



# Federally Qualified Health Centers

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) aka Community Health Centers (CHC)



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# Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

Federally funded nonprofit health centers or clinics that serve medically underserved areas and populations.

FQHCs provide primary care services regardless of ability to pay. Services are provided on a sliding scale fee based on ability to pay.





# FQHC Quick Glance

- Non profit organizations
- Patient Governed
- **1,500+** Health Centers across the country
- **Over 33 million** patients served in 2024
- Serving at least 1 in 10 nationwide; 1 in 5 in rural residents



# Five Essential Elements of Community Health Centers

1

Located in **high-need areas**.

2

Provide **comprehensive** health and related services (especially “enabling services”).

3

**Open to all** people, regardless of ability to pay, with sliding scale fee charges based on income.

4

Governed by **community boards**, to assure responsiveness to local needs.

5

Follow **performance and accountability requirements** regarding their administrative, clinical, and financial operations.



# CHC HRSA requirements

## Required and additional health services

- Required to provide primary health services; most offer dental and behavioral health
  - Behavioral health: services vary by CHC (OUD/SUD, peer support, Psychiatry, therapy services)
- Additional health services as appropriate to meet the needs of the population served, i.e. cardiology, optometry, etc.
- Enabling services
  - Case management, Transportation, Health education, Eligibility assistance, Translation/interpretation services, Community health workers

## Staffing

- Credentialing and privileging of all clinical staff members (initial and recurring)



# CHC HRSA requirements

## Needs Assessment

- Health center must define and annually review
  - Service area (no defined catchment area)
  - Identification of medically underserved
  - Unmet needs in community



# CHC HRSA requirements

No Patient Can Be Denied Services Due to Inability to Pay

Payor Sources

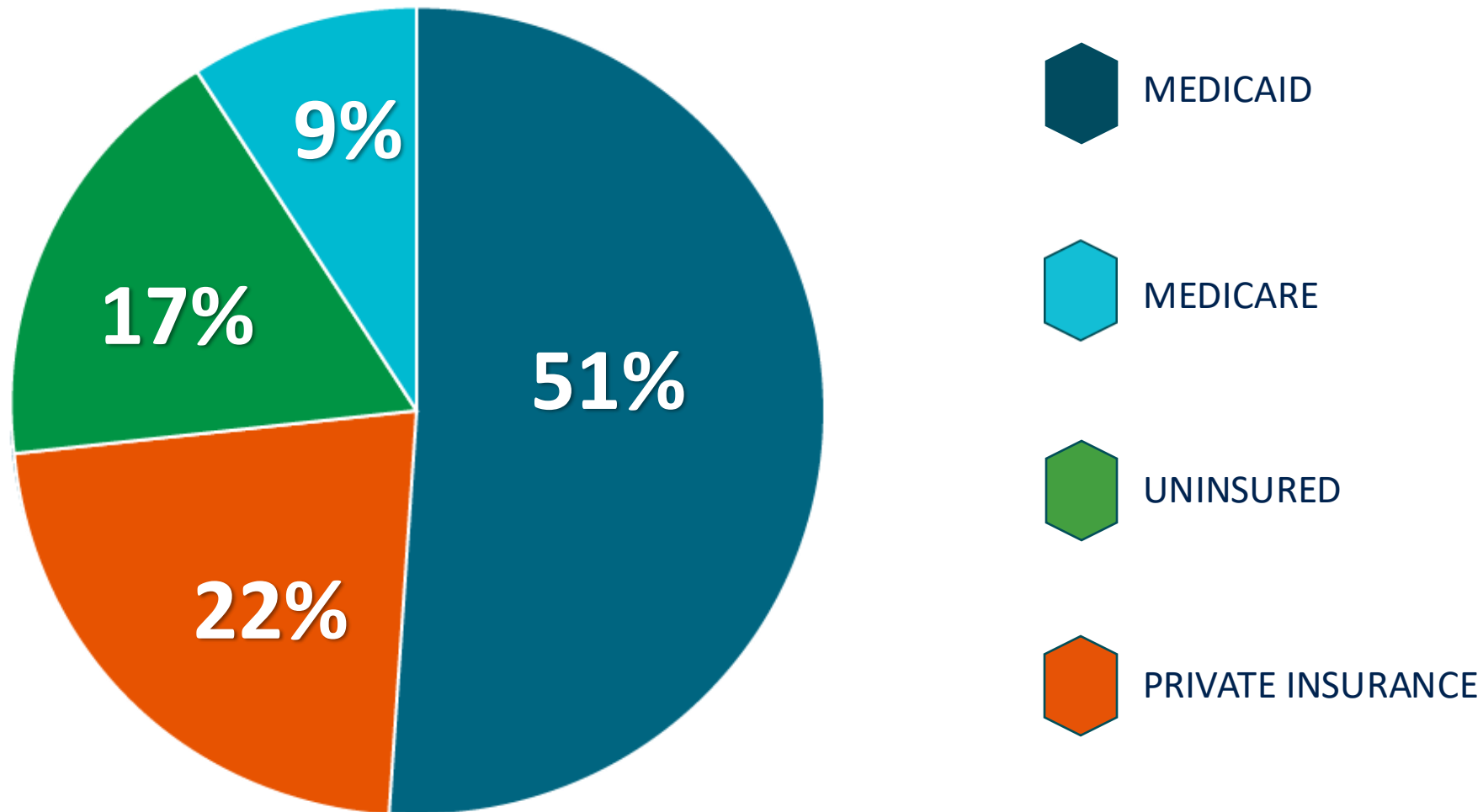
Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurance, Private Pay

Sliding fee discount schedule (SFDS)

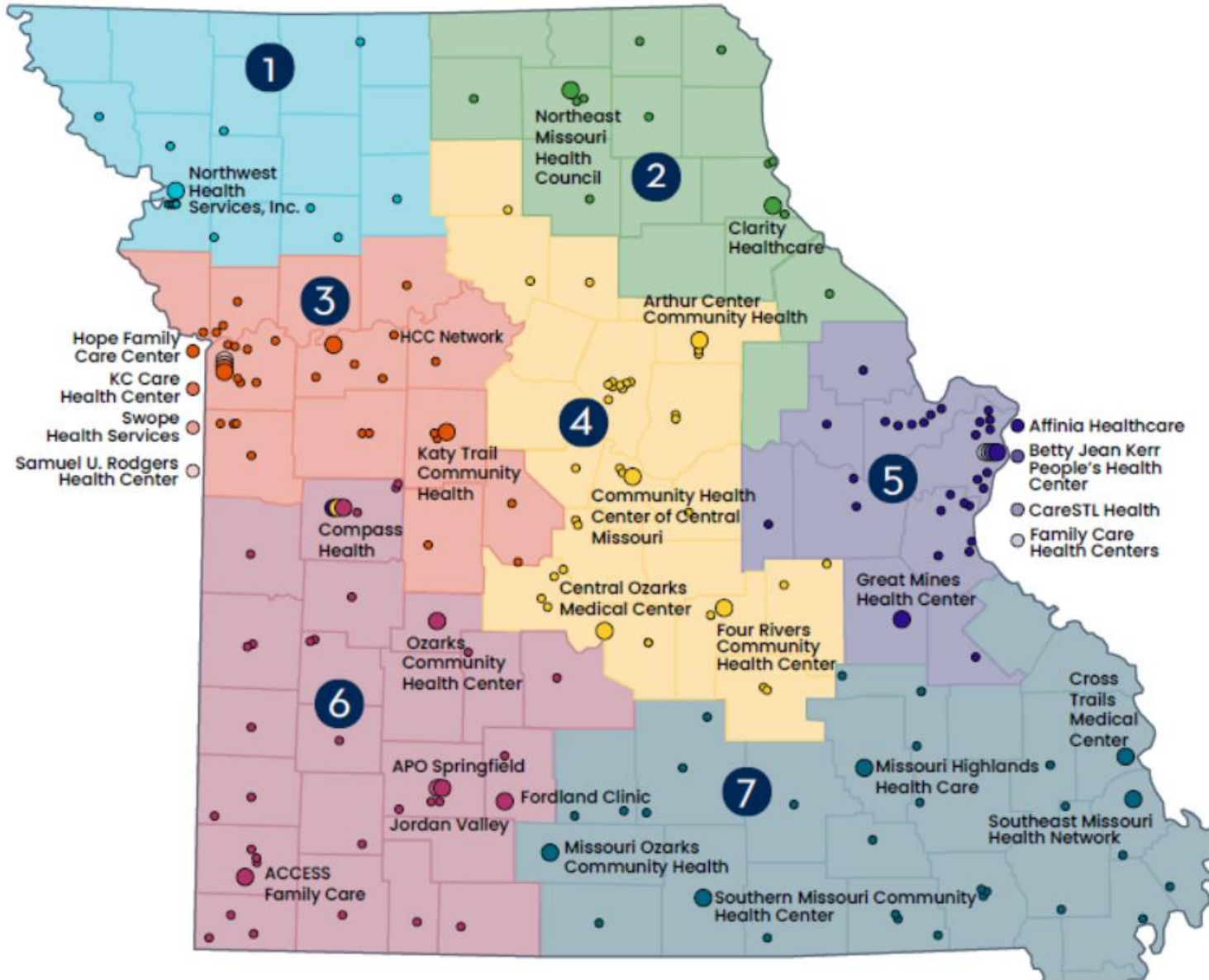
- Based on income
- Board-approved policy
- SFDS is evaluated at least once every 3 years



# Who are Missouri FQHC Patients?



# MISSOURI'S FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS





# Missouri FQHCs

- 27 FQHCs, 2 look-alikes
- 396 clinic sites; this includes mobile van, permanent, and seasonal sites
- 21 FQHCs provide school-based services
- **2024 by the numbers**
  - 661,000 individuals,
  - Over 2.5 Million patient visits
  - Over 13,000 veterans were served



# Contact

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