

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

Ashley Wallace, Coordinator | August 2023



Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are safety net providers that provide services in an outpatient clinic setting.

- A health center must be a public entity or a private nonprofit organization.
- Provide a set of comprehensive, high-quality primary care and preventive services regardless of patients' ability to pay.
- Employ interdisciplinary teams and patient-centric approaches.
- Deliver care coordination and other enabling services that facilitate access to care.
- Collaborate with other providers and programs to improve access to care and community resources.
- Are community-based and patient-directed.
- **FQHCs are certified and regulated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).**

FQHCs may be in rural or urban areas and include:

- Community health centers
- Migrant health centers
- Homeless health centers
- Public housing primary care centers
- Health center program “look-alikes”
- Outpatient health programs or facilities operated by a tribe or tribal organization or an urban Indian organization

Funding for FQHCs

National Funding Source: HRSA

Section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act

To provide comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services consistent with [Health Center Program requirements](#).

Two competitive opportunities to apply for funding, both submitted through Grants.gov.

- **New Access Point (NAP)**

- Funding to establish new sites
- Announced when Congress appropriates funds to expand Health Center Program
 - Last NAP expansion was in 2019

- **Service Area Competition (SAC)**

- Funding for current FQHCs at the end of their funding period
 - All clinics on a three-year funding cycle, application due six months prior to expiration

Funding for FQHCs

State Funding Source: Community-Based Primary Care Clinic (CBPCC) Program (SGF)

- Assists clinics in improving access to quality health care with an emphasis on community-based services and reducing health disparities for underserved populations.
- **FY24: \$13,341,772 in State General Funds to be awarded to 31 Clinics**
 - includes 20 FQHCs (zero LALs) which make up 88% of total funding award
 - Remaining 11 clinics include other safety net clinics, rural health clinics, etc.
 - intended to make primary medical and dental care, prescription drugs, and preventive health care services accessible and affordable to underserved Kansas residents, including uninsured individuals and those enrolled in public insurance programs.

Funding for FQHCs Other Funding Sources

- CBPCC grants (SGF)
- Private donations
- Grants
- Some patient fees

Health Center Program Look-alikes (FQHC LALs)

HRSA-designated health centers that provide comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services while meeting all [Health Center Program requirements](#), but they don't receive federal award funding.

- **Look-a-Likes do not receive funding from HRSA; all other benefits included.**
- Look-a-Like Initial Designations (LAL IDs) are non-competitive and accepted on a rolling basis.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Must be a domestic public or private nonprofit entity. Tribes, tribal organizations, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations are eligible to apply
2. Must provide health services to medically underserved populations, as defined in section 330 of the PHS Act, regardless of ability to pay.
3. Must ensure the required primary health care services will be available and accessible in the service area via at least one permanent service delivery site that operates for a minimum of 40 hours per week.
4. Must propose to serve a defined geographic area that is federally-designated, in whole or in part, as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or Medically Underserved Population (MUP). See the [MUA Find tool](#).
 1. NEW APPLICANTS ONLY: If the area is not currently federally-designated, must provide documentation that a request for designation has been submitted **and** designation must be received prior to award.
5. LALs ONLY: Cannot be receiving funding as a Health Center Program federal awardee, cannot be co-located with a Health Center Program federal awardee.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

Differences Between FQHCs and FQHC Look-alikes

Benefits	Health Centers	Look-alikes
Receiving funding from HRSA	Yes	No
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Prospective Payment System (PPS) reimbursement through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	Yes	Yes
HRSA's 340B Drug Pricing Program for discounted drugs	Yes	Yes
Free vaccines for uninsured and underinsured children through the Vaccines for Children program	Yes	Yes
Assistance in the recruitment and retention of primary care providers through HRSA's National Health Service Corps	Yes	Yes
HRSA-supported training and technical assistance	Yes	Yes

Additional Resources

- Health Center Program Website: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/>
- FQHCs and LALs by State: <https://data.hrsa.gov/data/reports/datagrid?gridName=FQHCs>
- CMS Medicare Learning Network Booklet: [FQHCs](#)
- Community-Based Primary Care Clinic (CBPCC) Program:
<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/245/Community-Based-Primary-Care-Clinic-Prog>
- For assistance in the establishment of geographic eligibility and the development of a health center: [Community Care Network of Kansas](#)

Thank you! Questions?



Ashley Wallace, Coordinator
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
Ashley.Wallace@ks.gov