

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2022-077

Proclaiming August 7th-13th, 2022 as National Health Center Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on America's health care system.
- b. Community Health Centers are hubs for innovation and integrate medical, dental, and behavioral health care services into a single "health home" and consistently yield strong patient outcomes.
- c. Community Health Centers are a critical element of the health system, serving both rural and urban communities, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Community Health Centers also play a critical role in reducing racial and ethnic, geographic, socioeconomic, and other health disparities in the United States. They are invaluable to ensuring that our Nation's underserved populations, especially individuals and families living in poverty, rural communities, and communities of color are able to receive the care they need and deserve.
- d. Community Health Centers serve as beacons of essential resources and support in testing and treatment in the face of the global coronavirus pandemic, and will continue to offer reliable, affordable, high-quality care against COVID-19 for America's most vulnerable and underserved communities.
- e. Our Nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is stronger because of our health centers, and the tireless, dedicated health center employees who continue to deliver critical services such as COVID-19 testing, treatment, and prevention services on the front lines. Health centers, through the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program, have vaccinated and built vaccine confidence in millions of Americans from hard-hit and high-risk communities. Two-thirds of individuals vaccinated at health centers so far identify as racial and ethnic minorities. Health centers have also offered greater flexibility during the pandemic by expanding telehealth services to those in need.
- f. Community Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each health center are engaged in their own health care decisions.
- g. Community Health Centers are on the front lines of the emerging health care crisis, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters.

h. The Community Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access, including geography, income, and insurance status - improving healthcare outcomes and reducing healthcare system costs.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. August 7-13, 2022 proclaimed to be National Health Center Week in Multnomah County, Oregon and encouraging all Multnomah County residents to take part in this week by visiting their local Health Center and celebrating the important partnership between America's Community Health Centers and the communities they serve.

ADOPTED this 11th day of August, 2022.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Adrienne Daniels