespeare*

We would like to share our genuine appreciation to Region VIII health centers and State Primary Care Associations for your continued support and commitment to the community health center movement. [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) allow us to flourish as an organization, initiate collaborate environments, share knowledge, and design a wide variety of training and technical assistance.

2022/2023 Region VIII T/TA Needs Assessment Results

Almost 370 health center representatives completed the 2022/2023 Region VIII Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment in early January, representing 62 of the 63 (98.41%) health centers operating in Region VIII. Findings from this assessment will be utilized by CHAMPS and Region VIII State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) to guide future training and technical assistance offerings. Highlights of region-wide results include:

Top Five Challenges/Concerns for 2022/2023

- ★ Retention of Staff
- ★ Burnout/Workplace Wellness
- ★ Competitive Compensation Packages
- ★ Recruitment of Other Licensed/Certified Staff
- ★ Recruitment of Providers

Top Five Factors Impacting Health Centers in 2022

- ★ Escalating Cost of Living
- ★ Staff Resignations
- ★ Housing Shortage
- ★ Lack of Childcare
- ★ Politicization of Healthcare

Top Five Needed T/TA Topics

- ★ Performance/Value-Based Financial Incentives for the Care Team
- ★ Support Staff Professional Development
- ★ Burnout Prevention/Resiliency Training
- ★ Leadership Development/Effective Communication
- ★ Mental Health Service Expansion/Integration

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](#).

CHAMPS to Host 2023 CORE Competencies Training



CHAMPS will soon host the 2023 CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training. This five-week virtual course, facilitated by Lisa Mouscher at [Sogence](#) Training and Consulting, is designed to provide hands-on and immediately applicable skill-building opportunities, ensuring participants have the skills needed to successfully navigate management and supervisory roles in the fast-paced and often challenging health center environment. Sessions will take place over five Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:30 am Mountain Time / 10:00 am-12:30 pm Central Time, March 29-April 26, 2023. Registration is now closed.

Learn more on the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Stay Up to Date on All Things Region VIII

Sign Up for CHAMPS Communications

[Health Equity Digest](#) [Monthly JOB Email](#) [MPCN Minute](#) [Quarterly Newsletter](#) [Wellbeing Bulletin](#) [Workforce Focus](#)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Now Available: 2021 UDS Workforce Infographic

Each year, the Bureau of Primary Health Care ([BPHC](#)) undertakes data collection from health centers around the country. This Uniform Data System (UDS) information includes details about health professions education and training (HP-ET) programs in health centers. CHAMPS recently published the [2021 UDS Workforce Infographic](#) highlighting HP-ET efforts regionally and nationally. In Region VIII, 90% of health center awardees had HP-ET programs, compared with 82% of those nationwide. The most commonly trained professions in Region VIII were physicians, dentists, psychiatric nurse specialists, and pharmacists.

For more Region VIII UDS reports from 2021 and prior years, visit the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage.

Salary Survey Updates: 2023 Abbreviated Survey & 2022 Reports

CHAMPS is undertaking an abbreviated Region VIII Health Center Salary and Benefits Survey in spring 2023 to provide Region VIII health centers with up to date comparative compensation figures for a limited group of titles. Register for the CHAMPS [How to Complete the 2023 Abbreviated Region VIII Salary Survey Tool](#) event on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 11:00 am-12:00 pm Mountain Time / 12:00-1:00 pm Central Time. Data collection will also begin Wednesday, March 15; more information is forthcoming.

CHAMPS will soon release two additional publications resulting from the 2022 Region VIII Health Center Salary and Benefits Survey project: the Clinical Staffing Report and Provider Productivity Expectations Report. Please join CHAMPS for a webinar introducing all reports from the 2022 project, scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2023, 11:30 am-1:00 pm Mountain Time / 12:30-2:00 pm Central Time. Registration information can be found on the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Questions? Please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Membership Services Director](#).

Recent Updates: Sample Job Description Webpage

CHAMPS maintains a variety of webpages related to recruitment and retention, including a page dedicated to health center [Sample Job Descriptions](#). The documents are downloadable and customizable, covering a wide range of positions from administrative and management to behavioral health, dental, and medical providers, and support staff. CHAMPS recently added seven new job descriptions for director-level staff, a dentist, behavioral health specialists, and an outreach and enrollment manager.

For additional resources to support health center workforce, visit the CHAMPS [Recruitment and Retention Resources](#) webpage.

Education on Your Schedule

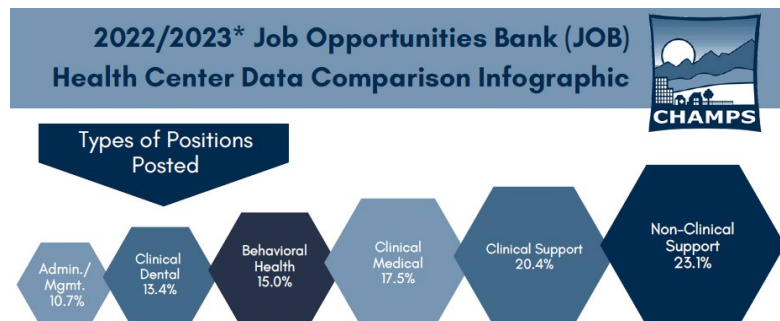
The [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage is a great resource for overcoming the challenges of attending live events, housing recorded versions of prior CHAMPS clinical and quality, health equity, and workforce development webcasts, each of which is available for a year after the original event. Visit the CHAMPS [Library of Distance Learning Documents](#) to download handouts and other documents created for these and other past CHAMPS distance learning events.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Now Available: 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. CHAMPS compiles data from JOB annually to create a report comparing two years of data, presenting recruitment trends and achievements throughout the region. Forty-eight different Region VIII health centers advertised 515 career opportunities during the most recent year of data (February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023); highlights include:

- ★ The average recruitment length for closed positions was 8.8 months.
- ★ Almost 45% of health center postings were reported as having been filled.
- ★ The top four successful recruitment resources were online listings, employee referral, internal hire, and recruiter/locums.



To download the full report and related infographic, visit the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage.

Is your Region VIII health center or Primary Care Association (PCA) hiring?

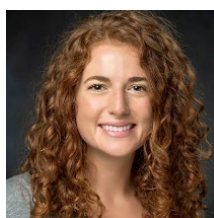
Post your open positions on the free CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#).

To post an opening or update a current position, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce](#).

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](#).

MPCN Steering Committee Welcomes New Members



The CHAMPS Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee (SC) would like to introduce two new members, both representing Montana, Sarah Potts, PhD, and Chris Baumert, MD. Dr. Potts is a Clinical Psychologist and Director of Behavioral Health from [Partnership Health Center](#) in Missoula. Dr. Baumert serves as clinical faculty at the Montana Family Medicine Residency and is the Medical Director for [RiverStone Health](#) in Billings. MPCN is excited to have these

clinical leaders share their expertise and passion for the health center movement. MPCN is seeking additional clinicians from each of the six Region VIII states, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, to serve on the MPCN Steering Committee.

If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee, please visit the CHAMPS [MPCN Steering Committee Members](#) webpage or contact the CHAMPS [Clinical Quality Improvement Director](#).

Registration is still open for the CHAMPS [Spanish Language for Behavioral Health Providers](#) online course on Monday, April 17 and Tuesday, April 18, 2023, targeting psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health counselors, social workers, addiction counselors, and other behavioral health personnel with intermediate to advanced Spanish language skills.

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Chronic Disease Management: Health Center Best and Promising Practices

Registration is now open for the CHAMPS and Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center ([RMPHTC](#)) [Chronic Disease Management: Health Center Best and Promising Practices](#) series. These online events will feature best and promising practices that address chronic disease management from three Region VIII health centers. Speakers will discuss their innovative programs, workflows, and quality improvement data on three Wednesdays, March 15, April 19, and May 17, 2023. [RiverStone Health's Live Well Center](#) will be featured in March. The center provides an interdisciplinary approach to weight loss, diabetes, and nutrition education, including integrated care to manage weight, labs, exercise routines, and more. The presentation will discuss the unique aspects of the services provided by the center and its approach to chronic disease management. In April, [Coal Country Community Health Center](#) will highlight how alternative strategies impact patient engagement in managing chronic disease, discussing virtual visits, remote patient monitoring, and the future of continuous glucose monitoring. Finally, in May, [Denver Health](#) will describe the basics of starting to leverage innovative diabetes technology within a primary care setting to achieve better health outcomes.

For more information and to register, please visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Now Introducing: Emerging Thought Leaders Sessions

Submitted by Maia Evans, Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center

[Emerging Thought Leaders](#), a collaboration between Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center ([RMPHTC](#)), Community Health Provider Alliance ([CHPA](#)), and Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership ([RIHEL](#)), propels public health into the future by debuting impactful, innovative ideas and the people behind them. Each compelling presentation in this quarterly virtual learning series provides insight for the community, valuable exposure, and experience for the innovator and, ultimately, positive impact for public health. The series attracts public health professionals, community leaders, and other collaborators to cultivate ideas and manifest them into reality.

Emerging Thought Leaders (ETL) supports the professional development of each presenter, providing them with trained support to strengthen leadership and facilitation skills. By spotlighting presenters who are new to their field as well as veteran professionals with cutting-edge ideas, Emerging Thought Leaders is an inclusive effort to forward innovative dialogue within public health. This virtual learning series will be held from 12:00-1:00 pm Mountain Time / 1:00-2:00 pm Central Time on four Fridays, March 17, June 16, September 15, and December 15, 2023.

Interested in becoming an ETL presenter? Please contact Cassidy Ray (RMPHTC Senior Project Coordinator) at cassidy.ray@cuanschutz.edu. Sign up [here](#) to be notified when registration opens.

Don't Miss These Archived Distance Learning Events!

[2022 Maternal Health Learning Collaborative Series](#)
[Health Center Preparedness for Wildfires Webcast & 2022 Immunization Update](#)

Register for Resilience Webinar: Find Useful Trainings with Migrant Clinicians Network

Submitted by Claire Hutkins, Migrant Clinicians Network

Migrant Clinicians Network's (MCN) popular [Witness to Witness](#) (W2W) program supports health care workers, case managers, outreach workers, health educators, and others who work directly with patients in community health centers, to build resilience in the face of stress, secondary trauma, and moral injury. W2W's upcoming webinar, "[Strengthening Resilience: Activating Sources that Restore Balance from Stress](#)" will be presented in English with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish on March 15, 2023 at 11:00 am Mountain Time / 12:00 pm Central Time. To register and find other upcoming and recently archived trainings on topics from social determinants of health, to diabetes care, to the climate crisis, in English and Spanish, visit MCN's [Education and Training page](#).

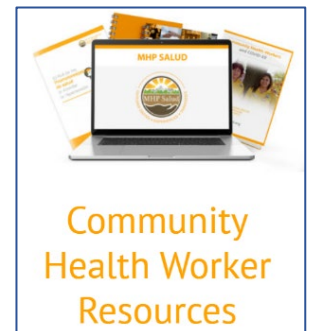
HEALTH EQUITY NEWS

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

Peers and Community Health Workers: The Key Ingredient for Diabetes Prevention and Control Programs

Submitted by Flor Robertson, MHP Salud

MHP Salud and the [Corporation for Supportive Housing](#) collaborated on a [resource](#) that explores the roles of Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Peer Specialists in diabetes prevention and control programs. More than 37 million people in the United States, or 11% of the population, have diabetes, and 96 million adults, or 38% of the population, have prediabetes. Some races and ethnicities, ages, and income groups show a higher prevalence of diabetes which may be related to social risk factors and other health conditions. As peers to their communities, CHWs bring a unique skill set that allows them to educate patients and adapt strategies to address patients' [diabetes challenges](#).



Understanding Social Determinants of Health and Structural Barriers Affecting Diabetes Care

[The Special and Vulnerable Populations Diabetes Task Force](#) announced a new learning collaborative titled [Diabetes Continuum of Care: Understanding Social Determinants of Health and Structural Barriers Affecting Diabetes Care](#). The task force is comprised of 14 National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs), including the Corporation for Supportive Housing ([CSH](#)), Health Outreach Partners ([HOP](#)), and National Health Care for the Homeless Council ([NHCHC](#)). The learning collaborative will connect partners across the United States to investigate strategies to improve diabetes care among special populations, including people experiencing homelessness, residents of public housing, migratory and seasonal agricultural workers, school-aged children, older adults, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, the LGBTQIA+ community, and other health center patients. The collaborative will meet on four Tuesdays, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28, 2023, from 12:00-1:00 pm Mountain Time / 1:00-2:00 pm Central Time.

More information and registration can be found [here](#).

HEALTH EQUITY NEWS, *Continued*

ACA Marketplace Achieves Record Number of Enrollments

On January 25, 2023, the Biden Administration announced that 16.3 million people enrolled in an [Affordable Care Act](#) (ACA) Marketplace health plan during the 2023 Open Enrollment Period (OEP). This marks a new record of ACA Marketplace enrollment with a 13% increase from 2022, totaling 1.8 million more Americans. Twenty-one percent of those enrolled were new to the Marketplace through either state-based exchanges or [healthcare.gov](#). Between 2021-2022 the number of citizens who have signed up for a health care plan through [healthcare.gov](#) has increased by 50%, saving millions of families an average of \$800 on their health insurance premiums.

Farmworker Outreach Promising Practices

The National Center for Farmworker Health ([NCFH](#)) and Health Outreach Partners ([HOP](#)) have published [Farmworker Outreach Promising Practices: Lessons from the Field](#). The report outlines strategic efforts to keep farmworkers and their families safe and healthy. The document outlines 10 farmworker-serving agencies across the nation and their strategies to connect with the communities they serve.

Learn More Through these Archived CCHN/CHAMPS Distance Learning Events!

[Racism in Healthcare: Why Does it Matter, and What is Mine to Do?](#)

[JEDI! Burnout and Self Care](#)

[Creating Safe Spaces in Healthcare for LGBTQ+ People](#)

COVID-19 NEWS

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

End of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declared

The Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)) announced that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) will expire on May 11, 2023. Addressing COVID-19 continues to be a significant priority, therefore many COVID-19 PHE flexibilities and policies have already been made permanent or otherwise extended for some time. However, HHS continues to review the flexibilities and policies implemented during the COVID-19 PHE to determine whether others can and should remain in place, even for a temporary duration, to facilitate jurisdictions' ability to provide care and resources.

To learn more, please visit the [HHS](#) webpage.

COVID-19 Vaccine Availability

Recently health centers ordering COVID-19 vaccines encountered the following changes:

- ★ Beginning on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, for health centers receiving COVID-19 vaccines through states/jurisdiction, and on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, for those ordering through the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program, the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)-labeled Pfizer BioNTech adult (12+) monovalent vaccine (NDC 59267-1025-04) was no longer available. The Biologics License Application (BLA)-labeled (COMIRNATY) product (NDC 00069-2025-10) replaced it. These products are labeled and processed differently by the FDA but are otherwise identical.
- ★ The distribution of the Novavax product expired on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 and will not receive a shelf-life extension.

Expanding COVID-19 Vaccination Funding

The following resources may be helpful for health centers to determine the best way to use additional COVID-19 Vaccination (ECV) funding:

- ★ The White House and Health Resources and Services Administration ([HRSA](#)) webinar, [Building Partnerships to Promote COVID-19 Vaccination](#), explains how experts foster key relationships, including partnerships with community-based outreach providers and faith-based organizations.
- ★ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) [COVID-19 Vaccine Community Features](#) webpage provides examples of how to increase the COVID-19 vaccine uptake.
- ★ The CDC's recent report, [Reasons for Receiving or Not Receiving Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Vaccinations Among Adults](#), describes why people choose not to get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ★ The HRSA webinar, [Community Health Center ECV Funding Collaboration](#), describes techniques to connect with community-based outreach providers and faith-based organizations.

CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's ([CDC](#)) Vaccine Safety Datalink ([VSD](#)), a near real-time surveillance system, met the statistical criteria to prompt additional investigation into whether there was a safety concern for ischemic stroke in people ages 65 and older who received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent. After further investigation, the CDC continues to recommend that everyone ages 6 months of age and older stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination including individuals who are currently eligible to receive an updated (bivalent) vaccine.

For more information about this investigation visit the [CDC](#) webpage.

In October 2022, the CDC recommended the bivalent COVID-19 booster for children ages 5-11. The children in this age group received approximately 953,359 bivalent booster doses between October 12, 2022, and January 1, 2023. The CDC has released a report sharing the early safety findings from v-safe and the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) for the bivalent booster vaccination in children aged 5-11 years.

To view the report visit the [CDC](#) webpage.

Region VIII COVID-19 Monthly Snapshots

CHAMPS creates aggregated [Region VIII Health Centers COVID-19 Monthly Snapshots](#) with data provided by HRSA surveys, each including the following metrics for Region VIII health centers: the number of patients tested for COVID-19, number of COVID-19 self-test kits distributed, the number of COVID-19 vaccination administered, the number of distinct health centers that distributed antiviral medications to patients, the percentage of health centers that administered monoclonal antibody doses to patients, and the total number of monoclonal antibody doses administered.

Monthly snapshots are posted on the CHAMPS [General COVID-19 Resources](#) webpage.

CHAMPS COVID-19 Webpage Updates

Two additional Coronavirus sections have been added to the CHAMPS website. The first contains up to date information on [Pediatric Vaccine Resources](#), and the second provides ways to diagnose and treat [Long COVID and Post-COVID Conditions](#). Please visit the CHAMPS [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) webpage to learn more and for many other useful resources.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Updated Federal Poverty Guidelines

On January 19, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)) [announced an update of the HHS poverty guidelines](#). The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) has also released an article summarizing the [HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2023](#).

New Guidance Addresses Good Faith Estimates

On December 27, 2022, the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight ([CCIIO](#)) released [new guidance](#) outlining frequently asked questions (FAQs) about Good Faith Estimates (GFEs). The document includes a sample schedule of expected charges for sliding fee discount providers and facilities, an abbreviated GFE template for no-cost health care items and services, and specific guidance for new and established patients. The National Association of Community Health Centers ([NACHC](#)) will release a one-page summary of this guidance shortly.

Please email regulatoryaffairs@nachc.org with any questions.

Health Centers and Value-Based Payment Study

A recent study funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration ([HRSA](#)) assessed the levels of health center participation in and experiences with Value-Based Payment (VBP). The report used a mixed method, collecting qualitative evidence from state policy environments and health center participation in VBP, and quantitative information from health center financials and the Uniform Data System (UDS) in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, New York, Oregon, and Washington.

To read more about the findings and conclusions of the Health Centers and Value-Based Payment study please visit the [Wiley Online Library](#).

[HRSA Awards for Accelerated Cancer Screening](#)

In February 2023 the Health Resources and Services Administration ([HRSA](#)) awarded nearly \$11 million to 22 HRSA-funded health centers to improve access to life-saving cancer screenings and early detection services for underserved communities. Congratulations to [Salud Family Health](#) (CO), our Region VIII [Accelerating Cancer Screening](#) awardee!

2023 NACHC Policy & Issues Forum

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) [2023 Policy & Issues Forum](#) (P&I) will be held at the [Marriott Marquis](#) in Washington, DC from March 8-11, 2023. The event will bring together thousands of health center professionals from around the country to learn from thought leaders and top health care officials in Washington. The 2023 P&I will also give attendees the opportunity to collaborate and share ideas regarding critical health care issues. The conference schedule can be found [here](#), and [registration](#) is now open.

Questions? Please email conferences@nachc.com, or call (301) 347-0400.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

NACHC Elevate Program

The National Association of Community Health Centers ([NACHC](#)) hosts the [Elevate Program: Transforming Health Center Systems](#) to help health centers advance their value by improving health outcomes and patient and staff experiences, increasing equity, and reducing costs. This series gives users free training and technical assistance, support from subject matter experts, no cost online learning community offerings, and access to a resource that assesses progress in areas of systems change.

To learn more about and register for the NACHC Elevate 2023 Program please visit the [NACHC](#) webpage or click [here](#) to view a video summarizing the benefits.

NACHC Creates Clinical Leaders Coaching Program

The National Association of Community Health Centers' ([NACHC](#)) free [Clinical Leaders Coaching Program](#) connects new health center clinicians to advisors, long-time specialists in their field, via one to two meetings per month for three or four months. There are currently 17 pairs signed up for the program, with 70 mentees on the waitlist. NACHC is actively recruiting additional coaches! To sign up to be a volunteer or coach and learn how participants are matched, please visit the [NACHC](#) webpage or contact Katja Laepke at klaepke@nachc.com.

NACHC Advocacy Centers of Excellence (ACE)

The National Association of Community Health Centers ([NACHC](#)) Advocacy Center of Excellence ([ACE](#)) Program encourages health centers to register for ACE recognition. ACE sites integrate advocacy for the health center movement into the mission and operation of the organization, and connect with a nationwide program of health centers through quarterly calls with advocacy leaders. Individuals may take action by registering as a [Community Health Center Advocate](#) or by joining the [Advocacy Leadership Program](#) (ALP). The next Advocacy Leadership Program will be held in Spring 2023 and includes monthly webinars on topics such as health center funding, voter registration, creating advocacy plans, and reaching out to Congressional partners.

To apply for ACE recognition please visit the [Health Center Advocacy Network](#) webpage.

CCHN Announces Annual Award Recipients

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023 Colorado Community Health Network ([CCHN](#)) honored five individuals for their invaluable and generous support of Colorado health centers and the populations they serve. The ceremony took place during CCHN's 2023 Policy and Issues Forum.

Stanley J. Brasher Community Health Gratitude Award

Mitzi Moran, CEO, [Sunrise Community Health](#), CO

Community Health Advocate Award

Fátima Groom, Policy, and Public Affairs Manager, [Sunrise Community Health](#), CO

Legislator Community Health Champion Awards

Representative Mary Young, State Representative, [House District 50](#), CO

Senator Sonya Jaquez-Lewis, State Senator, [Senate District 17](#), CO

Community Health Champion Media Award

Eric Galatas, Producer and Bureau Chief, [Colorado News Connection](#)

and the [Colorado Bureau of Public News Service](#), CO

To learn more about the recipients and their accomplishments, please visit the CCHN [Newsroom](#).

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Don't miss these Integrated Behavioral Health and Medication Assisted Treatment trainings offered by Montana Primary Care Association ([MTPCA](#)) and open to the region!

[Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment for Adults Medication For Opioid Use Disorder \(MOUD\) Bootcamp](#)
[Engaging Patients with Substance Use Disorders and Overview of MOUD](#)
[Billing & Coding For BH Providers: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly](#)
[A New Pair Of Glasses: Language and Stigma](#)

National Funding Opportunities

- ★ [HRSA FY 2023 Early Childhood Development](#) (03/17/2023)
- ★ [Integrated Substance Use Disorder Training Program](#) (03/21/2023)
- ★ [HRSA Nurse Faculty Loan Program](#) (03/22/2023)
- ★ [HRSA FY 2023 Competitive School-Based Service Expansion](#) (03/31/2023)
- ★ [HRSA Advanced Nursing Education Workforce \(ANEW\) Program](#) (04/07/2023)
- ★ [Life Course Translational Research Network Program](#) (04/10/2023)
- ★ [Advanced Nursing Education Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Program](#) (04/11/2023)
- ★ [HRSA Payment Program for PHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#) (04/11/2023)
- ★ [HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part B States/Territories Supplement Grant Program](#) (04/20/2023)

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Names New CEO](#) (*The Denver Gazette*, January 2023)
- ★ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Will Create 215 Units of Housing Through Conversion of Newly Acquired Hotel: Immediate Renovations Funded by Congressional Designations in \\$1.7T Omnibus Bill](#) (*Colorado Coalition for the Homeless*, December 2022)
- ★ Community Health Services Inc.: [Community Health Services Inc. Moves Locations to Expand Moorhead Clinic](#) (*KVRR*, January 2023)
- ★ Denver Health: [Denver Health Activates New Security Operations Center](#) (*Denver Health*, December 2022)
- ★ Denver Health: [Infant Mental Health - An Innovative Program for the Youngest Patients](#) (*Denver Health*, December 2022)
- ★ Denver Health: [School Health Centers Offering Care to Migrant, Refugee Families](#) (*Fox 31 Colorado's Very Own*, February 2023)
- ★ Greater Valley Health Center: [Greater Valley Health Clinic Launches New Mental Health Program](#) (*Daily Inter Lake*, January 2023)
- ★ HealthWorks: [Low-income Health-care Center Seeks Federal Funds](#) (*Wyoming Tribune Eagle*, December 2022)
- ★ HealthWorks: [HealthWorks Awarded \\$265,000 Through COVID-19 Health Disparity Grant](#) (*Wyoming Tribune Eagle*, January 2023)
- ★ Horizon Health Care, Inc.: [Horizon Chief Dental Officer Recognized for Clinical Leadership](#) (*Horizon Health Care*, December 2022)
- ★ Marias Healthcare Services, Inc.: [New Marias Healthcare Clinic Boasts Expansion in Services, Space](#) (*Shelby Promoter*, February 2023)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [John Felton Addresses Yellowstone County Community Health Needs Assessment Press Conference](#) (*Billings Gazette*, January 2023)
- ★ Spectra Health: [Spectra Health to Offer Women's Cancer Screening in Grand Forks](#) (*Grand Forks Herald*, January 2023)
- ★ Tepeyac Community Health Center: [Tepeyac Community Health Center Debuts A Massive New Clinic](#), (*5280 Denver's Mile High Magazine*, January 2023)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2023

[AUCH HIPAA Deep Dive and Information](#)

[Blocking:](#)

March 1-2, 2023

[NACHC 2023 Board Chair Leadership Program:](#)

March 1, March 15, March 29, 2023

[NACHC Policy and Issues Forum \(P&I\):](#)

March 8-11, 2023

[CHAMPS How to Complete the 2023 Abbreviated Region VIII Salary Survey Tool:](#)

March 15, 2023

[CHAMPS Chronic Disease Management: Health Center Best and Promising Practices:](#)

March 15, April 19, May 17, 2023

[CSH Trauma-Informed Approaches Certification:](#)

March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3, 2023

[CHAMPS CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training:](#)

March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26, 2023

[CHAMPS Understanding and Utilizing Statistics from the CHAMPS 2022 Salary Survey Project:](#)

March 30, 2023

May 2023

[2023 NACHC Conference for Agricultural Worker Health:](#)

May 2-4, 2023

[CHAD Annual Conference:](#)

May 3-4, 2023

[2023 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium:](#)

May 15-18, 2023

[CSH Supporting Housing Summit:](#)

May 31-June 2, 2023

April 2023

[CHAMPS Two-Day Spanish for Oral Health](#)

[Providers:](#)

April 10-11, 2023

[CHAMPS Four-Day Medical Spanish for Beginner and Intermediate Speakers:](#)

April 13, April 14, April 20, April 21, 2023

[WYPCA Power of Rural Healthcare Conference:](#)

April 17-19, 2023

[CHAMPS Two-Day Spanish for Behavioral Health Providers:](#)

April 17-18, 2023

[CHAMPS Two-Day Medical Spanish for Advanced Spanish Speakers:](#)

April 24-25, 2023

[National Center for Farmworker Health 31st Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health:](#)

April 24-26, 2023

Looking Forward

[ACU 2023 Annual Conference:](#)

July 23-26, 2023

[NACHC Community Health Institute \(CHI\):](#)

August 27-29, 2023

[MPCA Montana Healthcare Conference:](#)

September 19-22, 2023

[NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference:](#)

October 21-24, 2023

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

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