

HCH Day is 8 Weeks Away

Plan an Event, Invite Lawmakers, and Raise Awareness of HCH

HCH projects provide vital services to their communities, addressing both the immediate crisis of homelessness and working to end homelessness. HCH Day and Health Center Week offer an excellent opportunity to host events that recognize this critical work and raise the issues of poor health and homelessness. **HCH Day events are also great opportunities to demonstrate the importance of your project to elected officials.** Use HCH Day 2013 to the fullest to build relationships, strengthen partnerships, and show appreciation for all the HCH community does for our vulnerable neighbors nationwide.

TAKE ACTION

National Health Center Week is August 11-17, 2013, with HCH Day on Wednesday, August 14. **This week coincides with the August Congressional Recess (Aug. 2 - Sept. 8) when members of Congress are in their home districts.** If your project has not begun planning an event, time is of the essence. The [National Health Center Week website](#) maintained by our partners at the National Association of Community Health Centers offers a tremendous amount of support but some initial ideas for events include the following:

- A tour of your project for lawmakers and civic leaders in your community
- An open house where members of the community can get to know your project, a new service, or new staff
- A forum on the causes and solutions of homelessness
- A health fair or community meeting providing health education, free screenings, and/or care packages
- A voter registration drive
- An community education event on the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).
- Consider obtaining a resolution from public officials and inviting local media to any events you organize

Regardless of what you decide to plan, HCH Day and the August Congressional Recess are important opportunities to meet with your elected officials in your local communities. Numerous issues will be decided by Congress this fall and *Mobilizer* readers should use HCH Day to communicate both your local concerns and the concerns of the HCH community to members of Congress. Look up your members of Congress at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov to contact their district offices and invite them to an HCH Day event. You can also schedule a tour or meeting any other time during the August Recess. Some issues you might want to discuss during an event, tour, or meeting include the following:

- The Affordable Care Act and how it will (or will not) improve the health of individuals without homes in your state (View the Council's recent [ACA advocacy list](#) and [health reform page](#).)
- The sequester's impact on your services and the people you serve (View the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [brief](#) on the sequester's impact on housing.)
- Additional health center resources you have received and how they will serve the community
- New project or initiatives that are benefiting the community
- Specific local barriers or challenges faced by your project

Whether big or small, HCH Day events are a huge opportunity. Please use the National Health Center Week [resources](#) and also note an updated National HCH Council HCH Day webinar will be posted to the Council's [website](#) in the coming weeks. If you would like assistance in planning an event with local officials, please contact [Dan Rabbitt](#) who is happy to help.

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