



Summer 2024 Quarterly Newsletter

Published September 2024

Now Open: 2024 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference Registration



Registration for the 2024 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Fall Primary Care Conference, taking place from October 26-29 in Denver, CO, is now open. Each year, CHAMPS partners with [Northwest Regional Primary Care Association](#) (NWRPCA) to host a Primary Care Conference to address the needs of Region 18 (Region VIII and Region X) health center staff and board members. This year's event will feature pre-conference workshops, networking opportunities (including a new Peer Spark networking experience), educational sessions, keynote speakers, and exhibiting opportunities. Over 50 educational and networking

sessions will be offered, organized around various tracks including Board Governance, Clinical, Finance, Healthy Communities, Hot Topics, Human Resources/Workforce, Leadership, and Operations. See page 2 for highlights of pre-conference workshops and page 3 for details about sessions offered in each track.

[CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) qualify for discounted registration fees including early bird and group rates and may also be eligible for registration and clinical travel support reimbursement. Early bird discounted registration is available for members until Monday, September 9, 2024.

Visit the [CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage for additional registration details and to view the [Agenda](#) and [Schedule at a Glance](#).

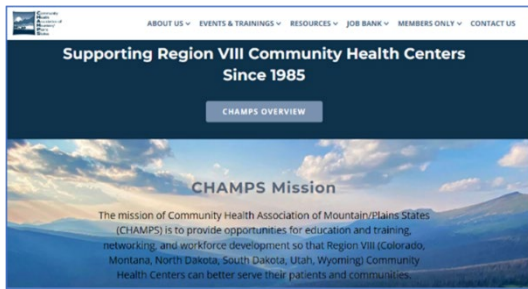
In 2023, Region VIII Health Center Program Awardees and Look-Alikes served almost 1,120,000 patients, provided over 4,400,000 visits, and employed over 10,950 Full-Time Equivalent employees.

See page 9 for more information about the recent release of 2023 UDS information.

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CHAMPS Launches Redesigned Website



CHAMPS is thrilled to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website! Thanks to valuable evaluation feedback from across the region, we have made several improvements to ensure a better online experience for our visitors. Our updated website features a modern design that is more accessible and user-friendly, making it easier than ever to find what you're looking for. The new layout enhances readability and offers a more intuitive browsing experience with streamlined navigation, ensuring you can effortlessly explore our content. The site also

showcases stunning photos of Region VIII – the vast majority of which were taken by our talented team. We would like to extend a tremendous thank you to CHAMPS Programs Coordinators, Kayla, Haleigh, and Katie, for their exceptional contributions.

Rest assured, all the CHAMPS resources you rely on are still available on our new site. However, please note that the URLs to some of these resources may have changed. We recommend updating your bookmarks to ensure that you can continue to access your favorite CHAMPS resources without any interruptions. We carefully considered your suggestions and worked diligently to create a website that meets your needs, and we invite you to explore our revamped website.

Visit us at www.CHAMPSonline.org.

Please [Contact Us](#) if you are unable to locate a resource or webpage.

Don't Miss: 2024 Fall Primary Care Conference Pre-Conference Workshops

The [2024 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference](#) will include three pre-conference workshops during the afternoon of Friday, October 25 and the morning of Saturday, October 26.

The first two-part pre-conference workshop will focus on **340B** and is designed to offer a comprehensive, holistic overview of the 340B Drug Pricing Program's background, essential requirements, and various dispensing models. Whether new to 340B or a seasoned expert, this workshop will provide attendees with valuable insights for effective 340B Program management through helpful foundational lessons and discussions of best practices.

The second two-part workshop, **Becoming an Employer of Choice**, will focus on how to create a stronger health center brand by examining practical steps that leaders can take to establish their health center as an employer of choice. Through a dynamic and interactive learning environment, attendees will learn more about related research, best practices, and specific tools and strategies.

The final half-day workshop will be hosted by the [American Society of Addiction Medicine's](#) Providers Clinical Support System - Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder (PCSS-MAUD). The **Integrating Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder into Primary Care** training will provide an overview of alcohol use disorder (AUD), medications to treat AUD, and withdrawal management in primary care. This training will build skills in identifying and diagnosing AUD, choosing suitable medications, and assessing withdrawal risk, while also highlighting strategies for integrating MAUD and AUD treatment into primary care settings. Participants will also have the chance to apply learned skills and interact with both peers and presenters through a case study discussion.

Individuals can register for the pre-conference workshops independently or together with the Fall Conference (full conference registration is not required to attend the pre-conference workshops).

For more details and to register, please visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

CHAMPS NEWS, *Continued*

2024 Fall Primary Care Conference Educational Session Highlights

The upcoming [CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference](#) will showcase 46 educational sessions across eight tracks, including:

Clinical: Sessions related to overdose safety planning, providing integrated care in school settings, addressing food insecurity to improve mental health outcomes, technology to increase colorectal screening rates, diagnosis and management of chronic kidney disease, medical dental integration, and integrated care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Finance: Sessions addressing financial planning, payor contracting, risk management and insurance strategies, mergers and acquisitions, financial considerations of an in-patient substance use treatment program, and 2024 salary survey results from Regions VIII and X CHCs.

Governance: An introduction to the Health Center Movement, as well as sessions addressing strategic planning, building a successful CEO succession plan, reviewing and paying the CEO, and more.

Healthy Communities: Offerings to assist health centers in improving health care access for vulnerable populations, supporting farmer/rancher mental and emotional well-being, providing care transitions for formerly incarcerated individuals, navigating unmet social needs, and addressing complex care.

Hot Topics: Emerging topics impacting health centers; sessions will be finalized closer to the conference.

HR/Workforce: Sessions focusing on assessing the skills and motivations of candidates, educational partnerships to address healthcare workforce shortages, growing your own workforce, staff safety and policy, fostering staff resiliency, and workforce innovations.

Leadership: Sessions addressing trauma-informed leadership, creative healthcare growth, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and building capacity and resilience.

Operations: Sessions focusing on cybersecurity strategies, tactics to assess and enhance patient access, operationalizing approaches to address intimate partner violence and human trafficking, disaster preparedness, and more.

To learn more, visit the [CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage and explore the [preliminary agenda](#) (subject to change).

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](#).

New Resource: CHAMPS Guide to Health Centers Flyer

CHAMPS is pleased to announce the release of a new informational flyer, [Starting Your Journey: A Guide to Health Centers](#), which offers an introduction to health centers, a historical overview of the Health Center Movement, and details about supporting organizations. This printable flyer is ideal for new health center staff and board members, job seekers, and anyone else interested in community health.

View the [flyer](#) and visit the [CHAMPS About Community Health Centers](#) webpage for a detailed health center introduction.

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](#).

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Update: 2024 Region VIII Health Center Salary Survey Data

Every two years, CHAMPS undertakes a [Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey](#) of all health centers within Region VIII. Data collection took place throughout the spring and early summer of 2024, and CHAMPS staff are working to analyze the data received. Reports of aggregated data will be distributed beginning in early fall, beginning with a focus on salaries and benefits. Additional reports will address clinical staffing ratios, provider productivity expectations, and workforce metrics. CHAMPS would like to sincerely thank the Advisory Committee of Region VIII health center and Primary Care Association (PCA) representatives that provided expertise to guide this year's project, the 50 Region VIII health centers that submitted data for almost 11,100 employees, and our partners at [Colorado Community Health Network](#) (CCHN) for their help on this project.

If you have any questions regarding the 2024 Salary Survey and related reports, please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

Save the Dates for the Next CHAMPS Supervisor/Manager Training

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

Wednesday Mornings, February 26 – March 26, 2025

Don't Miss: Free Clinical Workforce Learning Collaboratives

Submitted by Meaghan Angers, National Training and Technical Assistance Partners on Clinical Workforce Development at Community Health Center, Inc.



The [National Training and Technical Assistance Partners \(NTTAP\) on Clinical Workforce Development at Community Health Center, Inc.](#) is set to offer two free virtual learning collaborative opportunities this fall.

The first opportunity, *Postgraduate Nurse Practitioner (NP) and NP/Physician Associate (PA) Training Programs Learning Collaborative*, is a six-session series intended to equip health centers with the knowledge and resources needed to launch their own Postgraduate NP and NP/PA Training Program. Led by two expert faculty members, participants will receive a roadmap and coaching support on how to implement the formal training program and learn about topics including program drivers, program structure, recruiting, curriculum development, and more. The first session of this collaborative will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, and the subsequent sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of every month. Sessions run from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM MT / 12:00-1:30 PM CT. Applications to participate in this collaborative close Monday, September 30, 2024.

The *Comprehensive and Team-Based Care Learning Collaborative* will take place over eight monthly sessions and aims to support health centers in beginning or restarting their move to high performance team-based comprehensive primary care. The course will cover the fundamentals of comprehensive care, including team structure, job descriptions, organizational structure, leadership, evaluation of outcomes, and more. Through coaching support and transformational strategies, health centers will develop highly trained clinical primary care teams and work to improve at least one Uniform Data System (UDS) measure. This collaborative will begin on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, and subsequent sessions will be held on the second Wednesday of every month. Sessions are 90 minutes and will take place from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM MT / 12:00-1:30 PM CT. Applications to participate in this collaborative close Monday, November 4, 2024.

These free collaboratives are intended for staff from health centers and Look-Alikes. Primary Care Association staff are also welcome to participate alongside health centers and Look-Alikes in their region to provide support and serve as team members.

Interested in participating? Contact [Meaghan Angers](#) to join the 2024-2025 cohort. Visit the [Learning Collaborative Application](#) for more information.

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 Leadership

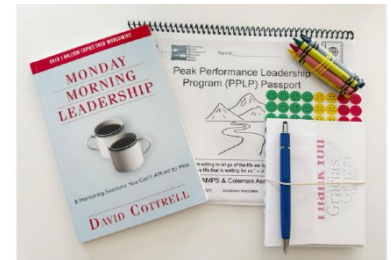
On June 12, 2024, the [Mountain/Plains Clinical Network \(MPCN\) Steering Committee](#) convened to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair, both of whom will serve two-year terms. Chastity Dolbec, RN, BSN, was re-elected as Chair. Chastity is the Director of Patient Care and Innovation at [Coal Country Community Health Center](#) located in Beulah, ND, and serves as the Clinical Representative on the CHAMPS Executive Committee. David Gurule, PharmD, was elected for his first term as Vice-Chair of the committee. David is a clinical pharmacist at [Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.](#) located in La Junta, CO.

The MPCN Steering Committee was established to encourage collaboration within Region VIII and is comprised of representatives from each Region VIII state (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming).

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

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Peak Performance Leadership Program Updates

The CHAMPS and [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center \(RMPHTC\) Peak Performance Leadership Program](#) is underway. This online intensive training focuses on cultivating trust, enhancing communication, and developing emerging leaders. By the end of this course, participants will have gained skills in building trust through communication and effective conflict management, identifying leadership best practices, and developing a personalized leadership growth plan. The immersive sessions led by Coleman Associates have brought together 29 participants from 19 of the region's health centers and public health organizations.



For more information about CHAMPS' leadership development trainings, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Don't Miss: AHRQ Training Opportunity

The [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#) is currently offering [TeamSTEPPS for Diagnosis Improvement](#), a comprehensive virtual training that explores how improved communication among team members can help lead to safer, more accurate, and more timely diagnosis in all healthcare settings. This training raises diagnostic safety awareness, offers tools to reduce diagnostic harm, and introduces the concept of a broad multidisciplinary diagnostic team including clinicians, non-clinicians, and patients. Guided by experienced facilitators, participants will develop essential teamwork skills, learn how to successfully implement these strategies in their own organizations, and be prepared to use TeamSTEPPS to improve outcomes for their teams and patients.

The training takes place over eight hours, scheduled within a single day. Several training sessions are available throughout September and October 2024. Three or more individuals from an organization must register to participate in the course. AHRQ is offering this training at no charge to healthcare and support staff teams of any specialty. For those seeking professional accreditation, up to eight Continuing Education Units are available for a fee.

To learn more, view available dates, and register, please visit the AHRQ [TeamSTEPPS Training Opportunities](#) webpage.

New Addiction Medicine 101 Course from Denver Health

[Denver Health's Center for Addiction Medicine Academy](#), in partnership with the [Denver Prevention Training Center](#), is offering a new virtual course, [Addiction Medicine 101](#). This three-hour, instructor-led course provides a foundational understanding on how to support and advocate for patients with substance use disorder (SUD) as they navigate paths to recovery. Course material will cover topics such as the addiction cycle, the neuroscience of addiction, and will discuss using person-first language and fostering an empathetic approach when interacting with individuals affected by SUD. Participants will become familiar with the range of treatment and recovery resources available within communities, enabling them to make appropriate recommendations based on individual needs.

The next session of this course will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM MT / 10:00 AM-1:00 PM CT. There is a cost associated with attending, and 2.5 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) and Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits will be offered.

For more information and to register, please visit the Denver Prevention Training Center's [Upcoming Classes](#) webpage.

Updated Patient Education Handouts Available

The Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee recently reviewed and revamped two [patient education handouts](#) addressing **anxiety disorder** and **depression**.

These updated, free resources are available in English and Spanish.

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](#).

Registration Open: CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative

CHAMPS is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the [Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative](#). This four-part online series is intended for Region VIII health center staff who serve people experiencing homelessness and key PCA contacts. Attendees will hear from experts in the field, discuss challenges, and share promising practices. The first session will feature a speaker from [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#) who will present on street medicine. The [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) (NHCHC) will join the second session to address safety and security. Additional session topics may include community health workers, climate change, immigrant populations, and respite care. The collaborative will take place on the following four Thursdays:



- ★ September 5, 2024: 1:00-2:00 PM MT / 2:00-3:00 PM CT
- ★ November 7, 2024: 1:00-2:00 PM MT / 2:00-3:00 PM CT
- ★ January 9, 2025: 1:00-2:00 PM MT / 2:00-3:00 PM CT
- ★ March 6, 2025: 1:00-2:00 PM MT / 2:00-3:00 PM CT

Attendees are welcome to join as many sessions as able. There is no cost to attend this virtual series.

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

HEALTH EQUITY NEWS, *Continued*

HRSA Seeking Nominations for National Advisory Council on Migrant Health

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) is currently seeking nominations of qualified candidates to fill five vacant positions on the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health (NACMH). This federal advisory committee is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers (MSAWs) nationwide. NACMH provides advice and recommendations to the [Health and Human Services](#) (HHS) Secretary and HRSA on matters related to migrant health centers and the individuals they serve. The 15-member Council meets twice a year, and individuals serve four-year terms. Available seats are currently open to health center patient board members serving MSAWs.

Interested in joining? Submit your resume to HRSABPHCOPPDNACMH@hrsa.gov. For more information, visit HRSA's [NACMH](#) webpage.

Now Available: HRSA National Telehealth Conference Session Recordings

In July, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) hosted a federal conference on telehealth issues, offering attendees the opportunity to hear from experts about best practices and the future of virtual care.

Session recordings from this event and a summary report can now be accessed on HRSA's [National Telehealth Conference](#) webpage.

NACHC Racial Justice and Cultural Humility Virtual Training



The [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) is hosting a free six-part webinar series titled *Ground Work: Racial Justice and Cultural Humility Training for Health Centers*. This training condenses NACHC's *Ground Work* e-learning course on racial justice into an engaging multi-part series designed for live participation. Targeted towards health center professionals of all levels, this series is ideal for those new to or seeking a deeper foundational understanding of topics such as racial justice, race/ethnicity, systemic racism, and respectful cross-racial

relationships. Attendees will gain a greater understanding of key concepts including social identity, race, and ethnicity, learn how systemic racism impacts patient health, and identify ways to address implicit bias and microaggressions. Sessions will be held weekly on Thursdays from September 5-October 10, 2024, taking place from 1:00-2:00 PM MT / 2:00-3:00 PM CT. Participants are not required to attend every session and may join as their schedule allows.

To pre-register and view the schedule, please visit the related NACHC [Training and Events](#) webpage.

Don't Miss: CHAMPS [Health Equity Resources](#)

CHAMPS has compiled a curated collection of resources to help Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations pursue health equity initiatives and address health disparities in their communities.

Need help expanding your organization's social media presence?

View the [Social Media Content Development Tips for Community Health Centers and Primary Care Associations](#) resource on the CHAMPS website.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

NACHC Board of Directors: Region VIII Updates

The [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) Board of Directors is made up of eight nationally elected officers, two representatives from each of the ten regions, two nationally elected clinician representatives, and two nationally elected health center board members. To serve on the board you must:

- ★ Currently be a NACHC Individual Member and have membership for the previous three consecutive years;
- ★ Be employed by or serve on the board of a NACHC Organizational Member that has maintained current membership for the past three consecutive years, or be employed by a chartered State, Territorial, or Regional Affiliate for the past three consecutive years; and
- ★ Have served on at least two different NACHC committees within the last five years, with at least a 50% record of attendance on each committee.

Elections for open NACHC Board of Directors Regional Representative seats were undertaken earlier this summer. Wade Erickson, CEO of [Horizon Health](#) in Howard, SD, was elected by acclamation to the NACHC board as one of the two Region VIII Representatives; his two-year term will begin on October 1, 2024. Wade will replace Keith Horwood, MD, Associate Medical Director of [Community Health Centers, Inc.](#) in Salt Lake City, UT, whose term on the NACHC Board expires September 30, 2024. Lucy Loomis, MD, MSPH of [Denver Health Community Health Services](#) in Denver, CO, will continue serving her two-year term as the Region VIII Representative on the NACHC Board, which expires September 30, 2025. John Santistevan, President and CEO of [Salud Family Health](#) in Fort Lupton, CO, is serving his third term as NACHC Treasurer through September 30, 2025. **Thank you to our Region VIII representatives for your commitment to the Community Health Center Movement!**

To learn more about the NACHC Board of Directors, please visit the NACHC [Executive Committee](#) and [Board Representatives](#) webpages.

NACHC Advocacy Resources

The [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) encourages health center staff to take action by registering as a [Community Health Center Advocate](#).

NACHC also offers a [Social Media Advocacy Toolkit](#) featuring a variety of graphics and messaging designed for health centers to use on social media.

Visit the [Health Center Advocacy Network](#) website for additional advocacy information.

AUCH & NACHC to Host New Clinical Directors Training



The [Association for Utah Community Health](#) (AUCH), in partnership with the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC), is co-hosting the [New Clinical Directors Training](#) from September 18-19, 2024, in Salt Lake City, UT. This in-person event is foundational for career development for Clinical Directors, leaders, and emerging leaders in health centers. The curriculum will cover core knowledge and competencies for Clinical Directors to enhance their management, leadership, compliance, and advocacy skills. Participants will also have the opportunity to connect with a network of Clinical Director peers from around the country.

For more information, please visit the NACHC [event](#) webpage.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Region VIII Awardees Honored at NACHC CHI & EXPO

Each year during its [Community Health Institute \(CHI\) & Expo Conference](#), the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) announces the recipients of its Awards of Excellence. These awards recognize individuals in the Community Health Center Movement who are innovators in health care delivery, set higher standards for patient care and quality, and have demonstrated leadership and advocacy that advances community health needs. This year, this list of awardees included a member of the Region VIII health center community. Steve Federico, MD, Chief Government and Community Affairs Officer at [Denver Health's Community Health Services](#) (CO), was awarded the Samuel U. Rodgers, MD Achievement Award. Recipients of this award are distinguished primary care clinicians who exemplify excellence in clinical practice and leadership at the local, state, or national level.

Additionally, four members of the health center community were honored with the NACHC Lifetime Achievement Award, including one individual from Region VIII. Annette Kowal, President and CEO of [Colorado Community Health Network](#), was recognized for her enduring commitment, dedication, and significant contributions to the Community Health Center Movement. The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates those who have made substantial, lasting contributions to the Movement through their vision, leadership, and devotion to health equity. **Congratulations, Steve and Annette!**

For more information, please view the NACHC [Awards of Excellence](#) and [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) press releases.

NTTAP Training and Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

The 2024 National Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment portal is now open. Every three years, the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) collaborates with 22 [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA)-funded [National Training and Technical Assistance Partners](#) (NTTAPs) to develop and implement this assessment. This initiative aims to understand and address health center training and professional development needs, challenges, and priorities. The results of this assessment will be used to guide T/TA efforts by organizations that support health center staff, including Primary Care Associations (PCAs), NTTAPs, and Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs). The needs assessment, available online in English or Spanish, takes approximately 15 to 30 minutes to complete, and will be open through Friday, November 1, 2024. All health center staff are encouraged to participate.

Visit the [Health Center Resources Clearinghouse](#) to complete the assessment.

Now Available: State and National 2023 UDS Data

Each year, the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#) (BPHC) collects data from Health Center Program awardees and Look-Alikes through the Uniform Data System (UDS). Participants are required to report a core set of information, including data on patient characteristics, services provided, clinical processes and health outcomes, patients' use of services, staffing, costs, and revenues as part of the standardized reporting system. State and national UDS figures for 2023 were released in early August. To gain a more specific understanding of this data, CHAMPS compiles the information from across Region VIII to create a regionalized summary of UDS data, providing trends over two, three, and five years for selected Region VIII and national data as well as additional detailed breakdowns of data by state, region, and nation for the current year. An additional two-page 2023 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet highlights key findings from the larger summary.

To explore grantee and Look-Alike data, visit the [Health Center Program UDS Data Overview](#) webpage. To view 2023 and prior Region VIII UDS summaries and fact sheets, visit the CHAMPS [Region VIII UDS Summaries, Fact Sheets, and Infographics](#) webpage.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

HRSA 2024 CHQR Badges: Region VIII Awardees

Since 2021, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) has recognized health center program awardees and Look-Alikes annually for notable achievements through its Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) program.

In 2024, **45 Region VIII health centers and two Look-Alikes** were awarded at least one CHQR badge.

[Marias Healthcare Services, Inc.](#) (MT) was recognized as a National Quality Leader in Heart Health, and **[Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#)** (CO) was one of eight health centers to be recognized as a National Quality Leader in HIV Prevention and Care.

Congratulations to all the health centers that earned a CHQR badge this year!

View the [CHQR Dashboard](#) to explore badge awards by health center.

Visit the [CHQR Overview](#) and [FAQ](#) webpages for detailed information about eligibility criteria and benchmarks.

2024 UDS+ Submission Requirements

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) has announced new Uniform Data System (UDS+) patient-level submission requirements for calendar year (CY) 2024 UDS reporting. First, for CY 2024 UDS+ data submissions, health centers must, at a minimum, submit UDS+ data for their medical patients. Health centers that are capable may submit UDS+ data for their entire patient population.

Additionally, health centers will be required to submit data for several demographic tables, including data on patients by ZIP code, age and sex assigned at birth (Table 3A), demographic characteristics (Table 3B), and selected patient characteristics (Table 4).

Finally, health centers must submit at least one electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) from one of the clinical tables below:

- ★ Table 6B: Quality of Care Measures
 - Breast Cancer Screening
 - Cervical Cancer Screening
 - Colorectal Cancer Screening
- ★ Table 7: Health Outcomes and Disparities
 - Controlling High Blood Pressure (HRSA recommended)
 - Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (>9.0%)

Health centers will continue to submit aggregated legacy UDS data through HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) as the official submission of record for the 2024 reporting year. The legacy UDS submission is due Saturday, February 15, 2025. 2024 UDS+ submissions are due by Wednesday, April 30, 2025. HRSA is encouraging all health centers to join the [UDS Test Cooperative](#) fall meetings to learn more about these updated requirements.

For more information, please visit HRSA's [UDS Modernization Initiative](#) webpage and view the [2024 UDS+ Requirements One-Pager](#).

National Funding Opportunities & Grants.gov Closing Dates

- ★ [Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education \(THCGME\) Program AY 2024-2025](#) (September 5, 2024)
- ★ [Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education \(THCGME\) Program AY 2025-2026](#) (September 20, 2024)
- ★ [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. – Technical Assistance Provider](#) (October 22, 2024)
- ★ [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S – Systems Coordination Provider](#) (October 22, 2024)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Recent Federal Funding & Upcoming Opportunities

In June 2024, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) awarded \$56 million to all Health Center Program operational grant (H80) award recipients through the QIA-UDS+ Award. This one-time funding intends to support health centers in preparing and implementing programs and technologies to ensure high-quality, patient-level data submission as part of the modernization of the Uniform Data System (UDS+). Award recipients will utilize this supplemental funding for new equipment, meeting interoperability standards, and training staff in data management. **The 60 health center awardees operating in Region VIII received \$2,374,155.**

Visit HRSA's [QIA-UDS+ Award](#) webpage for more details.

In July 2024, HRSA announced a NOFO for its Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program. This funding is intended to support the expansion of existing approved residency programs and the establishment of new ones. The THCGME program aims to strengthen health center workforces by training physicians and dentists in community-based settings, with a focus on rural and underserved areas. Ultimately, the program seeks to improve health outcomes and expand health care access for members of underserved and rural communities, and increase the number of physicians and dentists trained in community-based settings.

The NOFO has two components: one to support residency slots starting in Academic Year (AY) 2024-2025 and another to support residency slots in AY 2025-2026.

- ★ Academic Year 2024-2025 ([HRSA-25-091](#)) expects to award \$10 million to up to six grantees over a four year period. Applications are due Thursday, September 5, 2024.
- ★ Academic Year 2025-2026 ([HRSA-25-077](#)) intends to award \$80 million to 41 grantees over a four year period, if funding is available. Applications are due Friday, September 20, 2024.

For more information, visit HRSA's [THCGME Funding Opportunity](#) webpage.

In August 2024, HRSA awarded nearly \$9 million to 18 HRSA-funded health centers to improve access to cancer screenings in underserved communities through its Accelerating Cancer Screening Award. Awardees will work directly with the National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers to expedite patient access to cancer care and treatment. Funding will support outreach specialists and patient navigators in engaging underserved communities. Their work in these communities will focus on promoting early cancer detection, connecting individuals to screening services, and assisting with access to cancer care and treatment. **[Congratulations to Region VIII awardees Denver Health and Hospitals Authority \(CO\) and Midtown Community Health Center, Inc. \(UT\)!](#)**

For more information and a full list of awardees, view the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [press release](#).

Don't Miss: HRSA's New [Health Center Program History](#) Website

To honor of nearly 60 years of the Health Center Program, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) launched a new website focused on the history of the program and the people who made it happen.

Based on research and interviews with HRSA leadership and staff, external partners, and health center leaders, this website provides an overview of the program's eventful history over the last six decades.

Stay Up to Date on All Things Region VIII – Sign Up for CHAMPS Communications

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

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Ag Worker Health & Services: [Ag Worker Health & Services provide health care services at affordable rates to agricultural workers](#) (*KULR8, May 2024*)
- ★ Alluvion Health: [Alluvion's school-based behavioral health services works to help students](#) (*KRTV, June 2024*)
- ★ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: [Free haircuts in Denver for people experiencing homelessness](#) (*9News, August 2024*)
- ★ Horizon Health: [Cowboy Cares Bull Bash raised more than \\$100,000](#) (*Timber Lake Topic, July 2024*)
- ★ MarillacHealth: [MarillacHealth breaks ground on new headquarters, its largest clinic](#) (*The Daily Sentinel, July 2024*)
- ★ Salud Family Health: [Celebrating safety-net health centers serving 1 in 7 Coloradans](#) (*Public News Service, August 2024*)
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic: [Summit Community Care Clinic expands services in Lake County](#) (*Herald Democrat, August 2024*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2024

[CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative, Session One](#)

September 5

[CCHN Triannual](#)

September 12; Northglenn, CO

[MHA/MPCA Montana Healthcare Conference](#)

September 17-20; Billings, MT

[AUCH/NACHC New Clinical Directors Training](#)

September 18-19; Salt Lake City, UT

[Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates](#)

September 24

[CHAD Outreach & Enrollment Workshop](#)

September 25-26; Aberdeen, SD

[CHAMPS Leadership Development Training, Session Four](#)

September 26

October 2024

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

October 26-29; Denver, CO

November 2024

[CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative, Session Two](#)

November 7

[NACHC Partner Conference](#)

November 18-19; Seattle, WA

Looking Ahead

[CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative, Session Three](#)

January 9, 2025

[NACHC Policy & Issues Forum](#)

February 5-8, 2025; Washington, DC

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

Wednesdays, February 26 – March 26, 2025

[CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative, Session Four](#)

March 6, 2025

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

May 12-15, 2025; Baltimore, MD

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

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