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## ***Louisiana's Federally Qualified Health Centers' Week August 8-14, 2010***

Louisiana's Federally Qualified Health Centers are marking National Health Center Week 2010 (NHCW) with statewide activities, as part of a weeklong campaign (August 8-14) to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of our health centers. There are statewide events at local health centers that include health fairs, press conferences and tours by state legislators. This is the first celebration of NHCW since the enactment of the landmark health reform law, which provides a direct investment to strengthen primary care through the expansion of Community Health Centers.

One of the bright spots in Louisiana's health care system is that Louisiana's Health Centers are the family doctor to over 202,000 Louisiana residents. Their critical role in providing quality primary care has been widely praised by our state and national Congressional leaders and the last two Presidential Administrations. Health centers have also been in the public spotlight because now more than ever the uninsured and casualties of the economic recession are seeking their services. That is why funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have made it possible for health centers to serve over two million patients, and over one million uninsured patients. And with health reform, the U.S. health care system will save up to \$122 billion in total health care costs between 2011 and 2015 with the expansion of health centers, according to an analysis by the Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

*"Celebrating America's Health Centers: Turning the Vision into Reality"* is the theme for NHCW. This theme highlights the program's 45-year record of providing high quality, cost-effective health care, as well as the future of health care for the Louisiana and across the nation. Health centers will expand their capacity to double the number of patients to 40 million in five years under health reform, saving the U.S. health care system as much as \$300 billion over the next ten years by treating people before they get sick and require costlier care at a hospital.

We would like to invite you to visit the FQHC nearest you. To find out more about your area's event or National Health Center week, visit [www.healthcenterweek.org](http://www.healthcenterweek.org). For more information about *Louisiana's Federally Qualified Health Centers*, visit [www.lpca.net](http://www.lpca.net) or contact Donald Hunter at 225 927-7662 ext. 206.