

## News Release

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### **CHCANYS Testifies at New York City Council's Preliminary Budget Hearing, Urging Council to Support \$16.5 M to Expand Health Centers in NYC**

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) offered testimony during a Preliminary Budget Hearing of the New York City Council's Health Committee on March 23, 2015, that focused on the Mayor's plans to expand health centers as the City confronts a severe shortage of primary care services in at-risk communities.

Beverly Grossman, Senior Director of Policy for CHCANYS, urged the City Council to support Mayor Bill de Blasio's preliminary budget plan that includes \$16.5 million for health centers. This funding would provide working and capital grants to facilitate the development and expansion of at least ten high performing, community-based primary care health centers in underserved, high-need areas.

The City needs to build a larger system of FQHCs and other community-based healthcare providers in order to meet DSRIP's laudable goal of system transformation with a subsequent reduction in avoidable hospitalizations. While Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2015 budget proposed \$1.4 billion in capital funding, it focused on hospital development and restructuring, with no clear investment in community based providers. The Mayor's plan to provide City resources for FQHC expansion recognizes that access to affordable capital enables community-based primary care providers to build or expand facilities in targeted neighborhoods, which will be essential to achieving true delivery system transformation.

Given the high costs of health care expansion, it will be critical that providers are able to leverage additional outside resources, such as FQHC equity, NYS and federal programs, New Market Tax Credits, nonprofit and private lenders, foundations, and other sources. CHCANYS urges the City Council to support the Mayor's plan to develop a loan guarantee program to compliment the proposed \$16.5 million in grants, which will be a necessary component of a successful expansion project.

*A transcript of the full CHCANYS testimony is attached to this document.*

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### **About Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**

In New York State, more than 60 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) -supported community health centers (otherwise known as Federally Qualified Health Centers) operate approximately 600 service delivery sites that provide care to nearly 1.7 million patients. Nationally, nearly 1,300 HRSA-supported health centers operate more than 9,200 service delivery sites that provide care to nearly 22 million patients in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin.

### **About the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS)**

CHCANYS' mission is to ensure that all New Yorkers, including those who live in medically underserved communities, have continuous access to high quality community-based health care services, including a primary care home. CHCANYS serves as the voice of community health centers as leading providers of primary health care in New York State. For more information visit [www.chcanys.org](http://www.chcanys.org).