**YOUR HEALTH CENTER NAME** **JOINS CHCANYS FOR ADVOCACY DAY 2019**

***Hundreds of Advocates from Across New York State Join Forces to Rally Lawmakers in Albany to Support New York’s Community Health Centers!***

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*Your Contact Info Here*

YOUR HEALTH CENTER NAME joined the [Community Health Care Association of New York State](http://www.chcanys.org/index.php?submenu=About_Us&src=gendocs&ref=AboutUs&category=About%20Us) (CHCANYS) hundreds of members from Community Health Centers across New York State today at the Empire State Plaza in Albany to rally lawmakers to support New York’s Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs, also known as Community Health Centers, are New York’s safety net providers. They offer high-quality, comprehensive primary and preventive care to anyone who needs it – regardless of whether or not they have insurance or if they can pay. FQHCs also offer dental, vision, and behavioral health services – including substance use disorder treatment. FQHCs also have special staff dedicated to caring for children and pregnant women. In order to ensure ongoing access to comprehensive primary care services for all New Yorkers, CHCANYS and its members are asking the Legislature to increase funding for primary care for uninsured patients in this year’s budget by $20M, a number that will be doubled with the federal match.

Community Health Centers in New York State are represented by CHCANYS, a non-profit that advocates and educates on their behalf. **At CHCANYS’ annual Advocacy Day today,** **President and CEO Rose Duhan explained why the additional funding is so important**, “New York’s Community Health Centers serve more than 2.3 million patients per year – that’s one in every nine New Yorkers! We are on the front lines in addressing health disparities and the opioid crisis, caring for the people who might otherwise have nowhere else to go. Funding Community Health Centers ensures all New Yorkers – regardless of their circumstances – continue to have access to the health care they and their families need.”

INFO ABOUT YOUR HEALTH CENTER HERE

YOUR PRESIDENT/CEO’s QUOTE HERE

New York’s 72 Community Health Centers operate in underserved areas at more than 800 locations statewide. They can be found in low-income urban communities and rural areas that wouldn’t otherwise have a doctor’s office. In multi-cultural areas, staff at health centers speak the languages of the people in their communities – allowing them to break through the language barrier. Health centers help with other challenges as well – connecting patients with services including housing, transportation, health education, and other available support.

Health centers keep people out of the emergency room by addressing health care needs in a primary care setting. They also provide care that improves the health of the population overall. That means fewer long term illnesses and chronic diseases. More than half of the patients seen by CHCs in New York State are covered by Medicaid. The rest are covered by Medicare, [HRSA](https://www.hrsa.gov/) grants, indigent care programs, commercial insurance, or are self-paid.

Click [here](https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov) to find a Federally Qualified Community Health Center near you.

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