



GPCA and the FQHC System in Georgia

GPCA

The Georgia Primary Care Association (GPCA) is a member service organization representing the Federally Qualified Health Centers in Georgia thru the provision of training, technical assistance and the development and implementation of strategies to expand and strengthen the FQHC system. Additionally, GPCA is involved in the development and implementation of additional programs and services that will enhance the FQHC health care delivery system.

What are FQHCs?

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Community Health Centers (CHCs) are organizations receiving grants under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, certain tribal organizations, and FQHC Look-Alikes. CHCs are local, non-profit, community-owned health care providers serving low-income and medically underserved communities.

- **FQHCs are local, non-profit, community-owned health care providers** serving low income and medically underserved communities.
- **FQHCs are cost effective**, reducing costly avoidable emergency, hospital and specialty care. Across America, FQHCs save the health care system \$24 billion a year.
- **FQHCs are open to all residents**, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Charges for services are on a sliding fee scale based on patient or family income.
- **FQHCs began through the efforts of community health and civil rights activists** working in low-income communities during the 1960s.
- For the past 50 years, the national network of over **1,400 FQHCs** have **provided high quality, affordable primary care and preventive services**, and often provide on-site dental, pharmaceutical, mental health and substance abuse services.

The FQHC System in Georgia Today

Georgia currently has **35 FQHCs operating across 131 counties with 230 delivery sites**, along with plans to expand to additional underserved communities across the state. *This represents a growth of 100% in the number of organizations and 150% in the number of clinic sites over the past 15 years.*