



## Central Valley Health Network

### Priorities for Health Care Reform

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) serve as the core of our nation's health care safety-net, and are distinctively poised to be a cornerstone in health care reform, as the FQHC model is a proven method of providing quality preventive, primary care to our country's most vulnerable communities. Moreover, during the past four decades, FQHCs have provided health care services in medically underserved areas from coast to coast and today serve as a health care home to more than 18 million individuals nationwide.

The Central Valley Health Network (CVHN), which represents 128 federally qualified health center sites in California, believes that health care reform should set out to achieve undeniable access to affordable, quality health care coverage and services, especially to low-income and underserved individuals and families.

Additionally, CVHN recognizes that in order to make health care reform meaningful, coverage should emphasize comprehensive preventive and primary care, which includes; medical, dental, and behavioral health services. Comprehensive coverage coupled together with access to a health care home will help create a foundation for effective and successful health care reform, with the lasting integrity meet future demands placed upon our country's health care system.

CVHN's "Top 10" priorities for health care reform:

- 1. Guarantee access to a health care home**
- 2. Reimburse adequately for preventive, primary health care – Preserve the Prospective Payment System in Medicaid.**
- 3. Update Medicare payment methodology to conform to Medicaid.**
- 4. Include comprehensive health care coverage for individuals and families including medical, dental, and behavioral health services.**
- 5. Incorporate FQHCs as providers in all health plans to ensure patient choice and access to health care homes.**
- 6. Expand the prevention-oriented FQHC delivery system and infrastructure.**
- 7. Increase providers in federally designated medically underserved areas and health professional shortages areas through expansion of the National Health Service Corps and other scholarship and loan repayment programs.**
- 8. Support linguistic and cultural competency through an increase and expansion of translated health information and competency training for health professionals.**
- 9. Ensure that legal immigrants have equal access to subsidies and are not excluded from Medicaid as a result of the mandatory waiting period.**
- 10. Provide FQHCs with access to low-cost capital through financing programs currently available to other nonprofit health care providers, in order to meet increased patient demand.**