



**Washington
Association for
Community Health**
Community Health Centers
Advancing Quality Care for All



Annual Report



2024

A Message From Bob



Looking to the future, the Washington Association for Community Health remains steadfast in our mission to ensure equitable health care access for all.

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the Washington Association for Community Health, a milestone that celebrates four decades of unwavering dedication to improving access to quality health care for underserved populations in Washington State. Founded in 1985, the organization has played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of community health, championing equity, and addressing the unique challenges faced by families and communities across our state.

Our roots lie in a shared vision among community health leaders who recognized the need for a unified voice to advocate for affordable, accessible, and culturally informed care. Over the years, the Association has become a powerful advocate for the 28 community health centers (CHCs) we proudly serve and represent, ensuring that health care services reach over one million patients annually, including agricultural workers, the uninsured, homeless, immigrants, and all individuals and families experiencing social or economic barriers to health.

From the beginning, the Washington Association for Community Health has embraced a mission driven by equity and inclusion. Its commitment to reducing disparities has been evident in its work to address the social determinants of health, such as housing, education, and access to nutritious food. By recognizing that health extends beyond clinical care, the Association has partnered with local organizations, policymakers, and health care providers to tackle systemic barriers and create sustainable, community-driven solutions.

Advocacy has been a cornerstone of the Association's efforts. Over the past 40 years, it has worked tirelessly to influence state and federal policies that impact CHCs and their patients. From expanding Medicaid coverage to securing funding for essential programs, the Association has amplified the voices of marginalized communities and ensured their needs are prioritized in legislative decision-making. Innovation has been a hallmark of the Washington Association for Community Health. As health care systems evolved, the organization adapted to meet emerging challenges – championing the integration of behavioral health, telehealth solutions, incumbent worker apprenticeships, and value-based care models, ensuring that CHCs remain at the forefront of providing comprehensive and patient-centered care.

As we reflect on the past 40 years, it is essential to recognize the countless individuals who have contributed to our success. From visionary leaders and dedicated staff to the health care professionals on the front lines, their collective efforts have created a legacy of compassion, collaboration, and impact.

Looking to the future, the Washington Association for Community Health remains steadfast in our mission to ensure equitable health care access for all. With ongoing challenges such as workforce shortages, climate change, and the rising cost of care, our work is more critical than ever. By continuing to innovate, advocate, and collaborate, we will undoubtedly lead the charge in creating a healthier and more equitable Washington State.

Yours for community health,

Bob Marsalli

Bob Marsalli
Chief Executive Officer

Who We Are

At the Washington Association for Community Health, we bring together the 28 federally qualified community health centers (CHCs) to collaborate and expand access to high-quality health care statewide. As our state's primary care association (PCA), we help CHCs navigate state and federal policy, provide evidence-based health care, and problem solve as a group. Our services include policy and advocacy, technical assistance and training, and workforce development programs. Learn more about our programs in this report.

Our Vision

Leaders in health equity

Our Mission

To strengthen and advocate for Washington's Community Health Centers as they build healthcare access, innovation and value.

Our Values

Collaboration
Equity & Social Justice
Integrity
Learning

Who We Serve

Our members deliver health care to more than 1.2 million (or 1 in 6) Washingtonians each year at more than 400 clinic sites. CHCs are directed by local consumers and respond to the needs of the community, serving all without regard to economic or insurance status. CHCs are vital providers in the state's health care safety net, serving as the primary care provider to 37.7% of Medicaid/CHIP enrollees in 2023. We strengthen our member health centers' work with the information, partnerships, and tools that make high-quality care a reality for all people across our state.



1.2 MILLION

TOTAL PATIENTS SERVED



344,407

PATIENTS IN A LANGUAGE
OTHER THAN ENGLISH



24,211

VETERANS



99,249

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

116,500

PATIENTS EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS



597,491

PATIENTS
ENROLLED IN
MEDICAID



13,896

PATIENTS AT SCHOOL
BASED HEALTH CENTERS

107,934

PATIENTS WITH MENTAL &
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS



332,077

PATIENTS AT
DENTAL CLINICS

28 Member Health Centers Across the State



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. North Olympic Healthcare Network | 15. One Community Health |
| 2. Valley View Health Center | 16. Community Health of Central Washington |
| 3. Cowlitz Family Health Center | 17. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services |
| 4. Peninsula Community Health Services | 18. Yakima Valley Farmer Workers Clinic |
| 5. Community Health Care | 19. Columbia Valley Community Health |
| 6. Sea Mar Community Health Centers | 20. Mattawa Community Medical Clinic |
| 7. Public Health – Seattle & King County | 21. Tri-Cities Community Health |
| 8. Seattle Roots Community Health | 22. Family Health Centers |
| 9. International Community Health Services | 23. Moses Lake Community Health Center |
| 10. Neighborcare Health | 24. Columbia Basin Health Association |
| 11. Seattle Indian Health Board | 25. Lake Roosevelt Community Health Centers |
| 12. Unity Care NW | 26. NEW Health |
| 13. HealthPoint | 27. The NATIVE Project |
| 14. Community Health Center of Snohomish County | 28. Community Health Association of Spokane |

Advocacy and Policy

Our Policy and Advocacy team represents the interests of our CHCs and the patients they serve at state and federal policy levels, through both legislative and regulatory processes. We position health centers as the cornerstone of the primary care safety net to key decision makers, and help them navigate a constantly changing health care landscape. At the state level, we develop and advocate for joint priorities with the Community Health Network of Washington.



State Engagement

During the Washington State 2024 legislative session, our CHCs' priorities were almost fully funded and included crucial expansions and investments for school-based health centers (SBHCs), dental capital projects, and Apple Health coverage for undocumented individuals. Outcomes included:

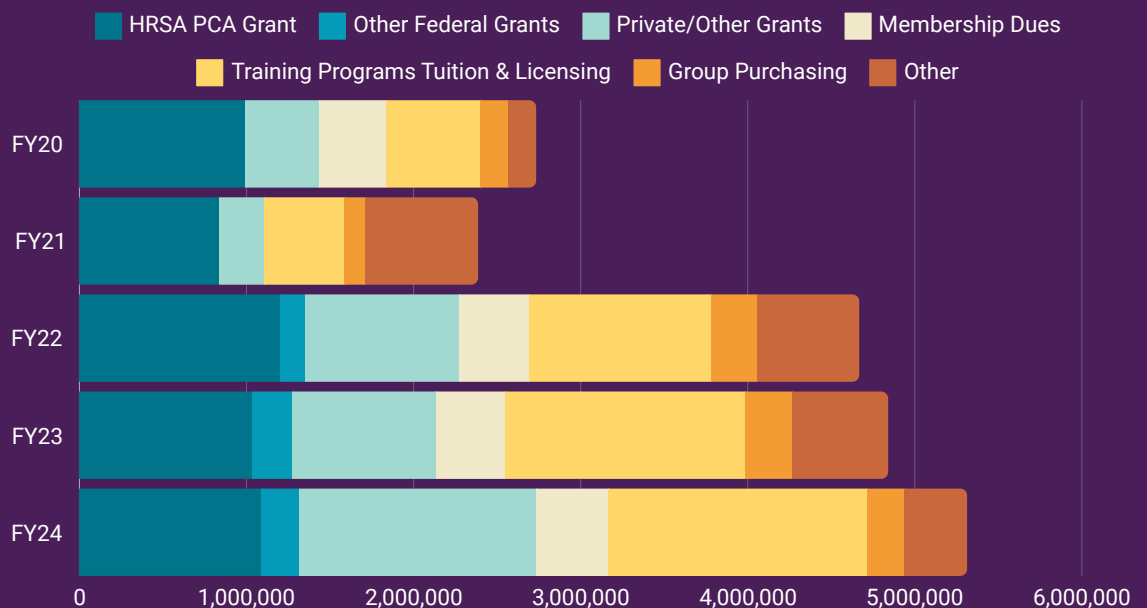
- Coverage: \$28 million to expand coverage for undocumented individuals
- School based health investments: \$500,000 increase in operational funding, \$2 million for 8 capital projects. These dollars will ensure that all kids have access to integrated care that meets them where they are – at school.
- Dental capital investments: \$452,000 for 3 dental capital projects across the state. The legislature has made capital investments in CHCs since 2017 to help address the gap in access to dental care for Apple Health enrollees (in 2023, 1.2 million went without care).
- Joint Legislative Days: In 2024, 98 CHC representatives had over 115 meetings with state legislators during our January advocacy event in Olympia.

Federal Engagement

In Washington DC, our CHCs met with their members of Congress to advocate for further investment in CHC appropriations, protecting and reforming the 340B drug pricing program, developing and improving health care workforce training at CHCs, and extending telehealth flexibilities to protect health care access. In February, 32 CHC representatives joined us to meet with all 10 of our Congressional members in Washington D.C.

Association Revenue Mix

Over the past five years, the Association has diversified and expanded its revenue.



InReach Career Pathways

The InReach Career Pathways programs provide apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities that combine full-time employment with supplemental instruction, leading to industry-recognized health care credentials. A division of the Association, InReach leverages the insights of CHCs to create a health care workforce that serves all patients and values community-based care.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of our Medical Assistant (MA) Apprenticeship Program, which has enrolled 330 MAs across 19 community health centers, 20 rural health centers or critical access hospitals, nine large hospital systems, and four private practice facilities.

Additionally, we administered a Dental Assistant (DA) Training Program for 14 students and partnered with Educational Service District 113 to launch an MA Pre-Apprenticeship Program for eight high school students. With guidance from an advisory committee, we began developing a Medical Office Specialist Apprenticeship, outlining its scope, requirements, and curriculum competencies. We look forward to launching this program next year.



InReach offers consultation to organizations nationwide interested in creating training programs. Two additional PCAs partnered with us this year, bringing our total to nine PCAs delivering MA and DA training programs in their states.

Programs like ours are critical to enhancing the diversity and resilience of the health care workforce. This year, we shared our work at four conferences, including the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policies & Issues Forum, the Northwest Rural Health Conference, the Association of Clinicians of the Underserved Annual Conference, and the NACHC Partner Conference. We remain committed to developing workforce solutions that foster equity and sustainability in community health.

Group Purchasing Program

The Association's Group Purchasing Program (GPP) supports procurement and purchasing staff in Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Idaho, providing an array of resources to help members stay informed and save money. In 2024, we hosted 6 webinars introducing purchasing resources and vendors and provided technical assistance to over 40 requests. Members received newsletters with the latest updates and attended monthly GPP workgroup meetings that bring together a regional network of senior purchasing staff to discuss best practices, issues and shortages. This year, we increased our program's reach by adding two new vendors: BTTN and SpendMend.

Our GPP helped membership navigate through two new Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) options that became available in 2024. NACHC created NACHC Select by partnering with the GPO Premier CNECT, and Provista created CHCollective (formerly CHVentures). Members who were previously enrolled with CHVentures were welcomed into the new CHCollective with the same membership numbers and vendor pricing agreements.

The highlight of 2024 was the Group Purchasing Conference held in May. 28 participants representing 17 health centers plus 16 sponsoring vendors attended. During the conference, attendees heard from three different purchasing software vendors and had opportunities for breakout groups and peer-to-peer interaction.

Learning and Innovation

Our Learning and Innovation team delivers training, technical assistance, and peer learning opportunities to support high-quality, comprehensive primary care at CHCs. In 2024, we engaged over 1400 staff with topics supporting trauma-informed leadership, integrated comprehensive care, workforce development, and health equity. All 28 members participated in at least one of our Learning Networks to exchange valuable information, promote promising practices, receive training from subject matter experts, and build peer connections within their fields.

Our team promotes health center excellence through Innovation Reports highlighting promising practices and connecting organizations at the state, regional, and national levels to the CHC story. As our members continue to expand their important work in school-based health, we've worked with state partners to advance collaboration and align support in this exciting field.

A highlight was the opportunity to hear the incredible stories of CHC leadership in reducing health disparities and advancing health equity. In March, leaders from Washington's Urban Indian Health Organizations and the American Indian Health Commission shared innovations in health equity and their outlook for the future.

In 2024, the Learning and Innovation team was proud to partner with Upstream USA to expand access to patient-centered, non-coercive contraceptive care in CHCs. We also concluded a research partnership with the University of Washington's School of Family Medicine to increase colonoscopy completion in rural areas by providing patient navigation to over 250 patients.

**In 2024,
we served...**

28

Community Health
Centers

1409

total attendees

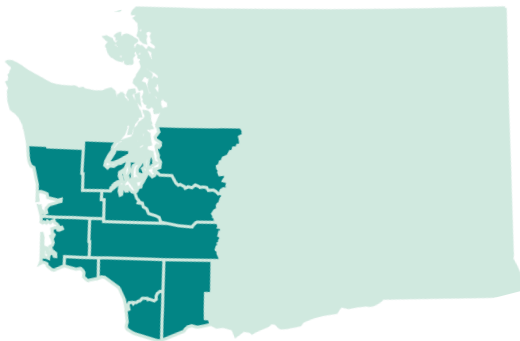
282

organizations across
the country

SW Washington Area Health Education Center

As part of Washington AHECs, our program has four priority areas: youth career pathway promotion, professional education for health care organizations; Rural Underserved Opportunities Programs (RUOP); and AHEC Scholars. SW AHEC is uniquely based in a PCA, providing a connection between potential health care workers and CHCs.

In partnership with the University of Washington, we coordinate AHEC Scholars, a free 2-year interprofessional certificate program for students in a qualified health professions degree program or an allied health workforce degree program. This collaboration allows for a deeper reach into rural communities for student engagement and workforce development.



In 2024, we prioritized partnering with CHCs to impact our rural health care workforce. We asked CHCs to participate in youth pathway events, to serve as preceptors for first year medical students as part of the RUOP program, and to offer expertise within learning networks, conferences, and scholars' classrooms. Our aim is to promote rural and underserved urban CHCs as viable and mission-driven workforce opportunities for health care providers.

With the help of a Department of Health, Office of Rural Programs state grant, we expanded our team, allowing us to double the number of pathways and professional education activities we offer. As a result, we reached 185 youth about career opportunities – an increase from 90 in 2023. The new senior coordinator's active statewide promotion of AHEC Scholars expanded our student enrollees from 60 in 2024 to 125 students in 2025.

Board Members

AARON WILSON

CEO, Community Health Association of Spokane

ANGELA GONZALEZ

CEO, Community Health of Central Washington

BRANDY TAYLOR

Executive Director,
Seattle Roots Community Health

CHRISTY TROTTER

CEO, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

DANA FOX

CEO, Mattawa Community Medical Clinic

DAVID FLENTGE

President & CEO, Community Health Care

DESIREE SWEENEY

CEO, NEW Health

DIANA WHITE-MESSING

Executive Director,
Lake Roosevelt Community Health Centers

ESTHER LUCERO

CEO & President, Seattle Indian Health Board

GAEON SPRADLEY

CEO, Valley View Health Centers

JENNIFER GRIFFITH

CEO, One Community Health

JENNIFER KREIDLER-MOSS

CEO, Peninsula Community Health Services

JESUS HERNANDEZ

CEO, Family Health Centers

JIM COFFEE

CEO, Cowlitz Family Health Center

JODI JOYCE

CEO, Unity Care Northwest

JOE VESSEY

CEO, Community Health Center of Snohomish County

KELLI NOMURA

CEO, International Community Health Services

KRISTY NEEDHAM

CEO, Tri-Cities Community Health

LISA YOHALEM

CEO, HealthPoint

MANUEL NAVARRO

CEO, Columbia Valley Community Health

MARY BARTOLO

Executive Vice President,
Sea Mar Community Health Centers

MICHAEL MAXWELL

CEO, North Olympic Healthcare Network

NIEVES GOMEZ

CEO, Columbia Basin Health Association

RASHAD COLLINS

CEO, Neighborcare Health

RHONDA HAUFF

CEO, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

SHEILA BERSCHAUER

CEO, Moses Lake Community Health Center

TONI LODGE

CEO, The NATIVE Project

VAZASKIA CROCKRELL

Director of Community Health Services,
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