**TEMPLATE FOR PRESS RELEASE RE: FUNDING and TELEHEALTH**

**TEMPLATE**

**Underserved Communities at Risk Without Community Health Center Funding**

Underfunded and understaffed Health Centers are leading the charge in fighting the coronavirus strain known as COVID-19.

In the face of the worst pandemic the world has seen in a century, unsung heroes are working overtime to help the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable communities.

Community Health Centers, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers, are charging into battle to fight COVID-19 at the local level.

For example, **(HEALTH CENTER NAME)** has all hands-on deck to help provide care in the **(COMMUNITY NAME)**, while screening patients for signs of COVID-19.

However, at this time, Community Health Centers are also worried they may not have enough funding to help them through this crisis.

Their regular funding stream has been put on a temporary authorization, and they lack any sign of long-term, stable funding.

In addition, at a time when telehealth services are increasingly necessary, Community Health Centers are not being reimbursed by Medicare for providing remote care.

That puts the elderly, who are among those most at risk for developing severe illness from COVID-19, in harm’s way.

Founded to help bring services to underserved communities, Community Health Centers depend on federal funding in addition to insurance reimbursement.

They typically serve a large portion of the uninsured population, as one of their mandates is to serve everyone in the community, regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

"We’re going to do what we need to in order to help those in need. But we really need Congress to call on CMS to reimburse our Health Centers for services under Medicare, and we need it now," said **(CEO, NAME)**.

**(CEO LAST NAME)** has called Congress and plans to continue those efforts to help the community.

“It’s important. These people depend on us. Without our Health Center, where would they go?"