

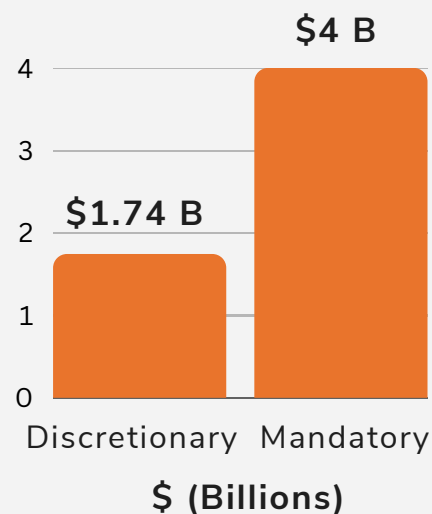
FEDERAL FUNDING: AN ESSENTIAL LIFELINE FOR WISCONSIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

August 2023

On September 30, Community Health Centers nationally face a funding cliff with over 70% of mandatory program funding at risk unless Congress identifies a bipartisan solution. Annual appropriations (discretionary) funding is also needed to ensure stability and continued access to primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services. Continued funding is also needed for initiatives like the Teaching Health Center program which provides Community Health Center-based physician residencies and the National Health Service Corps. Community Health Centers are required to provide care to patients regardless of their insurance status and rely on a mix of federal and state funding, with other community supports, for sustainability.

This year, a bipartisan group of **63 Senators** signed on to a letter urging the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education to pass “robust” funding for Community Health Centers in the FY24 budget. **266 U.S. Representatives** supported a similar letter in the House.

FY23 Funding



DID YOU KNOW?

- New Access Point funding is especially critical now that Wisconsin has two Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alikes, which cannot be federally funded until new grants are available.
- This summer, Wisconsin launched its first Teaching Health Center in Milwaukee, adding 14 new Family Medicine residents to train and work in the primary care setting.
- The National Health Service Corps program provides incentives for nearly 200 providers to serve in WI Community Health Center settings, including physicians, dentists, and behavioral health professionals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

At a minimum, support reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund with a multi-year extension at the current funding level. The fund expires September 30, 2023. Robust appropriations funding for Community Health Centers, Teaching Health Centers, and the National Health Service Corps is also necessary to maintain services. Community Health Centers are appreciative of federal support for the program and recognize competing Congressional priorities. However, flat funding is actually a cut, as the cost of labor and services continues to rise.