Nurse-Managed Health Clinics – Health Care Reform Law (111-148)

**Background:** Section 5208 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act establishes a $50 million grant-funding stream to support and develop nurse-managed health clinics (NMHCs). NMHCs provide opportunities for midwives and nurse practitioners to expand access to their vital primary care services.

The purpose of the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics grant initiative is to

1) Improve access to comprehensive primary health care services and/or wellness services (disease prevention and health promotion) across the lifespan;

2) Provide these services in medically underserved and/or vulnerable populations without regard to income or insurance status of the patient;

3) Serve as valuable clinical training sites for students in primary care and specifically, enhance nursing practice by increasing the number of structured clinical teaching sites for primary and community health graduate nursing students; and

4) Establish or enhance electronic processes for establishing effective patient and workforce data collection systems. Under this program, the focus will support the training and practice development site for nurse practitioners and other disciplines to build the capacity of the primary care provider workforce.¹

**ACNM Position / Policy:** ACNM strongly supports this model of service delivery.

**Summary of Provisions**

The new law expands the Health Centers program to include grants for nurse-managed health clinics. “The term ‘nurse-managed health clinic means a nurse-practice arrangement, managed by advanced practice nurses (APRNs), that provides primary care or wellness services to underserved or vulnerable populations and is associated with a school; college; university or department of nursing; federally qualified health center; or independent nonprofit health or social services agency” (Section 5208).

The grants will be awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In awarding the grants, the Secretary must ensure that

- “Nurses are the major providers of the services and that at least one APRN holds an executive management position,

¹[www.hrsa.gov/grants/healthprofessions/acafaq.pdf](www.hrsa.gov/grants/healthprofessions/acafaq.pdf)
- The NMHC will continue providing comprehensive primary health care services or wellness services without regard to income or insurance status of the patient for the duration of the grant period,
- No later than 90 days of receiving a grant under this section, the NMHC will establish a community advisory committee.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Grants funds are authorized through 2014. The authorized funding level for this program is $50 million in FY 2010 and such sums as necessary for FY 2011-2014.

References:
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: S.3590, 111th Congress, 2nd Sess (2010)