Community Health Centers Expand Access to Oral Health Care
Ohio Community Health Centers receive funding to provide new or enhanced oral health services

(COLUMBUS) – The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers applauds the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarding over $85 million to 298 health centers to expand their oral health service capacity through new infrastructure enhancements.

Twelve (12) Ohio Community Health Centers received Oral Health Awards. Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), these are the first by HRSA to solely focus on oral health infrastructure and will enable HRSA-funded health centers to provide new, or enhance existing, oral health services.

“Health centers play a key role in providing access to a comprehensive range of services Americans need to stay healthy, and that includes high-quality oral health care,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “Early detection of oral diseases can prevent much more costly health challenges and improve Americans’ health, which is the ultimate goal of President Trump’s vision for our healthcare system. These are the first awards HRSA has ever made solely for health centers’ oral healthcare infrastructure, and they will support better access to oral health services in communities across the country, including underserved urban and rural areas.”

The awards will support physical and organizational infrastructure investments for health centers, such as minor alteration and renovation to modernize existing facilities, purchase and installation of dental and radiology equipment, training and consultation to increase oral health integration, and purchase of mobile dental units to increase access to oral health care in hard-to-reach parts of communities.

“Oral healthcare is the leading unmet need in many of our medically underserved communities,” said Julie DiRossi-King, Chief Operating Officer of OACHC. “We are extremely appreciative of the recognition by HHS and the Administration of the high-quality care Community Health centers are providing to all individuals and families regardless of insurance status. With 3 million Ohioans lacking dental insurance, these awards are as timely as they are critical to the support needed for Ohio’s Community Health Centers to continue to be national leaders in providing comprehensive, quality care, and meeting the needs of our communities.”

To learn more on the Ohio recipients visit: 2019 Ohio Oral Health Awards.
About Ohio’s Community Health Centers
Federally Qualified Health Centers and FQHC Look-Alikes, more commonly referred to as Community Health Centers (CHCs), are non-profit health care providers that deliver affordable, high-quality and comprehensive primary care to medically underserved populations, regardless of insurance status. CHCs provide integrated whole person care, oftentimes providing onsite dental, behavioral, pharmacy, vision and other needed supplemental services under one roof. While each is distinct, they share one common purpose: to provide primary health care services that are coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent and community directed.

About OACHC | www.ohiochc.org
OACHC is a not-for-profit professional association representing Ohio's Federally Qualified Health Centers. OACHC's Mission is to ensure access to high-quality affordable health care for all Ohioans through the growth and development of Ohio's Community Health Centers. OACHC represents Ohio’s 55 Community Health Centers at 380+ locations, including multiple mobile units, in 68 of Ohio’s 88 counties.

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