

Talking Points

The following statements highlight the community health centers' (CHCs) focus on community strength, individual resilience, and responsible use of tax dollars. By emphasizing cost-efficiency, economic growth, personal health responsibility, and community resilience, these points underscore the practical and fiscal benefits CHCs bring to communities.

CHCs are essential to building strong, self-reliant communities and reflect our shared values of independence, economic stability, and accountability.

Top-Line Messages:

- CHCs are a critical healthcare solution for supporting community health, independence, and economic stability in Arizona. They deliver high-quality, low-cost healthcare that prevents unnecessary hospital visits, saving billions in taxpayer funds while helping individuals live healthier, more productive lives. Focused on community-driven care, CHCs foster self-sufficiency, strengthen local economies, and uphold the core values of responsibility and fiscal stewardship that keep Arizona strong.
- CHCs are the cornerstone of accessible, efficient healthcare, ensuring quality care close to home for over 837,000 (1 in 9) Arizonans. Through preventive care and smart spending, they save taxpayer dollars and reduce strain on emergency services, fostering resilient, economically stable communities. Supporting CHCs is a direct investment in healthier, self-reliant communities that reflect the values of independence, cost-effectiveness, and local empowerment.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers are the backbone of communities, delivering affordable, quality care that saves taxpayer dollars and empowers individuals. Investing in CHCs means investing in Arizonan strength, independence, and fiscal responsibility.

Highlight the Vital Role of CHCs in Community Health:

- CHCs are essential in ensuring healthcare access across the country, especially for individuals in rural areas, urban centers, and communities with limited resources. Each year, CHCs nationally deliver high-quality, affordable healthcare to millions of patients, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. As primary healthcare providers, CHCs reduce health disparities, provide preventive care, and improve overall community well-being. Their unique community-based approach empowers patients and strengthens local health systems, making them integral to a healthier nation.
- Of Arizona's 237 CHC sites, 92 are in rural areas and are vital to delivering accessible, quality healthcare to hardworking Arizonans in those and other underserved communities.*
- CHCs keep Arizonans in control of their healthcare. By offering affordable, high-quality care, we empower individuals and communities to take charge of their health, free from reliance on expensive and distant alternatives.

**2023 Arizona Health Center Program Uniform Data System (UDS) Data.*

Stress Cost-Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility:

- By focusing on prevention, early intervention, and management of chronic disease conditions, CHCs help avoid costly emergency room visits and hospitalizations. For example, in 2023, Arizona CHCs helped over 62,840 Arizonans successfully control diabetes. Studies show that for every dollar invested in CHCs, there is a substantial return in reduced healthcare costs to taxpayers. CHCs are not only a compassionate choice but also a cost-effective one because they alleviate the financial pressures on our healthcare system.*
- CHCs are a smart investment, saving billions in taxpayer dollars every year by preventing expensive emergency visits and hospital stays. They offer preventive care – including screenings and treatment for diabetes and high blood pressure – that helps individuals and families stay healthy and productive. Investing in CHCs is a fiscally responsible approach to keeping healthcare affordable for everyone.



- In 2023 alone, CHCs provided essential medical visits, such as health screenings and annual checkups, to over 730,000 Arizonans, easing the burden on hospitals and saving taxpayer dollars. Supporting CHCs means strengthening our communities, ensuring people get the care they need before emergencies arise, and keeping healthcare costs under control.*

**2023 Arizona Health Center Program Uniform Data System (UDS) Data.*

Promote the Economic Impact of CHCs:

- CHCs are not only healthcare providers – they're powerful economic engines in their communities. They create jobs, attracting professionals to underserved areas and stimulating local economies. In many communities, CHCs are among the largest employers. CHCs are directly responsible for over 9,000 full-time jobs in Arizona.*
- When we invest in CHCs, we keep healthcare dollars circulating within our communities. In Arizona, CHC operations generated \$53.8 million in state and local tax revenue and generated over \$1.3 billion in community spending.**
- In 2023, Arizona CHCs had a total economic impact of \$2.6 billion (a combination of direct health center spending and community spending generated by CHCs).**

** 2023 Arizona Health Center Program Uniform Data System (UDS) Data.*

*** Capital Link The Value and Impact of the Arizona Health Center Program 2025.*

Appeal to Bipartisan Support for Community-Based Healthcare:

- CHCs show that healthcare can be a common-sense solution that works for everyone. They have long enjoyed bipartisan support because they embody principles that resonate with values across the political spectrum: expanding access to essential healthcare, promoting self-sufficiency, and fostering healthier communities.
- CHCs represent a common ground where policymakers can unite to support a model of healthcare that is cost-effective, accessible, and beneficial to all Arizonans.



Advocate for Healthcare Access for Arizona:

- CHCs serve as primary healthcare providers to veterans, seniors, children, and working families, providing both preventive and ongoing care. In 2023 alone, Arizona's CHCs provided care to over 15,000 veterans.*
- Our veterans, seniors, and hardworking families deserve CHC-provided healthcare they can depend on.
- CHCs provide a lifeline to more than 837,000 Arizonans – including veterans and working families. They are the front line of care for these populations.*

**2023 Arizona Health Center Program Uniform Data System (UDS) Data.*

Raise Awareness on the Impact of Nonmedical Factors Influencing Health:

- CHCs recognize that healthcare is only one part of a person's overall health. They also address nonmedical factors influencing health such as safe housing, access to nutritious foods, and transportation – that affect 80% of all health outcomes.*
- CHCs offer programs and partnerships that tackle the non-medical factors influencing health, helping patients not only manage their medical needs but also achieve stability in other areas of life. CHCs provide a comprehensive approach that reduces the long-term health consequences associated with unmet needs.
- CHCs recognize that addressing health issues early and proactively means addressing real-life challenges – including safe housing, access to nutritious foods, and transportation – that impact health.
- CHCs understand that health goes beyond the doctor's office, helping Arizonans secure safe housing, access to nutritious foods, and transportation.

**National Institute of Health 2023*



Emphasize Resilience and Preparedness:

- CHCs are front-line responders, playing a vital role in managing crises and responding swiftly to health emergencies. With deep community ties, CHCs can quickly mobilize resources, provide essential services, and reach vulnerable populations during critical times.
- CHCs are the first line of defense in times of public emergencies, from pandemics to natural disasters.

Ensuring Complementary Services and Effective Collaboration with Hospitals and Private Providers

- CHCs serve Arizona's underserved areas, delivering healthcare where it's needed most, particularly in rural regions – where there are 92 CHC locations – and in urban centers with limited options.*
- Our mission is not to compete with hospitals but to work alongside them, delivering essential preventive care that hospitals aren't designed to provide. CHCs fill the gap, ensuring every Arizonan has access to basic healthcare.
- By complementing private providers and hospitals, CHCs strengthen the healthcare safety net without adding unnecessary competition. They bring vital, local healthcare where other options simply don't exist.

** 2023 Arizona Health Center Program Uniform Data System (UDS) Data.*

Concerns About Enhancing Care Quality and Staff Training

- CHCs maintain rigorous quality standards and are staffed by professionals dedicated to their communities.
- CHC staff are skilled, highly trained professionals committed to delivering compassionate care and relieving the burden on the nation's healthcare system.



Encouraging Personal Responsibility and Self-Sufficiency

- CHCs promote self-reliance and individual responsibility by providing patients with opportunities to take control of their health through preventive care and education on managing chronic conditions.
- CHCs give patients the tools to lead healthier lives. By providing resources that promote preventive care and self-management, CHCs empower Arizonans to take ownership of their health.

Emphasizing Sustainable Funding and Financial Independence

- CHCs use Medicaid dollars effectively, ensuring that every federal dollar goes toward reducing Arizonans' long-term healthcare costs.
- CHCs reduce the need for expensive long-term spending by addressing health needs early. In 2023 alone, Arizona CHCs helped 159,015 patients control their hypertension.*

**2023 Arizona Health Center Program Uniform Data System (UDS) Data.*

Commitment to Neutral, Patient-Centered Care

- CHCs are built on a commitment to healthcare, not politics. Our focus is on delivering lifesaving care that supports all Arizonans and strengthens our communities.
- Our centers serve everyone in the community, regardless of background, by focusing on essential healthcare needs and staying clear of politics.

Providing Care for All Who Need It, Within Legal and Ethical Guidelines

- By keeping communities healthy, CHCs save taxpayer dollars that would otherwise be spent on emergency care and hospitalizations, making healthcare more affordable and accessible for Arizonans.
- CHCs keep Arizona's communities strong, safe, and healthy by reducing emergency room overcrowding and cutting healthcare costs for all. Our mission is to keep Arizona's healthcare local, affordable, and reliable.



Support for the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- The ACA keeps healthcare affordable for hardworking Arizonans, reducing the financial burden on families and empowering individuals to take charge of their health.
- The ACA is a fiscally responsible approach to healthcare, delivering essential coverage that prevents costly medical bills from piling up on families and the national budget. By ensuring access to affordable care, the ACA reduces dependency on emergency services, creating a more efficient, cost-effective healthcare system that benefits every taxpayer.
- The ACA empowers Arizonan families with the freedom to choose quality healthcare, promoting individual responsibility and control over health decisions. By offering affordable coverage options, the ACA helps families prioritize their health without sacrificing financial security.
- The ACA strengthens local economies by supporting a healthy workforce and reducing the burden of unpaid medical bills on hospitals and healthcare providers.

Medicaid: A Smart Investment in Health & Fiscal Responsibility

- Supports Small Businesses and the Workforce – Over half of CHC patients are working, with many employed in small businesses, agriculture, and service industries. Medicaid helps these workers stay healthy and productive, reducing absenteeism.
- Protects Rural Communities and Prevents Hospital Closures – CHCs are often the only primary care providers in rural areas. Without Medicaid, rural healthcare systems become financially unstable.
- Reduces Government Waste and Bureaucracy – Keeping Medicaid strong aligns with conservative principles of minimizing waste and maximizing impact.
- Keeps Medicaid Dollars in Local Communities – Medicaid funding stays in Arizona. Cutting Medicaid shifts costs to states, hospitals, and taxpayers through higher uncompensated care costs.



How CHCs advance the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) agenda

- CHCs are a proven cost-effective solution that strengthen our healthcare system, support economic growth, and ensure access to care for millions of Arizonans –including veterans, rural communities, and hardworking families – while saving taxpayer dollars.
- CHCs are economic engines. We train and employ thousands of healthcare workers and support local businesses.
- CHCs are the backbone of rural and underserved communities. In many areas, we are the only healthcare provider.
- CHCs save taxpayer dollars by focusing on prevention and primary care and reducing Medicaid, Medicare, and emergency room costs while improving patient outcomes.
- CHCs expand healthcare access without expanding government. We operate as public-private partnerships, leveraging federal investment with local and private funding to maximize impact.
- CHCs serve veterans, farmers, and small business owners. Many veterans turn to CHCs when VA services are unavailable, and we provide care to agricultural workers and small business employees who often lack employer-sponsored insurance.
- CHCs need long-term support to continue their mission. Congress must ensure stable funding, invest in workforce development, and reduce regulatory burdens so CHCs can focus on delivering high-quality care to the communities that depend on us.

