



health justice plan 2018

CLINICIANS are called to care for people of all walks of life; in fact, it is their ethical duty. Many migrant clinicians choose their line of work out of a sense of moral responsibility to a population that is often overlooked. We at Migrant Clinicians Network, in representing these clinicians, are tasked to speak up for the health and well-being of mobile underserved populations, who are often voiceless and marginalized -- but whose health matters. We understand that it is a moral imperative to speak out in the face of injustice; it is our ethical duty to serve the underserved.

THE MOBILE POOR, who are moving in search of work and a better life, need a voice. When federal policy is being considered, when a pattern of disease of unknown origin appears in underserved populations, when important programs are being undercut, MCN serves to help the mobile poor ensure that their health needs are heard. To this end, MCN is committed to effectively advancing health justice for the mobile poor.

OUR ADVOCACY and education priority is for all people to have high quality, affordable health care and a safe and healthy workplace. We endeavor to assure the human rights of people as they move, whether moving across borders or within borders. Advancement in these areas address the social determinants of health and improve health outcomes for the mobile poor of this country and around the world.

WE RECOGNIZE there are many advocacy efforts aimed at achieving the very goals to which we at MCN are committed. Each year, MCN's top advocacy priorities ensure that we dedicate our time and resources to the most urgent, effective, and/or impactful advocacy works. The following outlines MCN's advocacy priorities for 2016.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION



Worldwide Refugee Health Access

People who are fleeing danger need access to care.



Detainee Rights

Detained migrants have a right to health care. Upon release, their health care needs will continue to grow, and need to be met.



Climate Change & Environmental Degradation

The effects of climate change hurt underserved populations the hardest. Extreme weather events, hotter days, and other changing conditions constitute a public health crisis, resulting in a myriad of issues for low-income migrant workers including increased heat stroke for outdoor workers, lack of access to potable water, shifts in availability of work, and changes in ranges of infectious diseases. Climate change also increases worldwide displacement, and will be a growing challenge for migration services in the coming years.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE



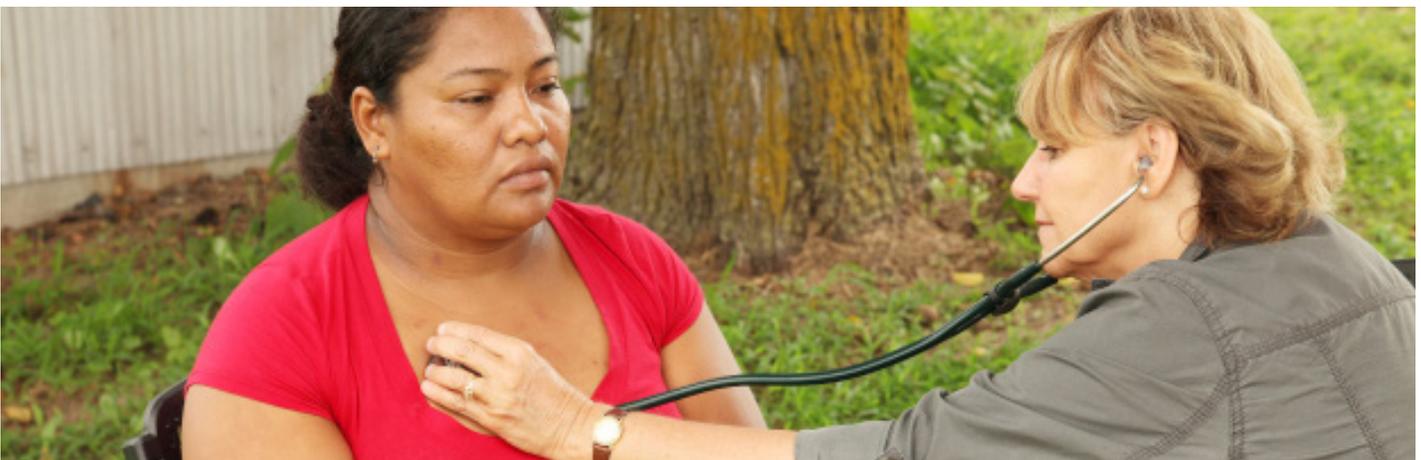
Emergency Preparedness and Post-Disaster Recovery

Marginalized populations are hit the hardest when disaster strikes. Worker health needs increase as migrant workers move in to clean up.



Global Infectious Disease

Clinicians need resources and support to best serve communities hit by infectious diseases.



Safety Net Preservation and Expansion

Basic health coverage is a human right.

WORKER HEALTH & SAFETY



Worker Protection

Federal and state laws should assure basic safety for people while on the job.



Prevention of Worker Abuse

When safe housing, access to healthy foods, access to shade and water during work, and other basic needs aren't secure, the health of the worker is at risk.



Agricultural and Food System Safety

Pesticide policy should protect workers, while clinicians should have the tools to recognize and treat exposure. Food systems' efficiency should not be at the expense of worker health and safety.