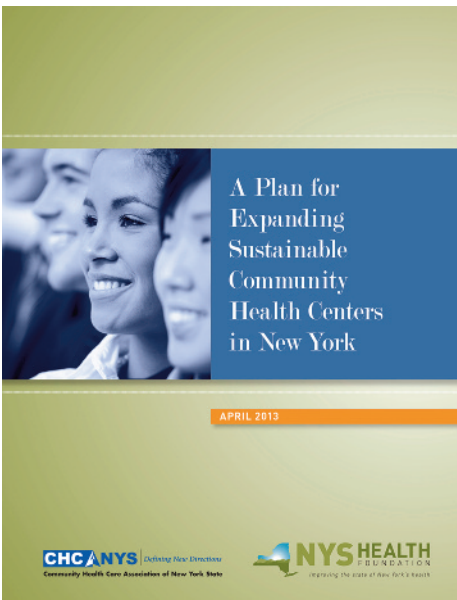




## ► Expanding Sustainable Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in New York State



### **CHCANYS Urges the Legislature to Support the Development and Expansion of High-Performing Community-Based Primary Care.**

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) 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. FQHCs are medical homes, offering a comprehensive model of care that is associated with demonstrated improved outcomes and reduced costs.

Many communities throughout New York need additional primary care capacity to meet their current and future health care needs. FQHCs are vital partners for creating high-performing primary care networks across New York State and are central to both state and federal health reform strategies. In alignment with these reform strategies, CHCANYS—with support from the New York State Health Foundation—has released *A Plan for Expanding Sustainable Community Health Centers in New York* (The Plan). The Plan is a rational, data-based toolkit for building new FQHC capacity and expanding the current reach to serve more patients.

**To Advance the Plan to Expand Sustainable Community Health Centers in New York, We Urge Support for the Following:**

### ► **Expansion and Sustainability of Internal and Physical Capacity**

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

CHCANYS supports the Governor's \$1.2 billion appropriation for health care capital investment. The Governor's budget proposes an annual distribution of \$200 million per year for the first five years and \$100 million per year subsequently. CHCANYS urges the State to ensure primary care safety net providers receive a substantial portion of the \$200 million in annual distributions proposed in the Governor's budget to expand primary care in New York.

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

CHCANYS supports the Governor's proposal to expand the availability of the Health Facility Restructuring Program, which allows the Department of Health (DOH) 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 with an Article 28 license to access the program, thereby allowing DOH to leverage this resource for FQHCs as well.

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

CHCANYS strongly supports continued funding (FY 2012–13, \$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 integral to New York State's agribusiness.



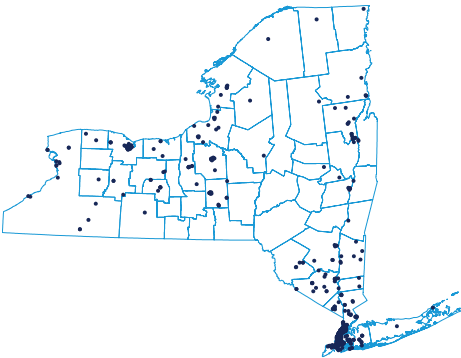
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Expanding Sustainable Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in New York State *continued*

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**Expanding the State's existing provider recruitment and retention programs to fill existing vacancies could produce 720,000 more visits for 155,000 patients.**

**FQHCs operate approximately 600 sites across New York State with one half of these sites located in New York City.**



► **Primary Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

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

CHCANYS urges NYS to commit to a diverse and strong primary care workforce by safeguarding programs like DANY and PCSC.

CHCANYS supports the Governor's FY 2014–15 budget proposal for ongoing funding to support previous DANY class commitments; however, this funding is not enough to support a new class of DANY recipients. We request an increase in funding for 250 additional annual awards (125 Loan Repayment and 125 Practice Support) under the DANY program by adding approximately \$8.75 million to the FY 2014–15 budget.

CHCANYS supports the inclusion of funding of the PCSC at \$500,000 with an equivalent federal match. The PCSC provides loan repayment opportunities for critical allied health professionals, including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and dentists.

*There is a growing shortage of primary care professionals in many parts of New York State—both in rural communities and urban centers. The Plan highlights 369 provider vacancies within FQHCs alone in New York State. If all of these vacancies within FQHCs are filled, the result could produce 850,000 more visits for more than 185,000 patients.*

► **Investment in Community-Level Health Planning.**

**Investment in Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives (RHICs)**

CHCANYS urges the State to support provisions for RHICs throughout New York. FQHCs can be informed and innovative partners in regional health planning efforts, and their participation should be encouraged and supported. Community-level planning supports the development of plans that are relevant and actionable at the local level. Resources are needed to develop the infrastructure for and support the implementation of this level of planning, under the leadership of the RHICs.