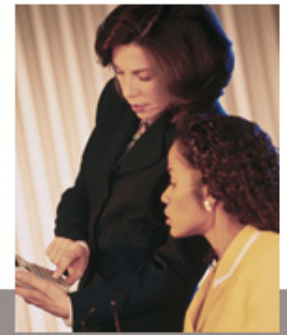




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  

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Community Health Centers



America's Voice for Community Health Care

# Federal Legislative Update

Community Health Care Association  
of New York State  
2007 Annual Conference & Meeting

Susan Jenkins  
October 15, 2007



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Community Health Centers

## *America's Voice for Community Health Care*

### **The NACHC Mission**

To promote the provision of high quality, comprehensive and affordable health care that is coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent, and community directed for all medically underserved people.

# NACHC Legislation Team

**Craig A. Kennedy**  
Assoc. Vice President for Federal and State Affairs

**Licy Do Canto**  
Director of Federal Affairs

**Marc Wetherhorn**  
Director of National Advocacy

**Roger Schwartz**  
Director of State Affairs

**Lisa Cox**  
Public Health  
Authorizations

**Amanda Pears**  
Assistant Director

**Dawn McKinney**  
Assistant Director

**John Sawyer**  
Federal Appropriations

**6 Regional Field  
Organizers**

**Susan Jenkins**  
Medicare/ Private  
Insurance

# Federal Legislative Priorities

**Public Health  
Authorizations**

**Medicaid and  
SCHIP**

**PRESERVE  
STRENGTHEN  
EXPAND**

**Federal  
Appropriations**

**Medicare/ Private  
Insurance**



# Appropriations

1. Toward **30 Million Patients by 2015**: Principles for Growth
2. Strategy for **Implementation of New Funds**
3. **Fiscal Year 2008** Appropriations Request

# Four Basic Growth Principles

## **Building on the Base**

### **Investing in Existing Centers**

- patient-centered growth that recognizes
  - increased costs and patient loads
- Expanded Medical Capacity grants to bring care to more patients in underserved areas

## **New High-Need Communities**

### **Bringing Access to Care to New Areas**

- New health centers in communities with high need and no current access
- Planning Grants to improve communities health center proposals and implementation

## **New Services**

### **Making Every Center a “One-Stop Shop”**

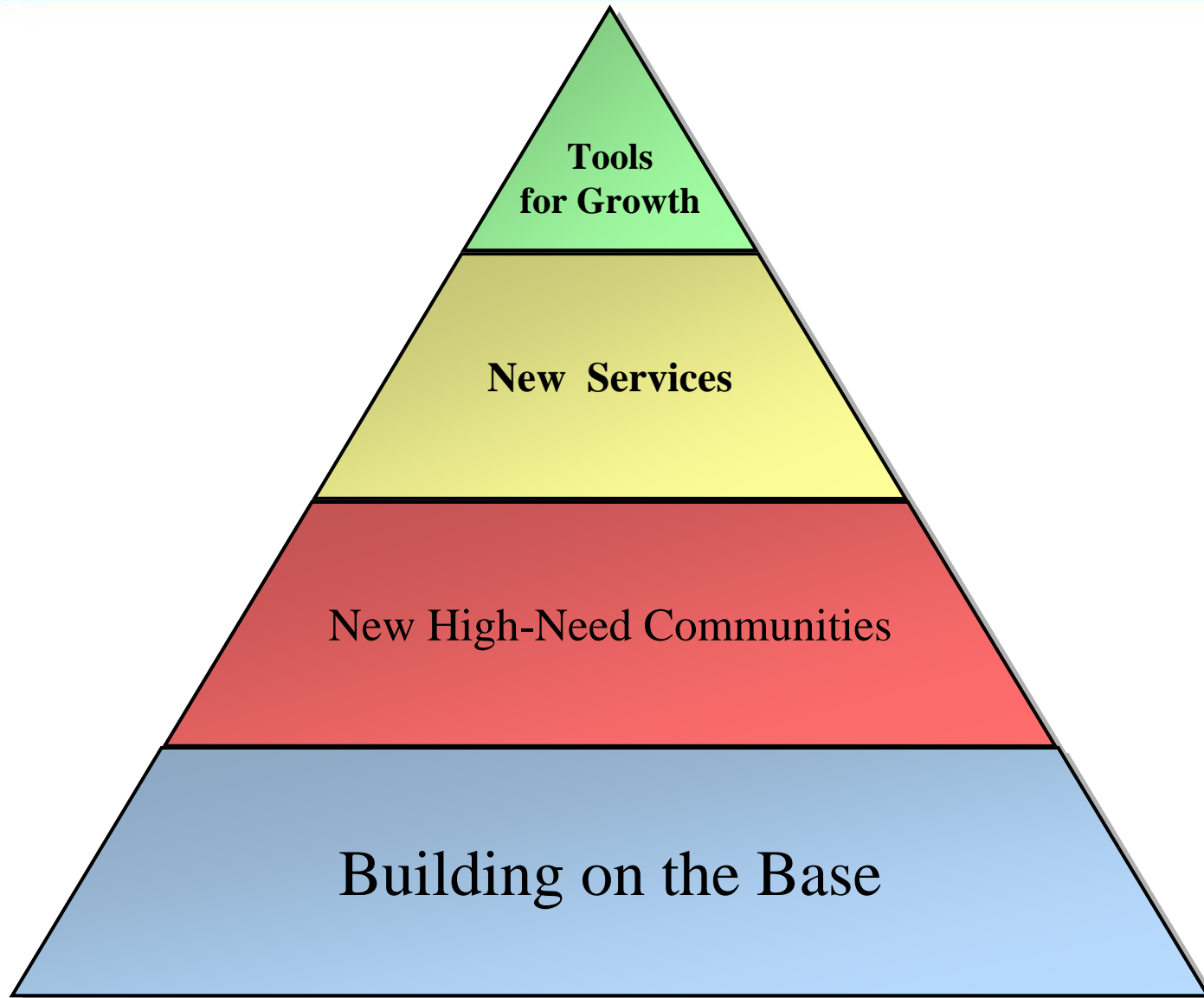
- Service Expansion grants flexible enough to meet the needs of every health center
- Access to mental health, dental and pharmacy services at every center by 2015

## **Tools for Growth**

### **Saving Costs and Improving Infrastructure**

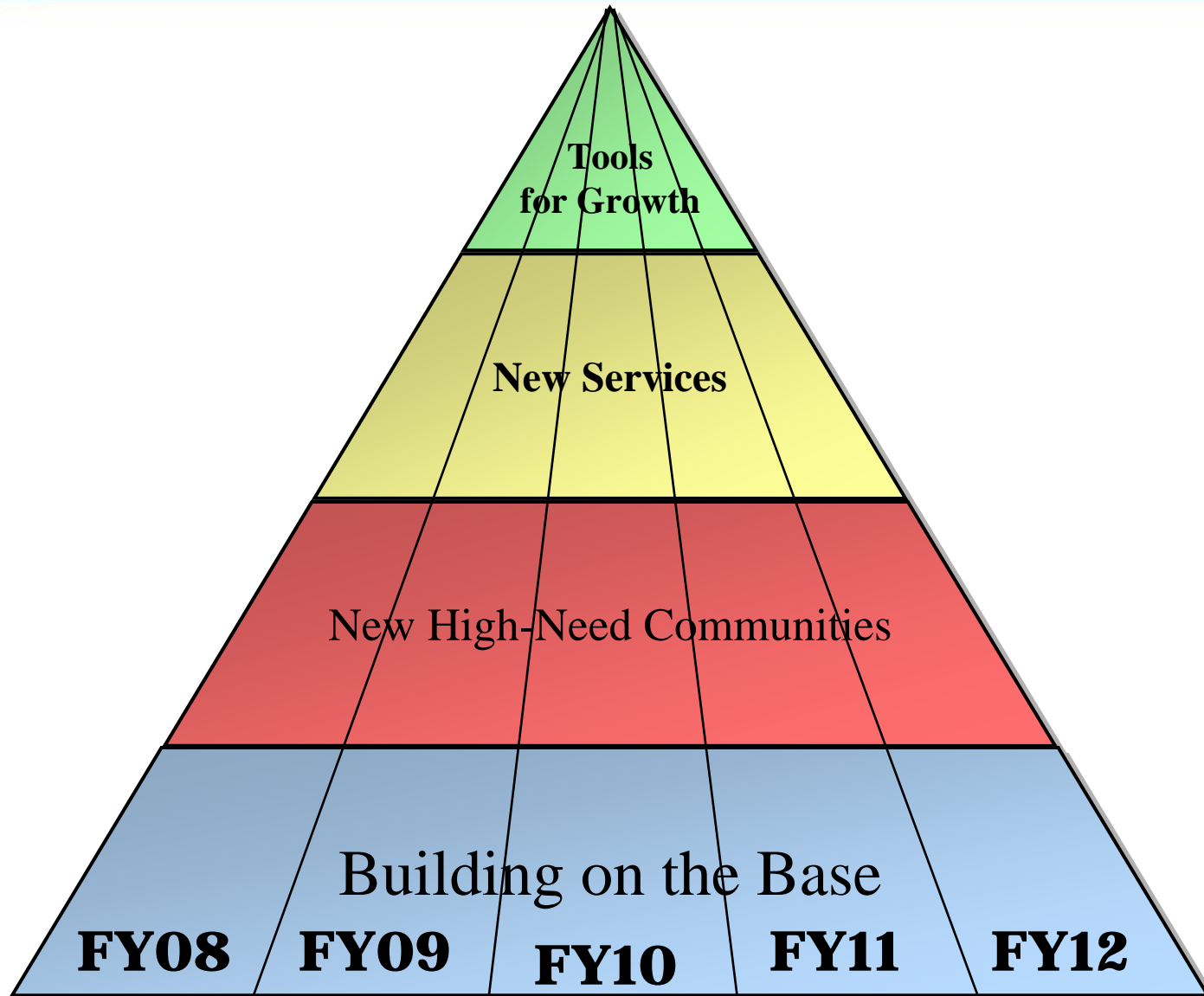
- FTCA and FEHBP coverage
- Networking and Health IT
- Loans and Loan Guarantees
  - Construction Funding

# Strategic Funding Breakdown

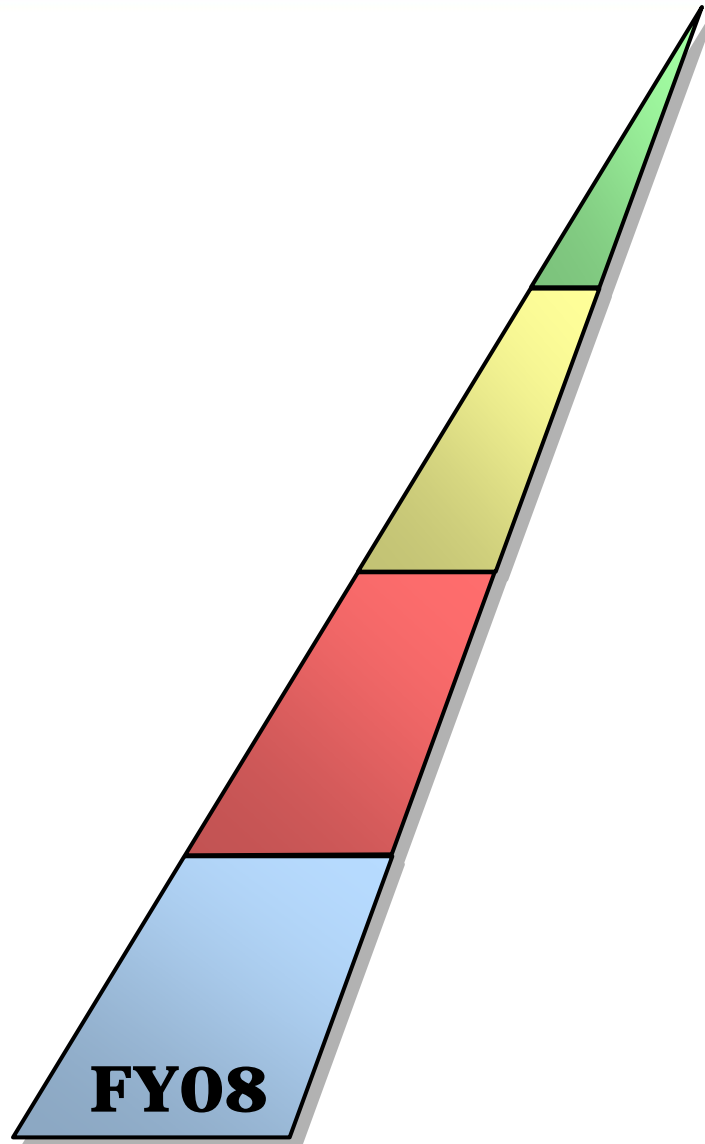




# Strategic Funding on an Annual Basis



# FY08: The First Piece of the Pie



# Funding Breakdown by Category

**Tools  
for Growth  
\$12 million**

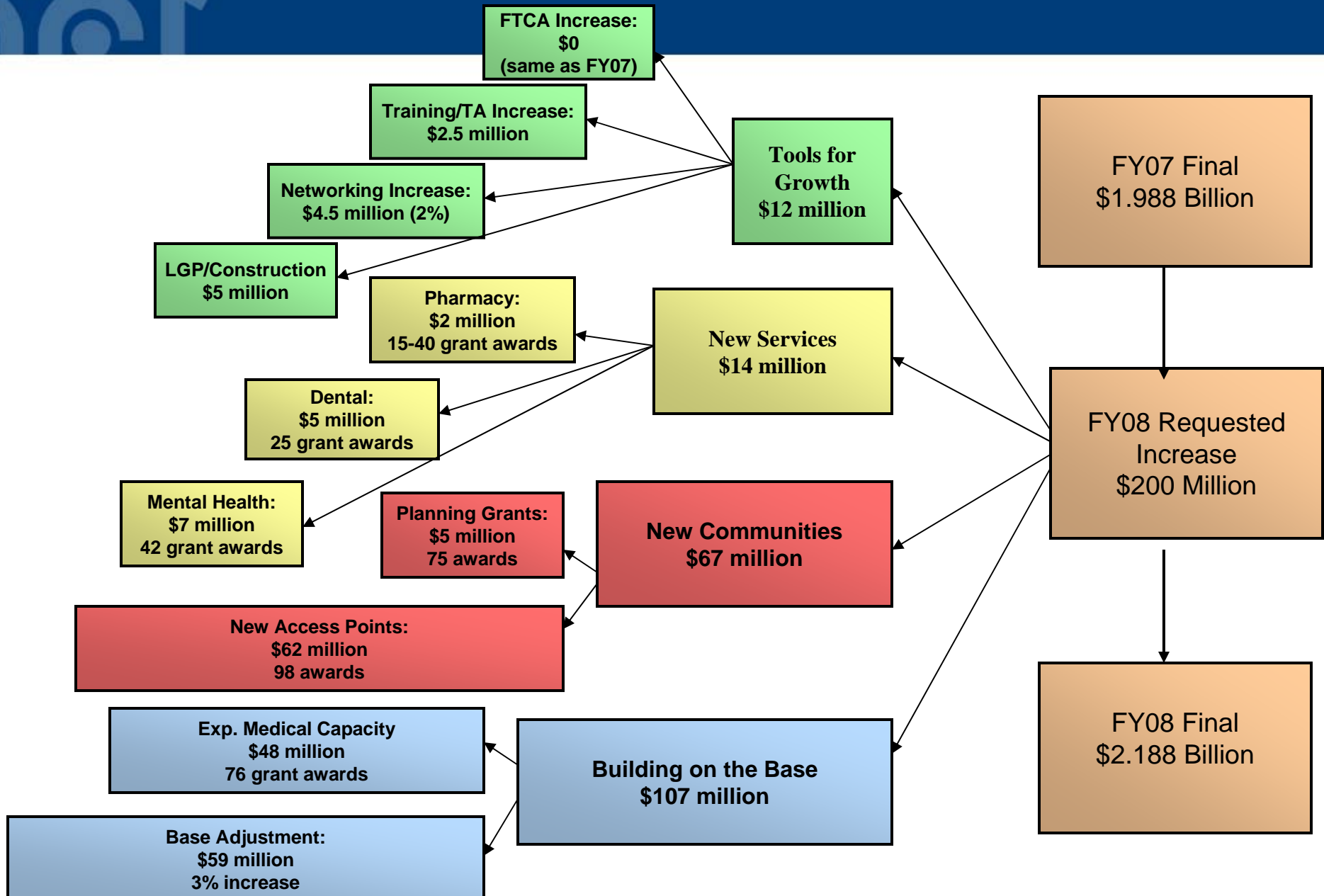
**New Services  
\$14 million**

**New Communities  
\$67 million**

**Building on the Base  
\$107 million**

**FY08**

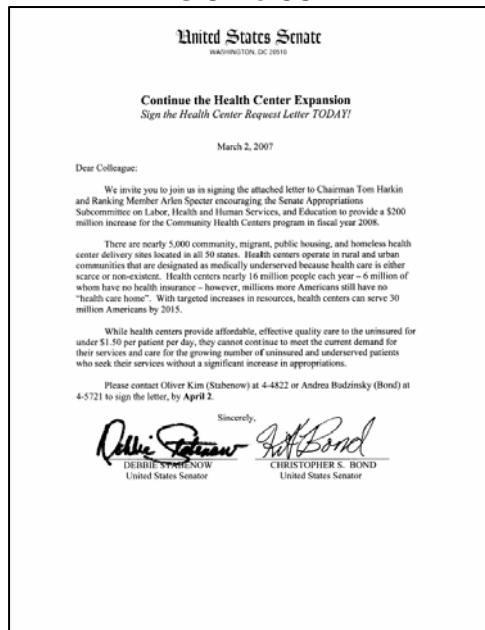
# FY08 Appropriations Request



# Where do we stand today?

## FY2008 Appropriations Sign-on Letters

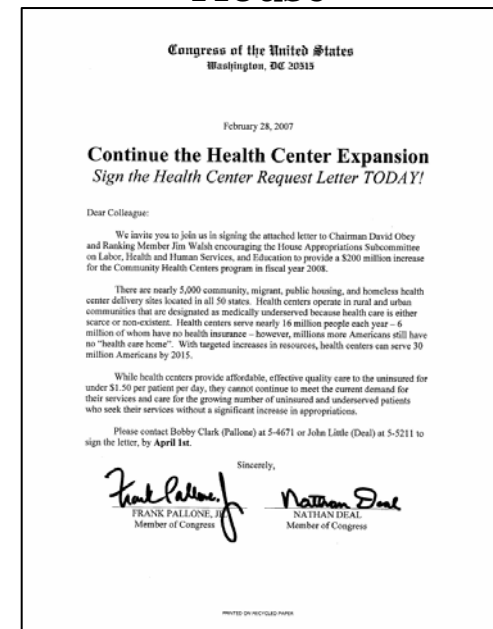
### Senate



**Stabenow-Bond Letter**  
**This Year: 64 Signers**  
**Target: 70+**

FY08 Requested  
Increase  
\$200 Million

### House



**Pallone-Deal Letter**  
**This Year: 226 Signers**  
**Target: 240+**



# How Did NY Delegation Do?

## **FY2008 Appropriations Sign-on Letters**

### **Stabenow-Bond**

Both Senator Clinton and Senator  
Schumer signed onto letter

### **Pallone-Deal**

21 out of 29 Members  
signed onto letter



# What are the Next Steps on Appropriations?

- Full House passed the LHHS funding bill on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 276-140. Health Centers received a \$200 million increase
- Senate Appropriations Committee passed a \$250 million increase
- Full Senate hasn't acted – House/Senate conference won't happen until later this year
- Not a Done Deal: **Presidential Veto** looming
  - **Your help is needed** to keep the pressure on for increased Health Centers funding



# Health Centers Reauthorization

- Preserve and protect cornerstone elements
- Include funding targets that put Health Centers on the path to 30 million by 2015
- Continue to build Congressional support towards enactment this year
- Eliminate challenges to passage this year





# Reauthorization

## ➤ Health Centers Renewal Act (HR 1343/S 901)

Senate Authors:       HELP Committee Chairman Ted Kennedy (D-MA)  
                              Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

House Authors:       Rep. Gene Green (D-TX)  
                              Rep. Charles “Chip” Pickering (R-MS)

- Provides for a **straight 5yr reauthorization** of CHCs
- **Keeps all key pillars** of the program’s success
- Calls for **specific growth targets**
- Current House Cosponsors **230**, Senate Cosponsors **69**

# Key Challenges for 2007

## Protecting Core Elements of the Health Centers Program:

- 51% Patient Majority Board
- Open to All
- Location in MUAs
- Comprehensive Services

## Support for continuation & growth

- 5 year reauthorization
- Funding levels to put health centers on a path to serve 30 million by 2015

## Minimizing Obstacles to Reauthorization

- Ascension Draft Demo Proposal
- Shoring up Support for Funding
- Anticipating Member Concerns





# NY Support for Reauthorization

## NY House Cosponsors of H.R. 1343

20 out of 29 Representatives have signed on

## NY Senate Cosponsors of S. 901

Both Senators have signed on



# Next Steps on Reauthorization?

- NACHC continuing to work with Senate HELP and House Energy and Commerce Committee on the timing, size and shape of reauthorization package
- House and Senate Action Likely in October
  - Your Help will be needed in August and September to urge Members to reauthorize the program
- Consideration by the full House and Senate
- Congress Should Renew Other Key Programs
  - National Health Service Corps



# SCHIP and Medicaid

- Reauthorization of SCHIP
- Challenges to Protecting Medicaid



# SCHIP Reauthorization

- SCHIP is still likely to be reauthorized this year, but lawmakers differ on a number of policy issues.

SCHIP Funding?

Covered Populations?

Types of Coverage?

Medicaid Implications?



# SCHIP Reauthorization- the Latest

- Senate: Finance Committee Bill
  - Passed \$35 billion package earlier this year
  - Maintains Coverage for all 6.6 kids on SCHIP
  - Extends care to 3.2 million low-income, uninsured children
  - Funded through an increase in tobacco tax
  
- House: Energy and Commerce/Ways and Means Package, H.R. 3162, Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act
  - Passed \$50 billion package earlier this year
  - Extends care to additional 5-6 million children
  - Funded through Medicare provisions and tobacco tax



# SCHIP Reauthorization- the Latest

- House and Senate worked on compromise
  - **Included creation of Health Center PPS under SCHIP!!**
- Closer to Senate passed version of SCHIP package
- House passed September 25 by a vote of 265-159
- Senate passed September 27 by a vote of 67-29
- President expected to veto legislation
- What's next??





# Medicare

- Goal: Making the Medicare program work better for Health Centers

# Medicare Payment Cap

- Medicare Adjustment to Community Health Centers (MATCH) Act
  - House Bill is [H.R. 2897](#) – 10 cosponsors – NY cosponsors needed. Senate bill introduced early October.
  - Creates a [Medicare Prospective Payment System \(PPS\)](#) for health centers based on the actual costs of delivering care.
  - Based on Medicaid PPS payment structure.
  - Updates [Medicare FQHC benefit package](#) to include all Medicare-covered services at a health center.
  - Efforts to add a study of a Medicare PPS to SCHIP package





# Insurance Coverage

- Priority: Bringing Health Center employees into the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program

# Insurance Coverage for Health Center Employees



- **Community Health Centers Into Expanded FEHBP (CHIEF) Act (HR1518)**
  - H.R. 1518 has 31 cosponsors – need NY cosponsors
  - Senate bill introduced early October
  - Allows health centers to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program enabling them to provide insurance to their own employees at a reasonable cost and use the federal funds they receive for their original intent – helping those in need.
  - Goal: build support and momentum for action next year



Questions  
From the  
Audience?

