

COMMUNITY, MIGRANT, AND RURAL HEALTH CENTERS

What are they?

North Carolina has 63 community and migrant health centers in 34 counties. There are also 31 state-funded rural health centers in 20 counties. These centers provide primary health care services to more than 250,000 patients every year. The centers are located in rural or “medically underserved areas.” (The federal government defines medically underserved areas based on a variety of factors, one being a shortage of primary care providers.) Community and migrant health centers are governed by a community-based Board of Directors on which consumers are in the majority. The Board's structure helps keep these centers closely connected to the needs of their clients.

Community and migrant health centers are funded primarily by the U.S. Public Health Service. Many of the rural health centers are self-supporting, receiving income from patients, public and private insurance, and state and private grants. The rural health clinics discussed in this book also receive operating grants from the state through the North Carolina Office of Research, Demonstrations and Rural Health Development.

Who are the programs for?

Community, migrant, and state-funded rural health centers are for residents in medically underserved areas of North Carolina. The centers provide services to all in need, regardless of ability to pay, based on a sliding fee schedule.

SERVICES

Community, migrant, and rural health centers offer comprehensive health care services. Services include primary and preventive health care. Services vary from center to center. Please call individual centers for detailed information about the special services they provide. For example, some centers offer dental care, laboratory work, family planning, translation, and transportation.

Most of the community and migrant health centers are open daily and have extended hours in the evenings and on weekends. Appointments are not always necessary at these health centers, but it is recommended that you call first to check the center's hours of operation, and for the special information you might need.

CLINIC LOCATIONS

Contact information for each of the clinics is listed in the directory in Appendix B at the end of the book. The clinics are found under the county in which they are located.