



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS (CHCs)



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (CHC)?

A Community Health Center (CHC) is a federally funded primary healthcare service entity that provides affordable healthcare options to all patients, regardless of income and insurance status.

MISSION AND GOVERNANCE

To provide affordable and accessible healthcare to everyone.

CHCs are community-governed. Federal law mandates that at least 51% of a CHC's Board of Directors must be active patients at the Health Center. This model is structured to ensure Community Health Centers are responsive to the needs of their communities.

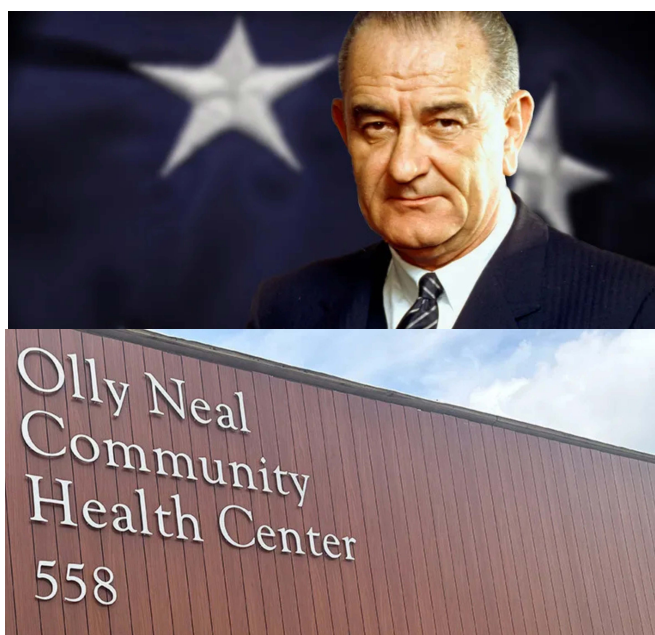


A BRIEF HISTORY

The CHC model started with President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty and the Public Health Services Act of 1965. Activists and clinicians championed the idea that affordable healthcare could break cycles of poverty.

The first Community Health Center was established in 1965 in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Founded in 1969, the Olly Neal Community Health Center (formally known as the Lee County Cooperative Clinic) was the first community health center in Arkansas. It is named in honor of the clinic's first director.



PATIENT POPULATION

32.5 million

CHCs provide care for **32.5 million** patients in the U.S.



321,000

Arkansas's 12 CHC's serve more than **321,000 patients** across the state, many who live at or below the poverty level.



Some CHCs serve middle-class patients with employer-sponsored health plans in rural areas as well as patients with Medicare and Tricare.



REQUIRED SERVICES

- CHCs address gaps in the healthcare system.
- CHCs are required to provide primary care and services that are known as enabling services to help remove barriers to care.
- While they often serve low-income neighborhoods, CHCs can also be found in more affluent areas. That's because there may still be people there who need care—like folks experiencing homelessness or justice-involved individuals.
- CHCs should collaborate with other local health and social care service providers; however, it is possible that referral networks may not exist.
- CHCs should conduct quality improvement assessments (QI) and community needs assessments to understand the continued needs of the surrounding communities.
- CHCs should report data on finances, care, patients, etc. to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

SOURCES:

https://www.kff.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/module_1--an_introduction_to_the_community_health_center_model.pdf

<https://www.nachc.org/community-health-centers/what-is-a-health-center/file:///C:/Users/Intern2/Downloads/State-Fact-Sheet-Arkansas.pdf>

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF ARKANSAS

CHC BASICS

Community Health Centers of Arkansas (CHCA) is a non-profit organization established in 1985 to expand access to affordable quality care in Arkansas, and to create a unified voice for Community Health Centers (CHCs) and the patients they serve. For nearly 40 years, CHCA has received funding to provide training/technical assistance to CHCs for improving care delivery.

WWW.CHC-AR.ORG