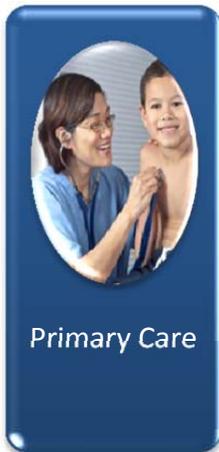




Nurse-Managed Health Clinics: Increasing Access to Primary Care and Educating the Healthcare Workforce

Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs) (authorized under Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*) are healthcare delivery sites operated by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), primarily nurse practitioners. These clinics are often associated with a school, college, university, department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit healthcare agency. While managed by APRNs, NMHCs are staffed by an interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers, which may include physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists.

NMHCs: Providing Critical Services to the Underserved



NMHCs provide primary care, health promotion, and disease prevention to individuals with limited access to care, regardless of their ability to pay. Services available at these clinics include physical exams, cardiovascular checks, diabetes and osteoporosis screenings, smoking cessation programs, immunizations, and other prevention-focused services. These clinics provide care to vulnerable populations in America's rural, urban, and suburban communities. For many patients in medically underserved areas, NMHCs and nurse practitioners are the area's only primary care providers. NMHCs serve as critical access points to keep patients out of the emergency room, saving the healthcare system millions of dollars annually.

A recent study by Barkauskas (2011) published in *Nursing Administration Quarterly* found that overall, quality measures for NMHCs compared favorably with national benchmarks, with particularly high quality demonstrated in chronic disease care management.

NMHCs: Developing the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2012-2013 Enrollment and Graduations Survey, 79,659 qualified applications were turned away entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2012. The primary barriers to accepting all qualified students at nursing colleges and universities continue to be a shortage of faculty, clinical training sites, and funding. Most NMHCs serve as clinical education sites for nurses and other healthcare providers such as physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and social workers. In a 2011 membership survey of the National Nursing Centers Consortium, 99% of responding NMHCs indicated that their facilities serve as training sites for students in nursing and other health professions programs.

The Institute of Medicine's 2010 report on the Future of Nursing, states: "Nurse-managed health clinics offer opportunities to expand access; provide quality, evidence-based care; and improve outcomes for individuals who may not otherwise receive needed care. These clinics also provide the necessary support to engage individuals in wellness and prevention activities."

Request: Please Support \$20 Million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics in FY 2014 to Promote Primary Care and Workforce Development