



## Health Access Innovation Act

*To award grants to faith- or community- based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges*

**The Health Access Innovation Act (HAIA) establishes a new grant program, administered by the HHS Office of Minority Health, to expand access to culturally and linguistically appropriate care, encourage innovation, and address persistent health disparities and chronic disease challenges. Specifically, the HAIA provides funds to faith- and community-based organizations to pay the costs of necessary medical services, support health care professionals, such as community health workers, peer support specialists, and other professionals who support access to care and carry out programs that address social determinants of health. Faith- or community-based organizations would need to demonstrate the ability to address health disparities and be located in medically underserved communities to be eligible to receive funding through this grant. Priority would also be given to organizations that created or operated health workforce or health care access programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding would be authorized at \$50M in FY25 and would increase by \$5M each year through FY28.**

**Endorsing Organizations:** Choose Healthy Life

### Why Does This Matter?

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Black churches played an important role in providing information, tests and vaccinations to their communities. Seeing as Black Americans died in higher rates than other demographics, local clergy have been using their pulpits to mobilize their communities against the virus.[1] No one understands the needs of a community like those who live there, so empowering local organizations with critical resources will improve health outcomes for working families and reduce the disparities that they face [2]

### By the Numbers:

- In 2023, 1,363 health center organizations served more than **31 million patients** at over 15,600 service delivery sites [3]
- Over **90%** of all patients reported health center doctors or health professionals "always" or "usually" showed respect for what they had to say and listened carefully to them [4]

[1] <https://apnews.com/article/race-and-ethnicity-coronavirus-pandemic-health-religion-2d92637b5e86dbb939a37aef17fa5a8d>

[2] <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/georgia/report-card>

[3] <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/community-health-center-patients-financing-and-services/>

[4] <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/community-health-center-patients-financing-and-services/>