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## WPHCA Celebrates Recognition of Community Health Centers Priorities and Investment in Primary Care through Wisconsin's Rural Health Transformation Program Proposal

Madison, WI - The Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (WPHCA), on behalf of the state's Community Health Centers, celebrates the shared vision identified in Wisconsin's application for the <u>Rural Health Transformation Program</u> (RHTP), published yesterday:

"A future where the right providers, empowered by the right technology, and supported by the right networks, transform the health of rural Wisconsinites."

To achieve this vision, the Department of Health Services will prioritize strategic initiatives to bolster the health care workforce, improve deployment of health information technology and digital tools, and strengthen partnerships to deliver care more collaboratively. These priorities reflect key opportunities aligned with core strengths and resource needs for Wisconsin's 19 Community Health Centers.

The application underscores ambitious efforts to broaden access to primary care, behavioral health services, chronic disease management, and preventative dental care - critical services that Community Health Centers already deliver in rural areas and are poised to expand further to address pressing community care gaps. In particular, the application highlights the pivotal role of Community Health Centers in providing school-based care and the opportunity to serve more youth, an idea strongly supported by WPHCA.

By recognizing the essential contributions of Community Health Centers, Wisconsin affirms their role as trusted partners and leaders in the rural health delivery landscape and ensuring all residents have access to high-quality, comprehensive care.

WPHCA extends its deep gratitude to Governor Evers and the Department of Health Services for their steadfast dedication to driving transformative change in rural health care throughout Wisconsin and for uplifting Community Health Centers as key to that transformation.

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WPHCA is the member association for Wisconsin's 19 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs, or Community Health Centers). Community Health Centers are non-profit, community-directed medical, dental, and behavioral health clinics. Find your local Community Health Center <a href="here">here</a> and learn more about WPHCA at <a href="hww.wphca.org">www.wphca.org</a>.

