Madison, WI – Today, Wisconsin celebrates National Community Health Center Week, an annual movement to recognize the critical work of Community Health Centers in supporting underserved communities, including providing care for residents from every single Wisconsin county. In honor of the service that Community Health Centers provide to address care gaps in Wisconsin, Governor Evers issued a proclamation recognizing August 8 through 14 as National Health Center Week. To highlight the recent work of Community Health Centers, the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association issued a publication today, *Community Health Centers: COVID-19 Response and Recovery*, outlining the critical role of Community Health Centers in the state’s COVID-19 response.

Since the start of the pandemic, Community Health Centers have been key to ensuring everyone can access affordable, quality healthcare, during and beyond the COVID-19 emergency. Community Health Centers are locally run yet part of a national network serving almost 30 million people nationwide, and over 300,000 Wisconsinites in 2019. CHCs are not ordinary medical clinics; they are also problem-solvers who reach beyond the exam room to care for the whole person by providing access to necessities like food and housing resources, and care coordination. Many clinics offer co-located services such as behavioral health and dental visits at the same site or have launched innovations such as school-based telehealth.

WPHCA’s new publication details the challenges and opportunities Community Health Centers faced in continuing to meet community needs since the onset of the pandemic. Since March 2020, Wisconsin Community Health Centers provided COVID-19 testing to over 67,000 individuals and since the start of 2021 delivered more than 72,600 vaccines to patients. *Community Health Centers: COVID-19 Response and Recovery* also provides details on Community Health Center approaches to providing patients with access to COVID-19 services and timely information on COVID-19 safety. The publication also illustrates how Community Health Centers deployed innovative programs to help community members understand new information and make informed decisions, and outlines the steps that clinics took to keep visits available through leveraging tools such as telehealth.

As part of National Health Center Week this year, community members and lawmakers are invited to learn more about local Community Health Centers and celebrate their mission. To find a Community Health Center near you, visit [www.wphca.org](http://www.wphca.org).

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WPHCA is the member association for Wisconsin’s 17 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs, or Community Health Centers). Community Health Centers are non-profit, community-directed medical, dental, and behavioral health clinics.