



Maintain the Executive Budget's Proposed \$54.4 Million for the Diagnostic and Treatment Center (D&TC) Uncompensated Care Pool

Policy Request

To ensure that the most vulnerable New Yorkers are able to access care, we urge the Legislature to:

Maintain the Executive Budget's proposed \$54.4 million for the Diagnostic and Treatment Center (D&TC) Uncompensated Care Pool.

Background:

The D&TC Uncompensated Care Pool provides funding to health centers for services provided to uninsured patients. FQHCs are **New York State's primary care safety net**, but they are **struggling under the financial burden of providing care for the uninsured** because of the low reimbursement they receive for serving these patients.

- According to our mission and our mandate, **FQHCs are only located in designated underserved communities**, and they provide access to primary and preventive health care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.
- Though we try hard to ensure that people are enrolled in health insurance plans, **23% of health center patients are uninsured—a 6.5% increase over the past 5 years.**
- **FQHCs play a critical role in caring for newly-insured patients**, while at the same time serving as the primary care safety net for the uninsured.
- **FQHCs serve those most in need.** Our patients are likely to represent: Medicaid, uninsured, low-income, and/or ethnic and racial minority populations.

The D&TC Uncompensated Care Pool uses a simple, transparent formula to assess "uncompensated care need."

The "need" is calculated by multiplying the number of "self-pay" or uninsured visits by a facility's Medicaid rate. The sum the facility received to offset the visits is subtracted from that amount to derive a number representing "need" or losses.

The more uninsured care a FQHC provides, the greater proportion of the pool the FQHC receives.