



## HOW TO TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATORS ABOUT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS: FOUR KEY REASONS WHY CHCs ARE IMPORTANT

### 1. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS ARE THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE...

- Over 400 community health center advocates statewide *and \_\_\_\_\_ from your community* are in Albany today with a very important message -- community, migrant and homeless health centers are integral to New York's primary care safety net.
- Community health centers are locally owned and operated non-profit entities, with the majority of their boards comprised of health center patients.
  - *Introduce any community Board Members in the meeting.*

### 2. EVERY DAY, OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS DELIVER QUALITY CARE TO THOUSANDS OF NEW YORKERS, FROM BUFFALO TO BROOKLYN...

- CHCs serve 1.4 million people who would otherwise go without care.
  - *Provide a personal example – have a patient or staff member briefly tell how they or someone they treated received care they otherwise would not have received.*
  - *Let your legislators know just how proud you are of your community health center.*

### 3. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS DELIVER HIGH QUALITY CARE TO THEIR PATIENTS...

- CHCs are responsive to their communities' individual needs, and they improve health and prevention by using a locally-tailored **health care home model**.
  - Of the 30 health centers statewide who had responded to a CHCANYS survey as of January 2012, 83% had at least one site that had achieved Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition at any level and 63% had at least one site that had achieved Level III recognition (the highest level).

- CHCs excel at care coordination and disease management, keeping patients out of emergency rooms.
  - Health centers improve rates of important preventive screening services and offer prenatal services that improve birth outcomes and reduce health disparities.
  - Health centers have been proven to significantly reduce the expected lifetime incidence of diabetes complications, including blindness, kidney failure, and certain forms of heart disease.
- Health centers rapidly incorporate and share evidence-based quality improvement practices and are investing in electronic health records to enhance and better coordinate patient care.
  - New York has one of the highest rates of EHR implementation in the nation. Statewide, 97% of health centers have implemented EHRs or have an implementation in progress; EHR implementation rate for New York City's FQHCs is 100%.
  - *Tell your legislators when your health center adopted EHRs and how it is improving care.*

**4. THANKS TO THEIR DOCUMENTED RECORD OF PROVIDING REAL VALUE FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS HAVE RECEIVED INCREDIBLY STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT...**

- *Thank your legislators and/or their staff for meeting with you today.*
- *Thank them for their continued support.*
- *Don't forget to ask your legislators if they will support:*
  - ***Maintain the Executive Budget's proposed \$54.4 million for the Diagnostic and Treatment Center (D&TC) Indigent Care Pool.;***
  - ***Maintain the Executive Budget's proposed \$430,000 for continued funding for community health centers serving migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families.***
  - ***Support the Executive Budget's proposed \$1 million for the Primary Care Service Corps.***