New Mexico PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

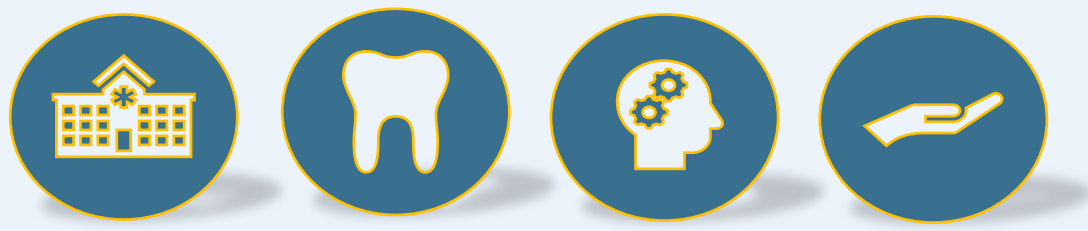
Investing in Community Health Centers Makes Sense (Cents)

Providing Access to Primary Care

Reach: Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs), provide primary care to → **1 in 6 New Mexicans**

Rural Lifeline: With **200+ Clinic Sites** serving **75+ communities,** CHCs are often the only source of care in rural areas.

Comprehensive Care



84% of communities served are rural

Equity in Access: Every FQHC operates in a **Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA),** ensuring care for populations with limited access, even in urban settings.

Primary Care Saves Dollars and Lives

Prevention First: Vaccinations, screenings, and chronic condition management reduce reliance on costly specialty or emergency care.

Better Outcomes: Strong primary care systems are linked to lower spending and improved population health (GAO Forum on Health Care Spending, 2025).

Proven Value: For every **$1 invested in primary care, savings can reach $13** (Oregon PCPCH Report, 2016).

National Gap: The U.S spends only **5-7% of health care dollars on primary care**, despite **35% of visits** being with primary care providers.

Economic Support for New Mexico Communities

Major Employers: CHCs are often the **largest employers** in their area.

Workforce Impact:

3,500 Full-Time Staff

2,300 Supported Jobs

Generating **$400M in labor income.**

Economic Output:

Combined direct and supported impact exceeds **$900M**, making CHCs vital to New Mexico's economic landscape.

Economic Resilience: cost savings, equitable access, and drive local economies.

Key Takeaway

Cost Savings: strengthen communities, keep people healthier, and reduce system-wide costs.