



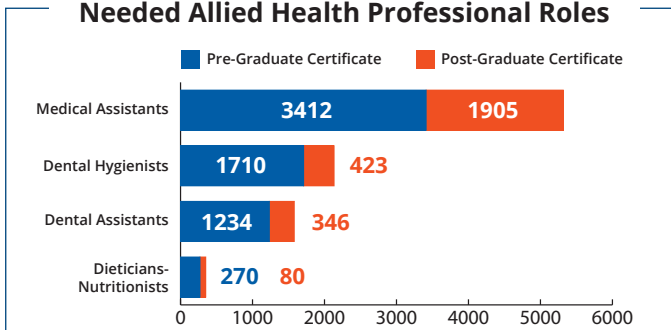
The Health Workforce Innovation Act of 2024 (H.R. 7307, S. 4957)

THE CHALLENGE:

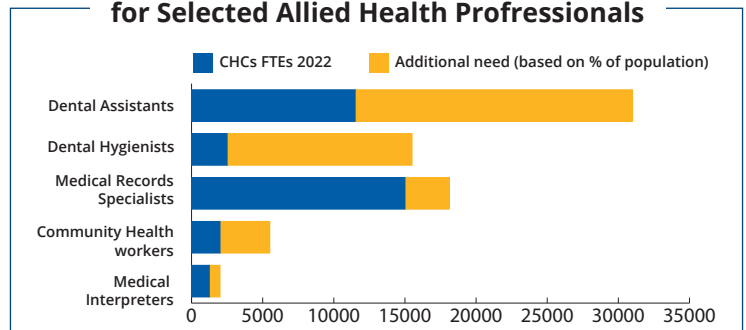
310,000 health professionals work at Community Health Centers (CHC) nationwide. Integrated teams of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, behavioral health specialists and allied health professionals deliver high-quality care to 32.5 million patients.

According to Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), each clinical provider needs two allied health professionals, such as medical and dental assistants, pharmacy technicians, peer specialists, and community health workers to deliver care effectively. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) projects the country needs 112,000 medical assistants and 33,000 dental assistants by 2035. However, without dedicated federal support, CHCs find it difficult to recruit and retain these highly sought-after professionals.

Individuals Trained in Health Centers for Needed Allied Health Professional Roles



Community Health Center Shortages for Selected Allied Health Professionals



HEALTH CENTERS OFFER SOLUTIONS:

Over 80 percent of CHCs support health workforce education & training:

- Cornerstone Family Healthcare is engaged in a medical assistant workforce development program in partnership with regional State University of New York campuses, while the Community Health Care Association of New York State is developing a dental assistant training program as well.
- The Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers started a two-year apprenticeship for medical and dental assistants, graduating twelve in 2022, and enrolling twenty in 2023. These apprentices are paid a living wage, and graduates have been inspired to pursue long-term careers in health care.
- Multnomah County Health Department in Oregon operates a work study partnership that places high school students in a health center five days a month for four years, with 50% tuition reimbursement.

THE HEALTH WORKFORCE INNOVATION ACT WOULD SCALE UP COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS:

- This bill authorizes HRSA to issue grants to establish or expand partnerships between CHCs, high schools, vocational-technical schools, community colleges, and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC).
- Grants can also be used to develop preceptorship training-to-practice models for medical, behavioral, and oral health care professionals in integrated community-driven settings, such as CHCs.
- Additionally, new and existing health care career laddering programs can be supported, incentivizing young people to enter and stay in the field long-term, alleviating workforce shortages.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

National Association of Community Health Centers, National Rural Health Association, National Network for Oral Health Access, Mental Health America, A.T. Still University, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, National AHEC Organization, American Health Information Management Association, Primary Care Collaborative, Community Catalyst, School Based Health Alliance

Please contact Kripa_Sreepada@finance.senate.gov in Senator Ron Wyden's office or kaitlyn.mullen@mail.house.gov in Rep. Marc Molinaro's office to endorse/co-sponsor the Health Workforce Innovation Act.

¹<https://www.mgma.com/mgma-stats/medical-practices-look-to-clinical-support-staff-to-optimize-care-delivery-in-2021>

²<https://bhw.hrsa.gov/data-research/projecting-health-workforce-supply-demand/allied-health>