

2020 Policy Priorities

The Oregon Primary Care Association represents Oregon's 32 community health centers, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), who are held to high standards of health equity, quality, and access to services for all residents of Oregon. Community health centers deliver comprehensive integrated primary, dental and behavioral health care services to over 433,000 Oregonians in rural and urban areas across the state.

Health centers are rooted in innovation – begun in 1965 as part of a social movement to address health disparities within communities – health centers have a long tradition of identifying barriers to health care, understanding the importance of social determinants of health, and designing and delivering integrated services that impact health at the individual, family, and community level. Oregon's community health centers are pioneers in changing primary care delivery and are foundational to Oregon's health care delivery transformation efforts.

In 2019, we are working with policymakers and partners to advance policy in the following areas:

- I. Coverage and Access for All**
 - a. Protect Oregonians' right to comprehensive health care
 - b. Ensure Oregonians in rural and urban areas have access to vital health care services that meet the comprehensive health care needs of individual patients and communities
- II. Delivery of Culturally Responsive Whole Person Integrated Care and Support Services**
 - a. Strengthen and appropriately fund population health services, such as immunizations, maternal/child health, behavioral and oral health, and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support in primary care
 - b. Improve the quality and delivery of care by promoting health care innovation and quality improvement through value-based pay
 - c. Help rural and urban communities strengthen the behavioral health delivery system through integration of mental health and substance use disorder service in the primary care setting
- III. Maintaining a Strong Workforce**
 - a. Counter the nation's shortage of health care workers, especially in underserved communities, by maintaining funding for innovative residency programs, improving loan repayment programs, reforming licensing requirements, and championing workforce development strategies especially among providers of color
- IV. Building Healthy Communities**
 - a. Address the social determinants of health (SDH) by looking at upstream, non-clinical factors in an effort to promote opportunity for all Oregonians to reach their full health potential and help people build a foundation of health in their communities