

FQHCs Leverage Millions of Federal Dollars Every Year

Consistent with the Intent of Act 48, federally qualified health centers bring federal dollars to Vermont through the following mechanisms:

- Access to federal “Section 330” grants to subsidize care for people below 200% FPL
 - In 2012, Vermont’s FQHCs provided \$3.6 million dollars in sliding fee discounts
- Access to federal grants to primary care services based on community needs
 - In 2012, Vermont FQHCs received over \$7 million to support existing primary care, dental, and mental health services
 - 2010 – 2012 total was nearly \$25 million
- Access to grants to expand existing services and address unmet needs
 - In 2014, five FQHCs applied for behavioral health integration funding totaling approximately \$1 million, HRSA decisions are pending
- Advantageous drug pricing under Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act
- Grants to establish new access points
 - In 2012, \$1,625,000 for new centers in Bennington County, Addison County, and Orange County
- Access to grants and loan guarantees for capital improvements
 - \$3.8 million in 2012, for health centers in Burlington, Northeast Kingdom, Central Vermont, Franklin County, and Windsor County
- Federal Tort Claims Act coverage for the health centers and its health care professionals – making malpractice insurance unnecessary
 - Malpractice coverage costs vary widely depending on type of practice and experience; estimates range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for family practice or internist up to \$25 - \$30K for primary care practitioners who provide OB care
- Ongoing readiness and constant eligibility to leverage federal dollars (even one time dollars) for underserved populations

AND

- FQHC’s mission is to provide high quality, comprehensive primary care and preventive services regardless of patients’ ability to pay and regardless of insurance coverage.
- Vermont’s FQHCs saw ~150,000 Vermonters in 2012; they provide care to 1 in 3 Vermont Medicaid enrollees, 1 in 4 Vermont Medicare enrollees, and 1 in 3 uninsured Vermonters.