



## Expanding and Sustaining Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) Across New York State

### FQHCs are Vital to the Development of High-Performing Primary Care

- **FQHCs** are not-for-profit, community-based providers **located in medically underserved areas**.
- They provide **high quality, cost-effective**, patient-centered primary and preventive health services to **anyone seeking care, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay**.
- There is a **primary care shortage** across many regions of New York State.
- **FQHCs are critical to creating high-performing primary care networks** across New York and are central to state and federal health reform strategies.

### Policy Requests:

#### 1. The Expansion and Sustainability of Internal and Physical Capacity

##### *Increased Access to Affordable Capital*

- We support the Governor's **\$1.2 billion appropriation for health care capital investment**.
- Primary care safety net providers should receive a substantial portion of the annual distributions **to expand primary care in New York** from the \$1.2 billion in capital funds proposed in the Governor's budget.
- **Primary care expansion requires access to affordable capital**. Capital funds help providers:
  - build new sites,
  - expand existing sites,
  - renovate outdated facilities,
  - purchase health information technology, and
  - increase patient access through telemedicine and mobile medical vans.

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### ***Expansion of the Health Facility Restructuring Program***

This provision allows the Department of Health to **work with select providers to access an interest-free loan program to help sustain their services**. The expansion will make it possible for D&TCs to access the program, thereby allowing DOH to **leverage this resource for FQHCs as well**.

### ***Funding for Migrant and Seasonal Health Care Programs***

- Support **continued funding at previous fiscal year levels (\$430,000) for Migrant Health Care programs** across New York State.
- Migrant Health Care funding allows FQHCs and other eligible providers to care for **over 18,000 migrant and seasonal agricultural workers and their families**, who are important to New York State's farming industry.

## **2. Primary Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

### ***Funding for Doctors Across New York (DANY) and the Primary Care Service Corps (PCSC)***

- We support the Governor's FY 2014–15 budget proposal for ongoing funding for **Doctors Across New York and the Primary Care Service Corps (\$500,000)** – public health programs that advance primary care workforce recruitment and retention.
- We also ask for funding for **250 additional annual awards** under the DANY program by adding **approximately \$8.75 million** to the FY 2014-15 budget.
- There is a growing shortage of primary care professionals in many parts of New York State — both in rural communities and urban centers.

## **3. Community-Level Planning**

- Support **the proposed FY 2014-15 Executive Budget provision for the Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives (RHICs)**.
- Community-level planning will support the development of plans that can be implemented at the local level and will be an important complement to regional planning efforts.
- **Resources are needed to develop the infrastructure for regional level planning**, under the leadership of RHICs.