



Community Health Centers • The Healthcare Solution

Health Centers as defined by the Bureau of Primary Health Care:

Health Centers refer to all the diverse public and non-profit organizations and programs that receive federal funding under section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended by the Health Centers Consolidated Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-299) and the Safety Net Amendments of 2002. They include [Community Health Centers](#), [Migrant Health Centers](#), [Health Care for the Homeless Health Centers](#), and [Primary Care Public Housing Health Centers](#)

Health centers are characterized by five essential elements that differentiate them from other providers:

- They must be located in or serve a high need community, i.e. “medically underserved areas” or “medically underserved populations”;
- They must provide comprehensive primary care services as well as supportive services such as translation and transportation services that promote access to health care;
- Their services must be available to all residents of their service areas, with fees adjusted upon patients’ ability to pay;
- They must be governed by a community board with a majority of members health center patients; and,
- They must meet other performance and accountability requirements regarding their administrative, clinical, and financial operations.

Federally Qualified Health Center Required Scope of Services:

Primary Health Care Services	Required
Primary Care for All Life-cycle Ages	Required on-site or under arrangement
Basic Lab	Required on-site or under arrangement
Emergency Care	Required on-site or under arrangement
Radiological Services	Required on-site or under arrangement
Pharmacy	Required on-site or under arrangement
Preventive Health	Required on-site or under arrangement
Preventive Dental	Required on-site or under arrangement
Transportation	Required on-site or under arrangement
Case Management	Required on-site or under arrangement
Dental Screening for Children	Required on-site or under arrangement
After Hours Care	Required
Hospital/Specialty Care	Required by clinic staff or under arrangement

Health center program expectations including required scope of services are detailed in PIN 98-23 and can be found at the following link to the HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care website:

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/chc/programexpectations.htm>