In Vermont our members have 88 sites in all 14 counties.

Our members serve 1 in 3 Vermonters, who made over 800,000 visits in 2018.

We serve 41% of VT Medicaid enrollees, 38% of VT Medicare, and the majority of uninsured Vermonters.

What is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)?

The federal government supports FQHCs as the nation's primary safety net system for health care. FQHCs provide comprehensive services in medically underserved regions. They accept patients regardless of ability to pay, and they work with their communities to address a range of barriers to health - including access to care issues such as lack of transportation. Bi-State represents all VT and NH FQHCs. There are four defining components of a Federally Qualified Health Center:

**Comprehensive Services**  
FQHCs must offer primary medical, dental, oral, mental health & enabling services.

**Located in Areas of High Need**  
Vermont has FQHC sites in every county, across 66 locations.

**Open to Everyone**  
FQHCs accept all patients, regardless of payer or ability to pay, and offer sliding fee scales.

**Patient-Majority Governing Board**  
FQHCs are rooted in their communities' needs.

Receiving FQHC designation allows a health center to access federal grants and a prospective payment system for patients, designed to reflect the fact that their payer mix is more heavily dependent on public payers and that federal law requires them to offer a particular suite of services. FQHCs also have a larger regulatory burden, including over 90 requirements tied to FQHC status. Bi-State Primary Care Association provides technical assistance in meeting federal requirements and accessing federal funds.
VT's FQHCs Are Open to All Vermonters

Vermont FQHCs are open to all patients, regardless of ability to pay, and offer sliding fee scales to assist with affordability. Our FQHCs have a diverse patient mix, serving their entire communities, in locations across the state.

- ~37,000 Children
- 20% of Patients are Children
- Patients Experiencing Homelessness: Over 2,000
- 21% of Patients are Older Adults
- FQHCs serve 38% of VT Medicare Enrollees
- FQHCs serve 41% of Medicaid Enrollees
- 28% of a VT FQHC's average payer mix is Medicaid
- Veterans: Over 6,000
- Almost 15,000 Uninsured Patients
- 790 Migrant / Seasonal Agricultural Workers & Dependents

Numbers reflect 2018 UDS data

FQHCs are a National Safety Net

- 82% of National Patients are publicly insured or uninsured
- FQHCs generate $45.6 billion in economic activity in underserved communities
- FQHCs reach 1 in 3 people in poverty and serve 1.4 million homeless patients
- 44% of FQHCs are in a rural location, 20% of all patients are rural

National Association of Community Health Centers data

Effective, Early Care Means Lower Costs

Nationally, FQHCs generate an average $24 billion a year in savings to the health system. Each patient receiving care at an FQHC saves the health system approximately 25% annually compared to other providers. (NACHC, 2015).

Investing in primary and preventive care is the most effective way to have high quality health care while reducing the growing costs of care – keeping people well instead of paying to fix problems after they occur. In Vermont, the Green Mountain Care Board estimates that 8-10% of our health care dollars go to primary care (2018). We work with partners across the state to shift that percentage higher.