

3.2 Continuing the Effort: The Federal HCH Program & the National HCH Council

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

The HCH Demonstration Program lasted for only four years, until 1989, but its successes were replicated in a federal HCH grant program, and the continuation of HCH models and approaches was vigorously advocated by HCH providers.

Federal Response to Homelessness

1987: Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act

- “... urgently needed assistance to protect and improve the lives and safety of the homeless”
- Emergency food and shelter
- Transitional and long-term housing
- Primary health care
- Mental health services
- Education
- Job training



In July 1987, responding to growing public pressure, Congress passed the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to provide “urgently needed assistance to protect and improve the lives and safety of the homeless.”

The McKinney Act provided for a wide range of programs for people experiencing homelessness, including emergency food and shelter, transitional and long-term housing, primary health care, mental health services, education and job training.

HCH in the McKinney Act

- 1988: DHHS funded 109 HCH projects in 41 States
- The design of the new federally-funded projects replicated the model developed by the foundation-funded demonstration program.



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a component of the US Department of Health and Human Services, moved quickly to make the first 109 federal HCH grants in 1988. The HCH program reflected aspects of both the demonstration program and the existing Community Health Center Program, also administered by HRSA.

Consolidation of Health Centers

1996: Health Center Consolidation Act – Section 330

- 330(e) Community Health Centers
- 330 (g) Migrant Health Centers
- 330 (h) Health Care for the Homeless
- 330 (i) Public Housing Primary Care



In 1996, the various Health Center programs were consolidated within HRSA, although Community, Migrant, Homeless and Public Housing grant programs retained their distinct identities. All these programs are now authorized by the Congress under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

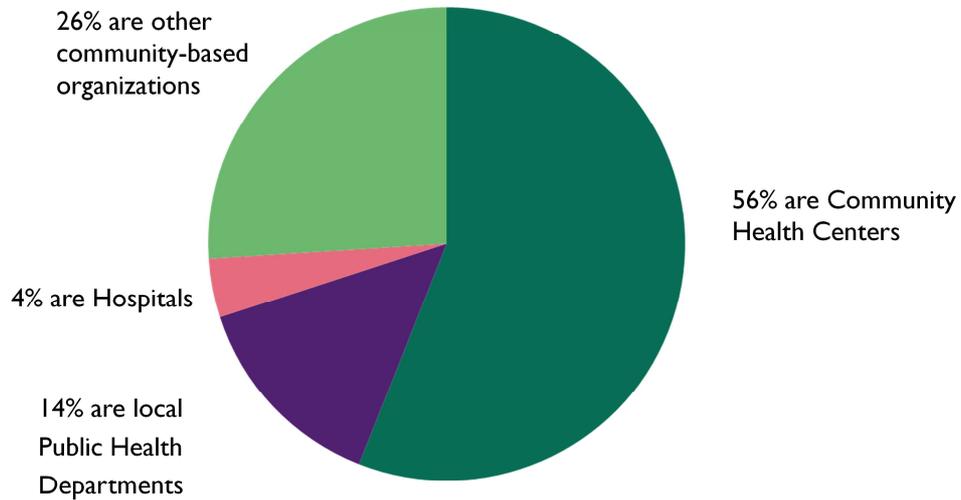
Growth of the Federal HCH Program

- Health Care for the Homeless Program = 8.7% of total Health Center appropriations
- At least one HCH grantee in each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.



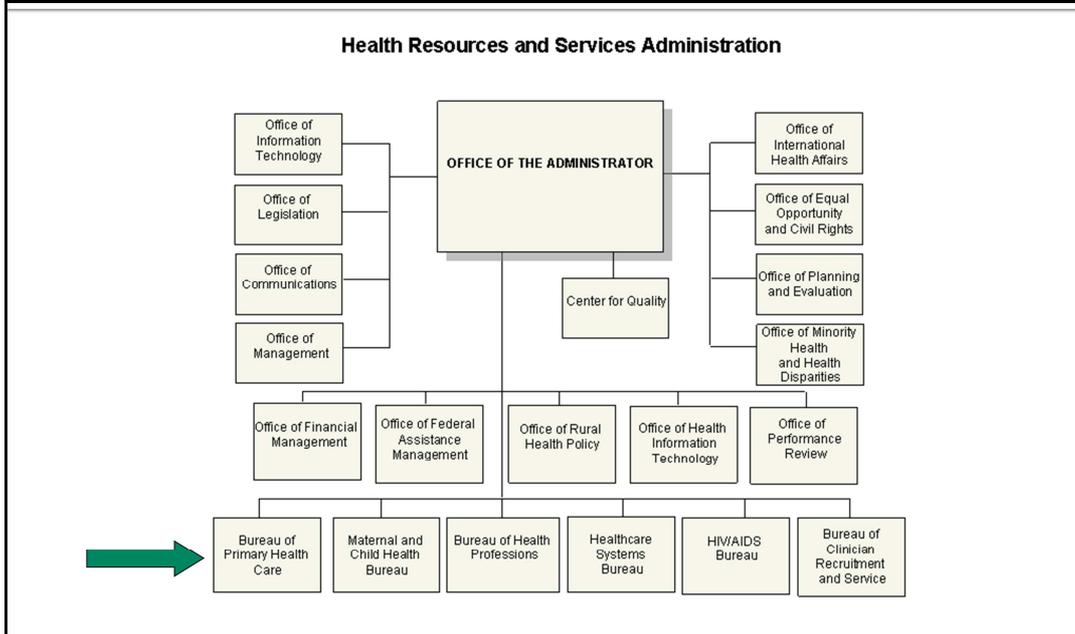
The Health Center Program has grown steadily in recent years. Since consolidation in 1996, HCH has been guaranteed 8.7% of the overall federal funding for Health Centers, and HCH grantees now provide care in every State, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Who are HCH Grantees?



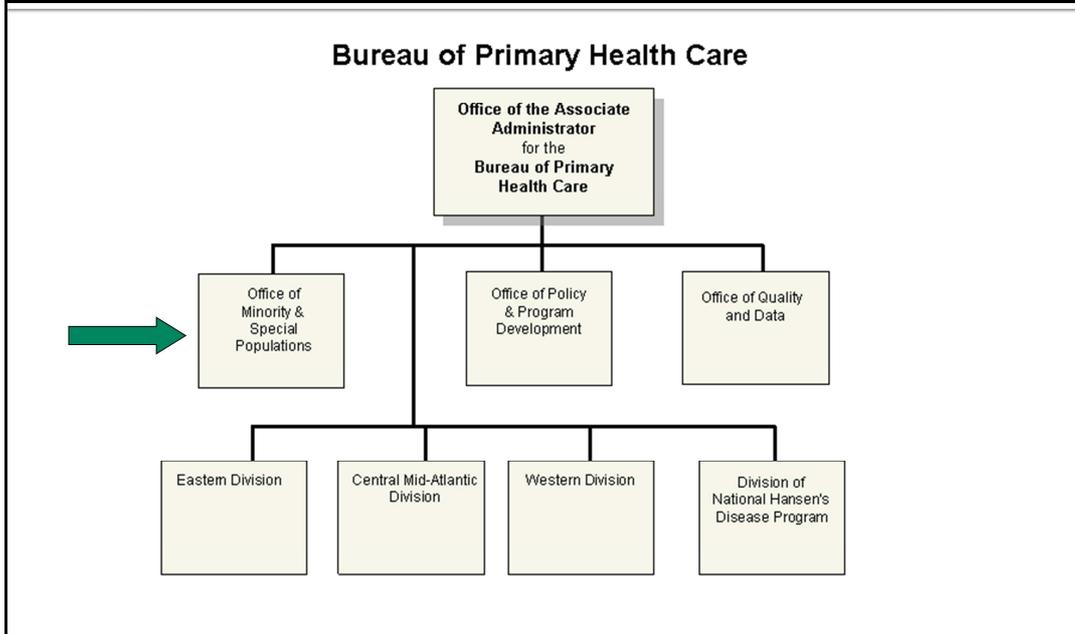
Over half of HCH grantees are Community Healthy Centers that also serve a general population. Other HCH grantees are hospitals, health departments, or freestanding community organizations like local homeless coalitions.

Federal Administration of HCH



Federal HCH grants come from the Health Resources and Services Administration, whose Administrator is responsible to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. All HCH grantees and other Health Centers relate to HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, shown in the lower left hand corner of this organizational chart. Health Centers may also relate to other Bureaus, such as the HIV/AIDS Bureau, around related grants or activities, and all Health Centers are periodically reviewed by the Office of Performance Review.

Federal Administration of HCH



Within the Bureau of Primary Health Care, three Divisions organized by geography contain Project Officers who are the principal contacts for Health Center grantees on most issues. The Project Officer is named on the grantee's Notice of Grant Award. The Office of Minority and Special Populations (OMSP) provides BPHC's focus on issues particular to Health Care for the Homeless (HCH), Migrant Health Centers, Public Housing Primary Care, and other Special Populations. OMSP manages a Cooperative Agreement with the National Health Care for the Homeless Council to provide training and technical assistance, including this HCH 101 presentation.

To learn more about the federal HCH Program

Visit www.hrsa.gov

Or call the Office of Minority and Special Populations
301-594-4303

Or contact your HRSA Project Officer



To learn more about the federal HCH Program, contact the Office of Minority and Special Populations at 301-594-4303. For specific grantee issues, contact the Project Officer assigned to your organization.

- Organized independently by Project Directors within the demonstration program (1985) to provide peer support and advocacy
- Became the designated charity of Comic Relief™ telethons
- Provides Training and Technical Assistance for HCH with funding from HRSA and other sources



Comic Relief group photo

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council is a non profit membership organization that was created by the Project Directors within the original HCH demonstration program. The Council's designation as the national charity for the Comic Relief telethons allowed it to expand beyond the original 19 projects, and to hire its first staff in 1990. The organization is now a major provider of training and technical assistance for Health Center grantees and others, maintains a commitment to principles of human rights and promotes systems change to end homelessness.