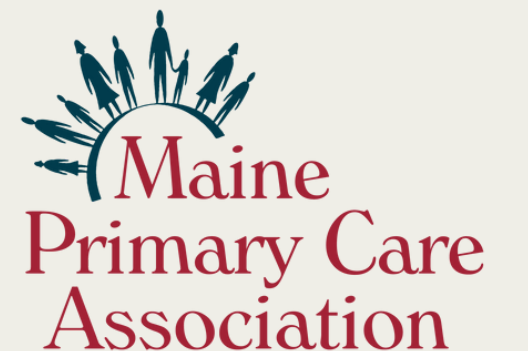


Initiatives To Improve Access To Primary, Behavior, & Oral Health Care

OCTOBER 7, 2025



Funding Acknowledgment

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided financial support for this Presentation. The contents are those of the author. They may not reflect the policies of HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

What are Community Health Centers?

Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), provide high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services.

Across the country, CHCs are employers, providers, and partners of choice in the communities they serve.

CHCs lower overall health care costs, improve the health of their patients and communities, and generate economic opportunities in the communities they serve by providing jobs and training for local people.

Nationwide Reach Today



Over 1,400 community health centers



Deliver care at 14,500 individual sites



Serving 32 million patients annually

Four Unique Characteristics of CHCs

Comprehensive Set of Services

Based on community needs, health centers offer medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and support services.

Open to Everyone

Regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, and offer sliding fee scale options to low-income patients.

Located in Areas of High Need

Areas are designated as medically underserved populations by the federal government.

Patient-Majority Governing Boards

At least 51% of every health center governing board must be made up of patients.

Maine's Community Health Centers

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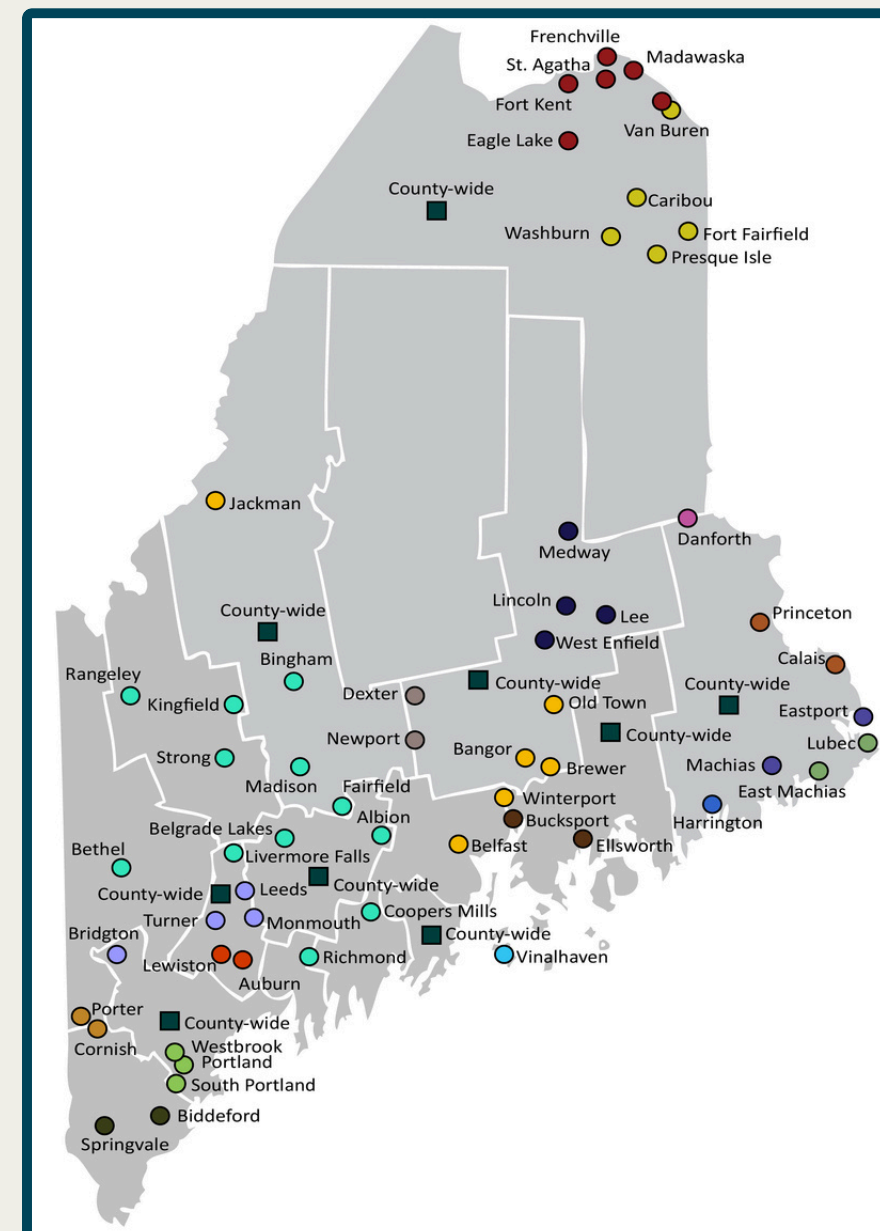
Community Health Centers

100+

Service sites across the state

200,000+

People receive integrated and accessible primary care



Maine's Community Health Centers

- Maine's CHCs deliver comprehensive, high-quality, affordable primary and preventive care and reduce overall costs for the health care system. They also integrate services such as behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, dental care, and pharmacy.
- Maine's CHCs make up the largest, independent primary care network in the state, improving access to essential health care services in communities with shortages of providers, in both isolated rural and densely populated urban areas.



Penobscot Community Health Care



Hometown Health Center

Maine's Community Health Centers

Patients Demographics

- Medical: 167,800
- Dental: 38,420
- Behavioral health (incl. SUD services): 21,231
- Vision: 7,857
- Enabling services: 11,586

- Uninsured: 8.62%
- Over the age of 65: 25.82%
- Veterans: 5.54%
- Experiencing homelessness: 3.88%



Source: Data from UDS; Photos from Hometown Health Center, HealthReach Community Health Centers, Bucksport Regional Health Center, and Fish River Rural Health

Services Provided at Maine CHCs

PRIMARY CARE

Audiology, Care Coordination & Management, Case Management, CHAMP Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Pgrm, Chiropractic, Clinical Support, Counseling, Diabetes Management & Education, Diagnostic Laboratory & Radiology Services, Dietitian & Nutrition, Digital X-rays & Radiology Services, DOT Physicals, Eligibility Assistance, Emergencies - During/After Hours, Emergency Shelter, Enabling Support Services, Environmental Health Services, Family Medicine & Medical Care, Family Planning, General Internal Medicine, Geriatric Memory Clinic, Geriatrics, Gynecological Services, Health Care for the Homeless (HCH), HCH required Substance Abuse Services, Health Education, Housing - permanent & transitional, Immunizations, Integrated Medical/Mental Health, Interpretation, Key Clinic Regional Foster Care, Pediatrics Pgrm., Meals, Medical Specialists, Medication Mgmt. & Assisted Treatment - Suboxone, Men's & Women's Health, Minor Office Procedures, Mobile Care, Nephrology, Obstetrical Care, Occupational Health, Optometry Services, Orthopedics, Osteopathic Manipulation Treatment & Therapy, Outreach, Palliative Care, Pediatric Care & Services, Pharmacy, Medication & Prescription Assistance, Physical Therapy, Podiatry Services, Preventive Screenings, Primary and Preventive Care, Referrals, Screenings, Sliding Scale Fee, Specialty Care, Speech, Substance Use Disorder Services, Support Services, Translation, Transportation, Vision Services, Voluntary Family Planning, Walk In/Urgent Care, Well Child Services, Wellness Programs, Wrap-Around Services

DENTAL

Cleanings & Fluoride Treatments, Dental Hygiene Services & Sealants, Dental Implants, Crowns & Bridge Work, Dentures (full and partials), Desensitizing, Extractions, Full Comprehensive Orthodontics, Examinations/Screening, Pediatric Dental Services, Preventive Dental, Prosthodontic Services, Restorations, Root Canals, Space Maintainers

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Adult Psychiatric Medication Management, Behavioral Health Counseling & Services, Community Support/Educational Resources, Employment Programs, Integrated Behavioral Health, Psychiatry, Recovery

Maine's Community Health Centers & MaineCare

MaineCare (Medicaid) is the foundation of Maine's health care safety-net, ensuring access to essential services for low-income families, older adults, people with disabilities, and rural communities. As a vital program serving hundreds of thousands across the state, MaineCare funding directly supports community health centers, hospitals, and other provider types, keeping care accessible and affordable for those who need it most.

CHC Patients

- 24,000 MaineCare enrollees who are children under age 18
- 35,000 adults aged 18 and older
- 15,000 who are dually enrolled in Medicare and MaineCare
- 1 in 3 patients were covered by MaineCare.
- MaineCare accounted for 28 percent of patient care revenue in 2023.

Maine CHCs provide care to 16% (1 in 6) of the state's total MaineCare enrollees, yet account for only 2% of the MaineCare spend.

Maine Primary Care Association

MPCA is a membership organization that represents the collective voices of Maine's Community Health Centers, which provide high quality, primary and preventive medical, behavioral health and dental services for 1 in 6 Mainers.

OUR MISSION

To champion and maximize the value of Maine's statewide Community Health Center network for the health and well-being of all Maine people.

OUR VISION

A Maine where health care is high quality, comprehensive, affordable, and accessible to all.

OUR VALUES

Our work, and that of our members, is rooted in the values of strategy, innovation, quality, collaboration, and authenticity.

Maine Primary Care Association

MPCA is proud to be a membership organization, supporting Maine's Community Health Center Network. MPCA's advocacy, webinars, workshops, coaching, and board & committee meetings target identified CHC needs and interests, as well as external trends, to nurture learning and growth. Our team provides ongoing education and development that meets health centers where they are. We look forward to continuing to support the largest independent primary care network in the state.

**Training and
Technical
Assistance**

**Hub for
Programs and
Services**

**Advocacy
and Public
Policy**

2024 MEMBER VALUE & IMPACT

**38 INTEREST
GROUPS**

Health center staff connected and collaborated with colleagues across the health center network.

**280+ TA
REQUESTS**

MPCA team provided direct technical assistance to health centers throughout the state.

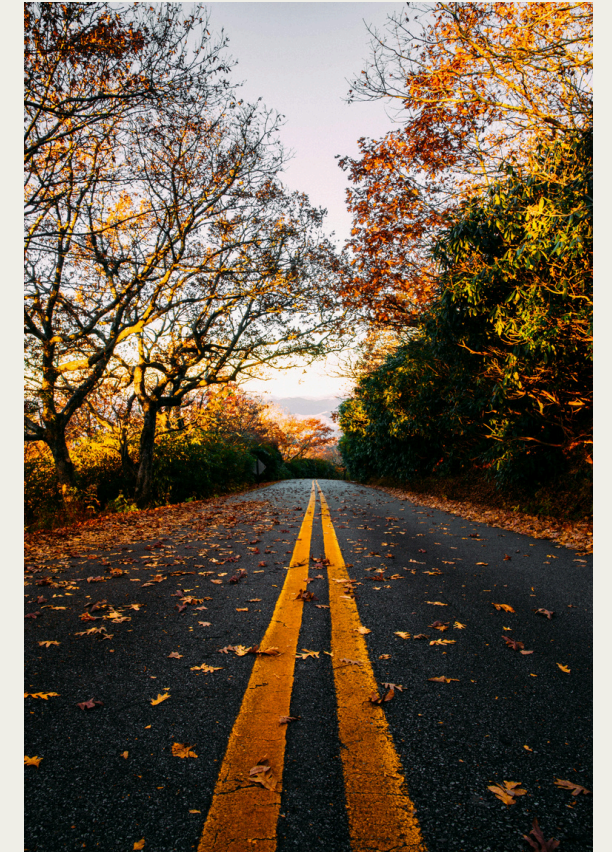
3165+ ATTENDEES

MPCA trainings and events were attended by health center staff from all CHCs.

Maine Workforce Innovation Network | ME WIN

Background/Why it started

- High MA & DA vacancies across Maine FQHCs
- Workforce stretched amid patient demand
- Recruitment & retention challenges
- Need for sustainable employment pathways & FQHC-focused training
- Dental service expansion highlights staffing gaps & long patient wait times
- State-level pathway & adequate reimbursement critical



Mission

Maine's federally qualified health centers will be fully staffed with well-trained, engaged employees providing high-quality care to their communities.



Vision

The Maine Workforce Innovation Network, drawing resources from the collaborative group of participating FQHCs and training partners, serves patients with high-quality care through a committed and empowered workforce.

Integrating Access and Engagement

- **Co-location** of medical, dental, behavioral health services improves convenience & care coordination
- **Reduces barriers:** transportation, scheduling, time off work
- **CHWs support** patient access, education, and follow-up
- **Strengthens** patient engagement, trust, and preventive outcomes
- **Enhances continuity** between medical & dental teams
- **Cross-training** to improve access & expand scope



Benefits & Impact of Integrating Oral Health with Primary Care

- **Better Access & Early Detection** → Only about 19% of Maine FQHC patients accessed dental care in 2024
- **Whole Person Care & Chronic Disease Support** → Links oral health with diabetes, cardiovascular disease management
- **Reduced Barriers & Costs** → Fewer ED visits
- **Broad Preventive Impact** → Preventive oral health services improve outcomes and reduce disparities

Questions?

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SCAN HERE
TO EMAIL ME

*Thank
you*