

WPHCA

2025-2026 STATE POLICY AGENDA

HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE

- 1. Develop solutions to achieve long-term financial sustainability for Community Health Centers providing integrated primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care, including further investments in value-based care and reimbursement for services provided by non-billable team members such as Community Health Workers.**
- 2. Increase access to specialty dental care for Community Health Center patients that cannot be adequately served in the traditional outpatient setting.**
- 3. Maintain current funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers and add resources for Community Health Center Look-Alikes that are excluded from Community Health Center and Free Clinic funding.**
- 4. Build behavioral health and substance use treatment service capacity through continued investments and addressing issues related to billing for Comprehensive Community Services, Qualified Treatment Trainees, preventative care codes, and Intensive Outpatient Therapy.**
5. Expand Community Health Center-led school-based primary care (including resolving an exclusion for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy).
6. Maintain fully reimbursable telehealth and virtual health services, including visits provided via phone-only, for all patients regardless of insurance status.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

- 1. Extend Medicaid coverage for post-partum women to one full year.**
2. Maintain comprehensive coverage for Medicaid enrollees, including coverage and adequate reimbursement for care coordination, dental, and behavioral health services.
3. Maintain a robust network of outreach and enrollment options throughout Wisconsin to support patients accessing both public and private health insurance coverage.

WORKFORCE

- 1. Provide state funding for regional Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) to expand pathways to primary care professions for students in rural and under-resourced areas.**
- 2. Add ongoing operational funding for oral health programs at the Wisconsin Technical College System following an initial one-time investment of \$20 million in 2024.**
- 3. Operationalize implementation of Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDAs) and Dental Therapists.**
- 4. Increase development of high-need clinicians in rural and under-resourced areas, focusing on Medical Assistants, Behavioral Health Providers, and Substance Use Disorder professionals not currently eligible for the State Loan Assistance Program.**
5. Improve license portability for Dentists and behavioral health providers including Substance Abuse Counselors (SACs) already licensed to practice in other states.
6. Increase capacity for Community Health Centers to provide clinical training opportunities as essential stakeholders in the health care provider pipeline.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

1. Support policies and funding to address social determinants of health impacting Community Health Center patients, specifically the availability of affordable, stable, and safe housing, nutrition, and childcare in Wisconsin.

*Bold indicates priorities for the 2025–2026 legislative session and budget.

WPHCA'S VISION FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We envision a future where all individuals and communities in Wisconsin achieve their highest health potential, with a focus on reducing health disparities and improving equitable outcomes for communities served by Community Health Centers.

HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE

1. All Wisconsinites have an identified primary care provider and medical home for high-quality, affordable, preventative care.
2. Patients access primary and preventative care services, including behavioral and dental care, at comparable rates regardless of insurance status or payer type.
3. Patients access services and supports sufficient to address inequities and ensure equitable outcomes.
4. Health literacy resources, including digital literacy tools, are available to support patients in using primary and preventative care, including telehealth.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

1. All Wisconsinites have high-quality, affordable, reliable health care coverage.
2. Comprehensive health care coverage fosters preventative and primary care, including medical, dental, and behavioral health for both children and adults.
3. CHCs support patients in securing public and private health care coverage through direct outreach and enrollment services and connections with community partners.

WORKFORCE

1. CHCs have enough high-quality providers to meet the needs of their medical, dental, and behavioral health patients in a timely manner.
2. CHCs hire and retain a mission-oriented workforce that is representative of the communities they serve, committed to culturally sensitive patient-centered care, and dedicated to identifying and reducing health disparities.
3. CHCs implement integrated, team-based care using models addressing whole-person health.
4. CHCs have capacity to engage the workforce through implementing clinical rotations, internships, and other training opportunities to strengthen and expand health care professional pipelines.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

1. CHCs identify patients' unmet social needs and collaborate with community partners to improve whole-person health.
2. Patients have affordable, stable, and safe housing as a fundamental precursor to health and well-being.
3. Public health investments adequately identify and coordinate responses to local community needs.