State Priorities

- Given the significant strain put on health care workers during the pandemic, additional resources are needed to ensure workforce stability in underserved communities. MNACHC supports investment into the health care workforce for retention, training, and development. Or by ensuring APMIV rebasing considers a market-based inflator to account for wage increases.
- Expanding telehealth to include audio-only visits is essential to ensuring that low-income Minnesotans have access to care through telehealth. Too often patients lack technology or data to access care. MNACHC supports expansion of telehealth to better serve these individuals to ensure continuity in primary care.
- Ensuring that Health Centers can provide same day medical and mental health visits to Medicaid patients. Under the new payment mechanism – APMIV.
- Ensuring that Health Center efforts related to administration of the Covid-19 vaccine to Medicaid patients is accurately accounted for in either re-based MA APMIV rates or through other mechanisms as directed by the federal government.
- Increasing funding to Health Centers from the current state support grant to reflect the significant work of CHC’s.

Federal Priorities

- Health Centers support protecting 340B and ensuring the continued use of 340B savings to provide more comprehensive care to more underserved patients.
- Health Centers urge Congress to support at least $7 billion to address chronic workforce shortages at Community Health Centers. Additionally, MNACHC encourages Senators to cosponsor the Strengthening America’s Health Care Readiness Act (S. 54) to invest billions into the National Health Service Corps.
- Congress should commit at least $5.9 billion to meet needed capital projects, begin a four-year effort to double federal investments in the Health Center program, as well as provide $2.2 billion in discretionary funding for FY2022.
- Health Centers support the CONNECT for Health Act, which allows for further utilization of telehealth services alongside sustainable Medicare reimbursement.

For more information on MNACHC’s legislative priorities and activity, please contact Rochelle Westlund at Rochelle.Westlund@mnachc.org.