



Winter 2025 Quarterly Newsletter

Published February 2025

Upcoming CHAMPS Trainings

CHAMPS is offering a variety of trainings for Region VIII health centers in the upcoming months. More information about these valuable learning opportunities can be found throughout this issue.

- ★ Registration is open for the final session of the CHAMPS **Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative**, which will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, and will feature a panel discussion on navigating new challenges for Health Care for the Homeless programs. *Page 8*
- ★ The CHAMPS **How to Complete the 2025 Abbreviated Region VIII Salary Survey Tool** webinar will take place on Thursday, March 20, 2025. Registration is now open. *Page 4*
- ★ Registration is open for the CHAMPS **2024 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data** webinar, which will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025. *Page 4*
- ★ CHAMPS is offering five courses as part of the **Spanish Language Trainings for Healthcare Providers**, all to be held online throughout April 2025. Registration is now open. *Page 6*
- ★ The **2025 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference**, scheduled for October 25-28, 2025, in Spokane, WA, will offer a range of educational sessions for professional development. Visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage for more details as they become available.

For more information about upcoming online CHAMPS trainings, please visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Thank You, CHAMPS Organizational Members!

CHAMPS would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the 51 Region VIII health centers and State Primary Care Associations that have supported CHAMPS through [2024-2025 Organizational Membership](#). Organizational Memberships enable CHAMPS to deliver high-quality programs and services to Region VIII. Learn more about the benefits of CHAMPS Organizational Membership on the [CHAMPS Organizational Membership Materials](#) webpage. The CHAMPS 2025-2026 membership year begins on Tuesday, April 1, 2025; more information will be available soon.

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CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The annual CHAMPS Board of Directors meeting was held virtually on December 9, 2024. Attendees were joined by Jim Macrae, Associate Administrator of the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#), and Dr. Kyu Rhee, President and CEO of the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#), who provided federal and national updates and answered participant questions. After these presentations, CHAMPS leadership and Executive Committee members shared progress reports and discussed key developments from the past year. Additionally, the Board voted to elect members to serve on the 2024-2026 CHAMPS Executive Committee; please see below for further details. Thank you, CHAMPS Board members; we are sincerely grateful for your continued support.

Visit the [CHAMPS Board Resources](#) webpage for the meeting packet, slides, and additional information (Organizational Membership credentials required).

CHAMPS Executive Committee Election

The CHAMPS Board of Directors elected the following individuals to serve on the [2024-2026 CHAMPS Executive Committee](#):

- ★ **President:** John Santistevan; President/Chief Executive Officer, [Salud Family Health](#) (CO)
- ★ **Vice President:** Maria Clemons, CPA; Executive Director, [Northwest Community Health Center](#) (MT)
- ★ **Immediate Past President:** Keith Horwood, MD; Associate Medical Director, [Community Health Centers, Inc.](#) (UT)
- ★ **Treasurer:** Tim Trithart; Chief Executive Officer, [Complete Health](#) (SD)
- ★ **Secretary:** Colette Mild, MSPR, MHA; Vice President of Business and Finance, [One Health](#) (WY)
- ★ **Clinical Representative:** Chastity Dolbec, RN, BSN; Director of Patient Care and Innovation, [Coal Country Community Health Center](#) (ND)

Thank you, CHAMPS Executive Committee members, for your dedication, leadership, and service.

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Leadership Essentials Series Updates

The CHAMPS and [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) (RMPHTC) [Leadership Essentials: Systems-Thinking and Building Community Partnerships](#) training series is underway. This free virtual event is designed for health center and public health leaders in Region VIII who are looking to build effective, collaborative partnerships within and across organizations and communities. By the end of the series, participants will have gained skills in bridging silos, fostering teamwork, and engaging stakeholders in collaborative decision making, with the opportunity to apply these skills to a specific community collaborative project. The immersive sessions have brought together 30 participants from 22 of the region's health centers and public health organizations.

For more information about CHAMPS' leadership development trainings, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Please evaluate the CHAMPS Quarterly Newsletter by visiting:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHAMPSCommunications-Eval>.

Now Available: CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Conference Session Recordings



The [2024 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference](#), held in October 2024 in Denver, CO, brought together hundreds of individuals from across Region VIII, Region X, and the nation. Session materials and recordings of conference sessions, including the Opening Plenary and Lunch Plenary, are now available to conference attendees in the [NWRPCA Learning Vault](#).

To review highlights from the 2024 Fall Conference, please visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

Save the Dates: The [2025 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference](#) will be held in Spokane, WA, from October 25-28.

2024 Region VIII T/TA Needs Assessment Results

CHAMPS sincerely appreciates the 408 health center leaders who took the time to complete the Winter 2024/2025 Region VIII Health Center Training & Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment. The valuable data gleaned from survey respondents, representing 98% of the region's health centers, will help CHAMPS and the five Region VIII State Primary Care Associations gain a greater understanding of the region's top concerns and challenges, the most needed T/TA topics, and other relevant T/TA information.

Highlights of the region-wide results include:

Top Five Challenges/Concerns:

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Competitive Compensation Packages
3. Retention of Staff
4. Recruitment of Staff
5. Staff Burnout

Top Five Factors Impacting Health Centers in 2024:

1. Escalating Cost of Living
2. Competition for Qualified Staff
3. Financial Stability
4. 340B Policies
5. Staff Resignations

Top Five Needed T/TA Topics:

1. Funding to Support Staff that Address SDOH
2. Analyzing New Revenue Opportunities
3. Leadership Development/Effective Communication
4. Offsetting Costs for Patients
5. Supervisor/Manager Skills Training

Questions? Contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development & Member Services Director](#).

Don't Miss: CHAMPS [Resiliency Resources](#)

Staff burnout remains a significant challenge for Region VIII health centers, as highlighted in the results of the Winter 2024/2025 Region VIII T/TA Needs Assessment.

To assist health centers and their staff, CHAMPS has compiled a collection of personal and organizational resources focused on managing stress, preventing burnout, and fostering a supportive work environment.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Encouraging successful careers and strong, cutting-edge organizations by providing live and archived continuing education, recruitment, and retention tools, and the latest information on current trends and statistics. Learn more [here](#).

Update: CHAMPS CORE Competencies Training



The CHAMPS [2025 CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training](#) is set to begin at the end of February. This course offers intensive, hands-on, and immediately applicable skill-building to successfully navigate supervisory and management roles in the health center environment. By the end of the course, participants will have gained or strengthened their skills in areas such as effective communication as a manager, coaching and developing teams, driving accountability, delivering results, and more.

CHAMPS would like to thank [Association for Utah Community Health](#), [Colorado Community Health Network](#), [Montana Primary Care Association](#), and [Wyoming Primary Care Association](#) for their support of this course by providing participant scholarships. The related Beyond CORE Competencies: Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training will be offered in the spring of 2026.

For more information about CHAMPS' health center supervisor and manager trainings, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Is your Region VIII health center or Primary Care Association (PCA) hiring?

Post your open positions on the free CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#).

To post an opening or update a current position, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce](#).

Region VIII Salary Survey Project Updates

CHAMPS will be undertaking an **Abbreviated Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, and Turnover Survey** in spring 2025 to provide Region VIII health centers with up-to-date comparative compensation figures for a limited group of hard to recruit and/or retain titles. Data collection begins on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. Those responsible for completing the survey are encouraged to register for the CHAMPS [How to Complete the 2025 Abbreviated Region VIII Salary Survey Tool](#) event on Thursday, March 20, 2025, from 12:00-1:00 PM MT / 1:00-2:00 PM CT. More information about the survey is coming soon.

The [CHAMPS 2024 Region VIII Health Center Provider Productivity Expectations Report](#) was released in late December, presenting data on health center expectations for full-time weekly hours, administrative versus direct patient contact time, and completed hourly visits for full-time medical, dental, and behavioral health providers, with the goal of illustrating what these health centers were asking their providers to accomplish. An electronic version of the report has been made available to all [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) as well as non-member organizations that participated in the survey. Additional copies can be purchased using the [2024 Salary Survey Companion Reports Order Form](#). CHAMPS will soon release one additional publication resulting from the 2024 Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey project: the Clinical Staffing Report.

Please join CHAMPS for a webinar introducing all reports from last year's salary survey project, [2024 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data: Understanding and Utilizing Statistics from the CHAMPS Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Project](#). This free event is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2025, from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM MT / 12:30-2:00 PM CT, and registration is now open.

Learn more about available salary survey reports on the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage.

Learn more about upcoming online CHAMPS trainings on the [CHAMPS Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Questions? Please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development & Member Services Director](#).

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Now Available: 2023 UDS Workforce Metrics Infographic

Each year, the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#) (BPHC) collects data from Health Center program awardees and Look-Alikes through the Uniform Data System (UDS). Data collected includes workforce metrics related to Health Professions Education and Training (HP-ET) programs in health centers. In February 2025, CHAMPS published the [2023 UDS Workforce Metrics Infographic](#), which explores HP-ET efforts regionally and nationally. In 2023, 87.93% of Region VIII health center awardees had HP-ET programs, compared to 85.33% of health centers nationwide. Of those Region VIII organizations with HP-ET programs, 33.33% were categorized as sponsor sites, meaning they host a comprehensive HP-ET program. Almost 70% of the professionals trained in Region VIII in 2023 were in medical disciplines (compared with over 75% nationally) and just over 20% were in dental disciplines (compared with just over 12% nationally). The most commonly trained professions by discipline in Region VIII were physicians, dentists, clinical social workers, and pharmacists. The 2023 infographic includes a new look at staff supporting HP-ET programs; Region VIII centers with HP-ET programs employed an average of 20.1 preceptors and 20.9 HP-ET related non-preceptors.

Visit the CHAMPS [Region VIII BPHC UDS Summaries, Fact Sheets, and Infographics](#) webpage to view the current and previous Region VIII UDS-related resources.

Don't Miss: CHAMPS [Health Center Recruitment Resources](#)

CHAMPS has compiled a collection of resources related to interviewing, job boards, and job descriptions to assist health centers in recruiting a highly qualified, dedicated, and long-term workforce.

MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians who practice in Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers in Region VIII to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of care. Learn more [here](#).

Recording Available: CHAMPS/RMPHTC Speak My Culture Virtual Training

CHAMPS, in partnership with [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) (RMPHTC), co-hosted a free virtual training, [Speak My Culture: Embracing Latino Culture in Maternal Health](#), on January 22, 2025. This webinar was designed for healthcare providers and clinical support staff to deepen their understanding of the unique challenges faced by perinatal Latina mothers and their families. Speaker Tamara Ríos, PhD, CEO of [Ríos Associates](#), discussed culturally responsive strategies that honor key Latino values and emphasized building trust and improving communication with Latino patients by incorporating these cultural concepts into care. The webinar also explored cultural issues pertinent to maternal health topics, and attendees learned how to present information in ways that resonate with Latino families.

For those unable to attend, a recording of the event, along with the session materials, is available on the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage through Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Don't Miss: CHAMPS [Patient Education Tools](#)

CHAMPS has created an expansive online library of resources, documents, and reference materials for clinicians to use when interacting with patients, including:

[Patient Education Handouts](#) | [Patient Self-Management Tools](#) | [Well Child Handouts](#) | [Wellness Pages](#)

Register Now: CHAMPS Spanish Language Trainings

CHAMPS is pleased to share that registration is open for the five courses offered as part of the [CHAMPS Spanish Language Trainings for Healthcare Providers](#), all to be held online throughout April 2025. Led by [Ríos Associates](#), these intensive and conversational trainings focus on mock patient dialogues, cross-cultural discussions, and daily practice. Designed for clinicians and clinical support staff at Region VIII health centers, the courses offer an immersive experience ideal for those with limited time who need to immediately apply their new skills with Spanish-speaking patients. Trainings will take place virtually from 8:00 AM-12:00 PM MT / 9:00 AM-1:00 PM CT each day, with optional tutoring offered in the afternoon.

The traditional [Medical Spanish Language for Providers](#) course will be held over four half-days: Thursday, April 10; Friday, April 11; Thursday, April 17; and Friday, April 18, 2025. This course is intended for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other medical personnel with beginner to intermediate Spanish language skills.

CHAMPS will also host four courses that will be held over two half-days each:

[Spanish Language for Oral Health Providers](#) will take place on Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8, 2025. This course is designed for dentists, orthodontists, dental hygienists, and other clinical dental personnel with beginner Spanish language skills.

[Spanish Language for Behavioral Health Providers](#) will be offered on Monday, April 14 and Tuesday, April 15, 2025. This course is intended for psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health counselors, social workers, addiction counselors, and other behavioral health personnel with intermediate to advanced Spanish language skills.

[Medical Spanish Language for Advanced Speakers](#) will take place on Monday, April 21 and Tuesday, April 22, 2025. This course is geared toward physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other clinical personnel with advanced Spanish language skills.

NEW! [Medical Spanish Language for Medical Assistants](#) will be offered on Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25, 2025. This course is designed for Medical Assistants and other clinical support staff with beginner Spanish language skills. Medical Assistants with advanced Spanish language skills are invited to apply to attend the Medical Spanish Language for Advanced Speakers course.

Continuing medical education (CME) credits are available. [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) qualify for discounted registration fees. A limited number of scholarships are available to participants from Wyoming thanks to the generous support of [Wyoming Primary Care Association](#). Registration will close on Friday, March 14, 2025, or when courses reach capacity.

For additional course details and registration information, please visit the CHAMPS [Spanish Language Trainings for Healthcare Providers](#) webpage. Questions? Contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#).

2025 Weitzman Institute Symposium

Registration for the [2025 Weitzman Institute Symposium](#) is now open. This year's event will focus on why and how *Mental Health Matters*, particularly in the context of health policy, research, clinical training and practice, as well as healthcare innovation and technology. Featured speakers will discuss emerging evidence and intersectional approaches to best support the mental well-being of the healthcare workforce and the vulnerable populations it serves. This free virtual event will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM MT / 10:00 AM-4:00 PM CT. Continuing medical education (CME) and continuing education (CE) credits will be available at no cost for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical social workers, nurses, dietitians, and others.

For more information and to register, please visit the [Weitzman Institute Symposium](#) event webpage.

Don't Miss: Free Virtual Learning Opportunity from MCN & NACHC

[Migrant Clinicians Network](#) (MCN) and the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) are co-hosting a free four-part webinar series, *The Air We Share: Protecting Health Center Patients from Air Quality Issues*. Sessions will explore the public health consequences of poor air quality, particularly for individuals who work outdoors or who encounter poor air while simultaneously managing other health factors, and in the context of disasters, like wildfires. The series will also discuss outdoor and indoor pollution, its impacts on vulnerable populations, and health center actions and partnerships to protect patient health. The series will take place over four Wednesdays, beginning March 26 and concluding June 25, 2025, meeting from 1:00-2:00 PM MT / 2:00-3:00 PM CT. All sessions will be provided in English with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish. Continuing education (CE) credits will be offered.

To learn more and register, please visit NACHC's [registration](#) webpage.

New Information Hubs to Support Clinicians on Respiratory Disease & Vaccines

Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network

Need a resource on [coping with moral injury](#)? Wondering how to share with Spanish-speaking adult patients [what vaccines they should get](#)? Considering a [text message campaign](#) for your community about the flu? [Migrant Clinicians Network](#) has dozens of resources – most available in English and Spanish – ready to be customized for the needs of the community. Visit the new [Vaccine Information Hub](#) for clinician resources, patient-facing resources, and community resources on vaccines. Then, head over to the [Respiratory Disease and COVID Information Hub](#) for resources on long COVID, mental health and well-being, respirators and masks, guidance for employers, ventilation, tools against misinformation, and more.



To explore more available resources, visit Migrant Clinicians Network's [website](#).

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES NEWS

Assisting Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations in pursuing healthy communities and addressing health disparities by affecting the social determinants of health in their communities.

Upcoming Virtual Learning Collaborative with NCECE

Submitted by Arielle Mather, National Center for Equitable Care for Elders



The [National Center for Equitable Care for Elders](#) (NCECE) is set to host a free virtual learning collaborative, *Improving Community-Based Geriatric Care*. Taking place over four Wednesdays, from March 5 to April 23, 2025, each session will meet from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM MT / 12:00-1:00 PM CT. This series will explore the role of health centers in meeting the complex and evolving needs of community-dwelling older adults. Participants will discuss innovative approaches to age-friendly care delivery and cross-sector partnerships that can effectively support this growing patient population. Applications to attend are due by Monday, March 3, 2025.

For more information and to apply for the learning collaborative, please visit NCECE's [registration](#) webpage.

CHAMPS [Victims & Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence Resources](#)

CHAMPS has compiled a collection of tools, articles, and guides on serving victims and survivors of intimate partner violence, including resources for providers and patients.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES NEWS, *Continued*

Update: CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative

CHAMPS is currently hosting the [Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative](#), a free, four-part virtual series designed for Region VIII health center staff who serve people experiencing homelessness, as well as key Primary Care Association contacts. This series offers an opportunity to hear from experts in the field, discuss challenges, and share promising practices.

During the first session, held in September 2024, April Krall, Community Outreach Nurse Manager, and Dr. Sarah Axelrath, Primary Care and Addiction Medicine Physician from [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#) (CCH), shared insights on CCH's innovative street medicine program. The second session, which took place in November 2024, featured Cindy Manginelli, Director of Community Engagement at the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) (NHCHC), who gave a presentation on safety and security considerations for those providing services to people experiencing homelessness. In January 2025, CHAMPS hosted the third session of the series, where presenters Rhonda Hauff, CEO of [Yakima Neighborhood Health Services](#); Lisa Sirois, Director of Programs at the [Poverello Center](#); and Breanna West, Registered Nurse at [Partnership Health Center](#) discussed the details and logistics of medical respite care programs.

For those unable to attend, recordings of these three sessions are available on the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

The final session of the series is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2025, beginning at 1:00 PM MT / 2:00 PM CT. This session will feature a panel discussion on navigating emerging challenges for Health Care for the Homeless programs, with Andy Grimm, Chief Integrated Health Operations Officer at Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Jeniece Olsen, Chief Operating Officer at [Fourth Street Clinic](#); and Rhonda Hauff, CEO of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services. Registration to attend the final session of the series remains open, and there is no cost to attend.

Visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage to learn more and register.



Region VIII Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative

This free collaborative invites Region VIII health center staff who serve people experiencing homelessness and key PCA contacts to hear from experts in the field, discuss challenges, share promising practices, and identify desired training.

UPCOMING SESSION DATE:

- March 6, 2025: 1PM-2PM MT / 2PM-3PM CT
 - A panel discussion with Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Fourth Street Clinic, and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services on navigating new challenges for Health Care for the Homeless programs.

ARCHIVED SESSIONS:

Session 1 featured Colorado Coalition for the Homeless presenting on their street medicine program.
Session 2 featured National Health Care for the Homeless Council presenting on safety and security for homeless service providers.
Session 3 featured Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Poverello Center, and Partnership Health Center presenting on medical respite care programs.

Previous session recordings are archived [here](#).
Register for the upcoming session [here](#).

For more information, please email Katie@CHAMPSonline.org, or visit www.CHAMPSonline.org.



REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

HRSA Health Center Funding Update: Expanding Access & Hours in Region VIII

In January 2025, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) granted \$60 million to 125 health centers nationally through the Expanded Hours award. This funding is intended to assist health centers in expanding their hours of operation and improve access to health care services. Health centers that received this funding will add an average of 20 hours of operation a week to support the clinical and administrative staff necessary to add early morning, night, and weekend hours. **Congratulations to the seven health centers with sites operating in Region VIII that received a total of \$3,466,626.**

Visit HRSA's [Expanded Hours](#) webpage for more information and to view a list of awardees.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Updated Federal Poverty Guidelines

On January 17, 2025, the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS) announced the annual update to the [HHS Poverty Guidelines](#).

Health centers can utilize this information to update sliding fee discount scales.

2024 UDS+ Reporting Period Open

As of February 18, the Uniform Data System (UDS) reporting period has opened, allowing health centers to begin the process of submitting de-identified patient-level data for 2024. In August 2024, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) announced new UDS patient-level (UDS+) submission requirements for calendar year (CY) 2024 UDS reporting. These updates require health centers to submit, at a minimum, UDS+ data for their medical patients. Health centers with the capacity to do so may submit data for their entire patient population.

Additionally, health centers will be required to submit data for several demographic tables, including data on patients by ZIP code, age, and sex assigned at birth (Table 3A), demographic characteristics (Table 3B), and selected patient characteristics (Table 4).

Finally, health centers must submit at least one electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) from one of the following clinical tables:

- ★ Table 6B: Quality of Care Measures
 - Breast Cancer Screening
 - Cervical Cancer Screening
 - Colorectal Cancer Screening

- ★ Table 7: Health Outcomes and Disparities
 - Controlling High Blood Pressure (*HRSA recommended*)
 - Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (>9.0%)

HRSA will host a UDS Test Cooperative (UTC) meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, to discuss 2024 UDS+ submission requirements and review the related process and timeline. The 2024 UDS+ reporting period will close on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

For more information, please visit HRSA's [UDS Modernization Initiative](#) webpage and view the [2024 UDS+ Requirements One-Pager](#). To join the UTC and access the monthly meetings, submit your name and email address via the [BPHC Contact Form](#).

Reminder: 340B Recertification Deadline – March 10, 2025

All health centers must recertify their compliance with 340B program requirements and update their clinical and contract pharmacy sites in the HRSA 340B database (OPAIS) by Monday, March 10, 2025. Failure to do so will result in a loss of eligibility for at least four months.

For more information, please visit HRSA's [Recertification](#) webpage.

For further assistance, contact the 340B Call Center at apexusanswers@340bpvp.com or at 1-888-340-2787 (available Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM-4:00 PM MT / 8:00 AM-5:00 PM CT).

Stay Up to Date on All Things Region VIII – Sign Up for CHAMPS Communications

[Healthy Communities Communiqué](#) [Monthly JOB Email](#) [MPCN Minute](#) [Quarterly Newsletter](#) [Workforce Focus](#)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

HRSA Updates “Rural Area” Definition

In November 2024, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#) (FORHP) updated the definition of rural area as used when applying for rural health grants, integrating terrain factors as illustrated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service [Road Ruggedness Scale](#) (RRS). The updated definition of rural areas includes geographic areas meeting any one, or more, of the following criteria:

- ★ Non-metropolitan counties
- ★ Outlying metropolitan counties with no population from an urban area of 50,000 or more people
- ★ Census tracts with [Rural-Urban Commuting Area](#) (RUCA) codes 4-10 in metropolitan counties
- ★ Census tracts of at least 400 square miles in area with population density of 35 or less per square mile with RUCA codes 2-3 in metropolitan counties
- ★ Census tracts with RRS 5 and RUCA codes 2-3 that are at least 20 square miles in area in metropolitan counties

For more details, visit the HRSA [How We Define Rural](#) webpage and the November 21, 2024 [Federal Register Notice](#).

New HRSA Policy Information Notice (PIN)

In December 2024, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) issued a new PIN that established the scope of project policy for HRSA-supported health centers providing primary care services to support transitions in care for justice-involved individuals reentering the community.

Visit HRSA’s [Serving Justice-Involved Individuals Reentering the Community](#) webpage for the full updated policy and additional resources.

[HRSA Emergency Information Kit: Key Resources for Health Centers](#)

This resource, created by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), provides answers to commonly asked questions that arise during a declared dynamic event or emergency situation.

[NACHC Health Center Value-Based Payment & Financial Readiness Tool](#)

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) offers this tool to support health centers in assessing value-based payment readiness and projected revenues, costs, and returns on investment.

Region VIII Health Center Recognized as 2024 Million Hearts Hypertension Control Champion

[Million Hearts](#) is a national initiative co-led by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS). Each year, it recognizes clinicians, health systems, and health centers that achieve a hypertension control rate of at least 80% through its Hypertension Control Challenge. This year, 32 Hypertension Control Champions were named, including one from the Region VIII health center community. **Congratulations to [Marias Healthcare Services, Inc. \(MT\)](#) on this outstanding achievement.**

Visit the [Hypertension Control Champions](#) webpage to view the full list of awardees.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

2025 NACHC P&I Awards: Region VIII Recipients

Each year, during its [Policy & Issues Forum](#) (P&I), the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC), in collaboration with the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health at the [George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health](#), announces the recipients of the Geiger Gibson Emerging Leader Award. Established in 2007, this competitive award recognizes the achievements of next-generation health center leaders from across the country. It honors individuals from health centers and Primary Care Associations whose work exemplifies the health center mission and the vision of Drs. H. Jack Geiger and Count Gibson.

Of the 12 individuals honored with Emerging Leader Awards this year, one was from Region VIII: **Bryan Rodriguez**, Program Manager, School and Community Programs at [Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Denver Community Health Services](#) (CO).

NACHC also announced the recipients of its two Grassroots Advocacy awards, which includes the Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award. This award was established in honor of the late Elizabeth K. (Betsey) Cooke and celebrates those who mirror her passion and have made significant contributions to advancing health center advocacy. One individual from Region VIII was recognized this year: **Janet Rasmussen**, Chief Population Health Officer at [Clinica Family Health & Wellness](#) (CO).

Congratulations, Bryan and Janet!

*For more details about the 2025 Emerging Leader awardees, view this [press release](#).
To learn more about the 2025 Grassroots Advocacy award recipients, please visit the NACHC [Grassroots Advocacy Awardees](#) webpage.*

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Carbon Medical Service Association: [Carbon County clinic gets \\$1M in federal funds for prison reentry services](#) (*Axios Salt Lake City, November 2024*)
- ★ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: [Memorial vigil brings people together to remember loved ones who died while experiencing homelessness](#) (*9NEWS, December 2024*)
- ★ Denver Health Community Health Services: [Denver Health focuses on primary care training in underserved areas](#) (*American Hospital Association, January 2025*)
- ★ Horizon Health: [SD rep joins 300 in D.C. calling for more rural health center funding](#) (*Public News Service, December 2024*)
- ★ MarillacHealth: [MarillacHealth celebrates completion of new structure](#) (*Western Slope Now, January 2025*)
- ★ Northland Health Centers: [Northland Health Centers offering women's heart health screenings](#) (*KFYR-TV, February 2025*)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Partnership Health Center receives grant to expand hours](#) (*Montana Free Press, January 2025*)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [RiverStone Health opens new clinic at Billings Senior High School](#) (*Billings Gazette, December 2024*)
- ★ Spectra Health: [Grand Forks Public Health, MyAlly Health, Spectra Health host Pap-A-Thon for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month](#) (*Knox News Radio, January 2025*)

National Funding Opportunities & Grants.gov Closing Dates

[CMS Connecting Kids to Coverage](#)

March 7, 2025

[HRSA Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Paraprofessionals](#)

March 18, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2025

[CHAMPS CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors & Managers Training](#)

February 26; March 5, 12, 19 & 26

[HRSA 2025 FTCA Deeming Application Clinic](#)

March 5-6

[CHAMPS Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative: Navigating New Challenges for Health Care for the Homeless Programs](#)

March 6

[CCHN Policy & Issues Forum](#)

March 10-11; Denver, CO

[CHAMPS Leadership Essentials Series, Session Four](#)

March 27

May 2025

[HRSA Advancing Patient-Centered Health Care Virtual Symposium](#)

May 6-7

[CCHN Triannual Meeting](#)

May 8; Golden, CO

[2025 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium](#)

May 12-15; Baltimore, MD

[2025 Weitzman Institute Symposium](#)

May 14

[NCFH Spring 2025 Agricultural Worker Health Symposium](#)

May 28-30; Grand Rapids, MI

April 2025

[CHAMPS Two-Day Spanish Language for Oral Health Providers Training](#)

April 7-8

[MPCA Under the Big Sky 2025 Conference](#)

April 9-10; Butte, MT

[CHAMPS Four-Day Medical Spanish Language for Beginner & Intermediate Speakers Training](#)

April 10-11 & April 17-18

[CHAMPS Two-Day Spanish Language for Behavioral Health Providers Training](#)

April 14-15

[HRSA Health Center Preparedness & Response Forum: Workforce Supports](#)

April 16

[CHAMPS Two-Day Medical Spanish Language for Advanced Speakers Training](#)

April 21-22

[CHAMPS Two-Day Medical Spanish Language for Medical Assistants Training](#)

April 24-25

Looking Ahead

[CHAD & GPHDN Annual Conference](#)

June 3-6; Fargo, ND

[NACHC 2025 Community Health Institute \(CHI\) & Expo](#)

August 17-19; Chicago, IL

[NACHC 2025 Workforce Conference](#)

October 21-22; Las Vegas, NV

[2025 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#)

October 25-28; Spokane, WA

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Please contact Haleigh@CHAMPSONline.org with questions or comments, to sign up to receive the newsletter, change your subscription email, or submit articles.

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