



Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas

ABOUT CHAD AND HEALTH CENTERS

Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) is a non-profit membership organization that serves as the primary care association for South Dakota and North Dakota, supporting health centers in their mission to provide access to quality health care for all.

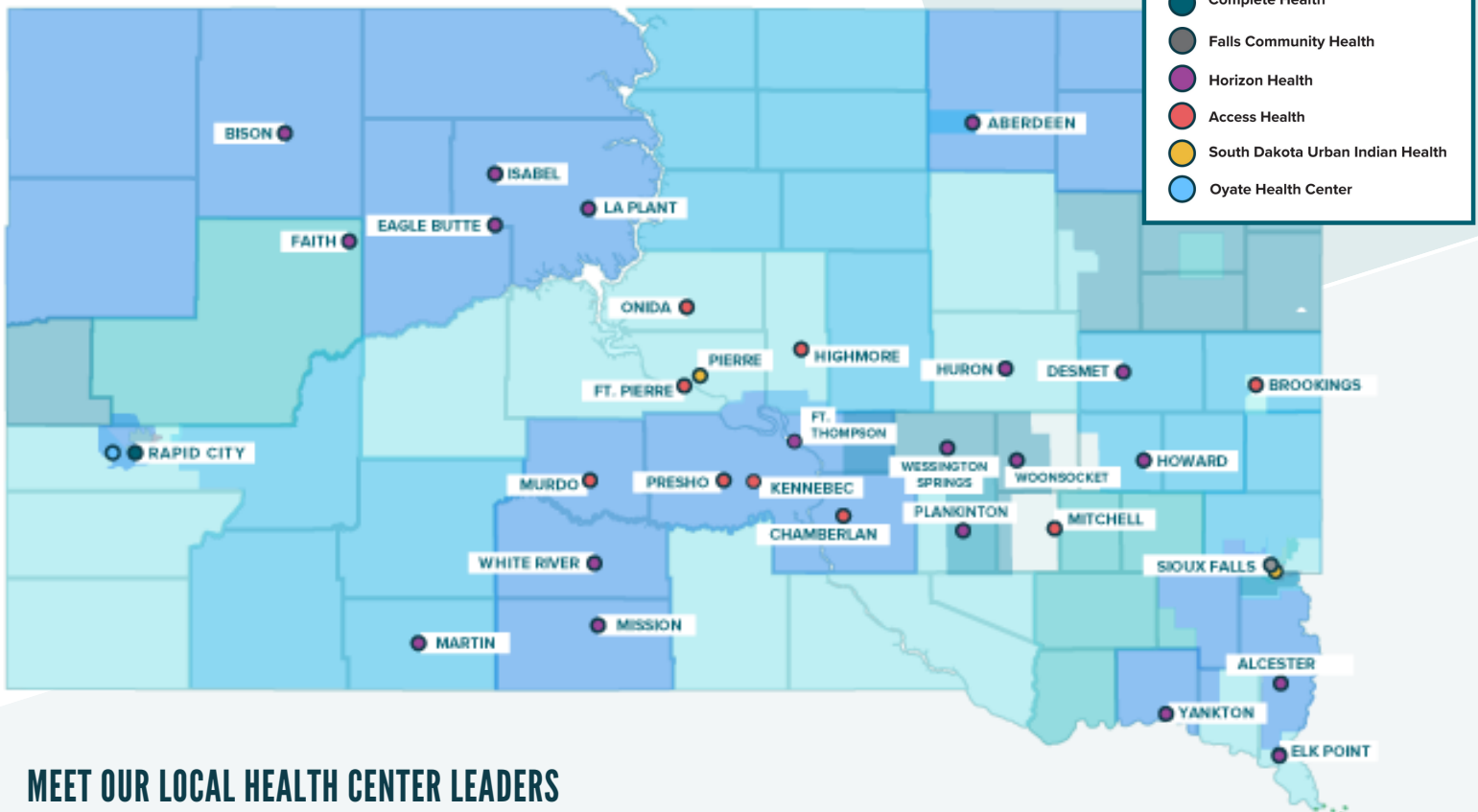
Health centers in South Dakota provide high-quality primary medical, behavioral health, and dental care to all individuals, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. In South Dakota, health centers are a lifeline for rural and frontier towns -- keeping care close to home, supporting local jobs, and ensuring families don't have to drive hours just to see a doctor.

In 2024, six South Dakota health centers provided high-quality, cost-effective, and integrated care to:

126,663 PEOPLE



AT 38 DELIVERY SITES



MEET OUR LOCAL HEALTH CENTER LEADERS



Wade Erickson, CEO
Horizon Health
HORIZONHEALTHCARE.ORG



Jim Hardwick, CEO
Access Health
ACCESSHEALTH.NET



Tim Trithart, CEO
Complete Health
COMPLETEHEALTHSD.CARE



Joe Kippley, Public Health Director
Falls Community Health
SIOUXFALLS.ORG/FCH



Colette Keith, Executive Director
South Dakota Urban Indian Health
SDUIH.ORG



Jackie Yotter, VP of Primary Care Services
Oyate Health Center
OYATEHEALTH.COM

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Advance Access to Care and Sustainability

Every South Dakotan should have access to timely, affordable, and preventative health care. Sustaining primary care delivery and protecting health insurance coverage improves outcomes and lowers long-term costs for everyone.

- **Sustain health center care delivery**
Ensure fair and stable Medicaid reimbursement rates for federally qualified health centers in South Dakota. The current rates cover around half the cost of a Medicaid visit according to a recent rate study conducted by the Department of Social Services. Most health centers have not had their rates reset based on their evolving care model and the total cost of providing care in 25 years.
- **Protect and optimize health insurance coverage**
Support enrollment technology and outreach initiatives that help Medicaid-eligible residents maintain continuous coverage and reduce administrative churn.
- **Protect 340B**
Ensure patients have access to affordable medications at local, hometown pharmacies.
- **Improve outcomes and reduce costs**
Prevent illness and bring down overall health care costs by investing in high-quality primary care with value-based payment, quality incentives, and interoperability.



Strengthen the Health Care Workforce

South Dakota's health centers are vital anchors for public health and economic vitality, providing access to care in some of the most remote and high-need areas while creating jobs and opportunities in 31 communities across South Dakota.

- **Expand workforce recruitment and retention tools**
Increase funding and streamline eligibility for state and federal loan repayment, recruitment assistance, and scholarship programs to attract and retain high-quality primary care health professionals.
- **Support pipeline development and team practice**
Strengthen partnerships between education programs, health centers, and state agencies to fill vacant training seats and prepare local talent for high-demand roles and ensure that health professionals can operate at the top of their training and licensure.



Promote Healthy Communities

Community health extends beyond clinic walls. Addressing social and environmental factors helps families stay healthy and strengthens South Dakota's workforce and economy.

- **Address barriers to health and wellness**
Support programs and partnerships that reduce food and housing insecurity and other nonmedical barriers, like transportation and connectivity, to improve health and prosperity for South Dakotans.
- **Invest in prevention and wellness**
Expand community-based programs that reduce chronic disease risk and support long-term wellbeing, including taxation of products linked to adverse health effects.
- **Integrate rehabilitation into care**
Promote coordination among behavioral health, corrections, and community health providers to ensure access to evidence-based rehabilitation and recovery services for justice or drug involved South Dakotans.

HEALTH CENTERS POLICY TEAM



Shelly Ten Napel
CEO, CHAD



Elizabeth Schenkel
External Affairs Manager, CHAD



Lexy Eggert
Chief Development & Strategy
Officer, Horizon Health



Jennifer Stalley
CHAD's Contract Lobbyist

