

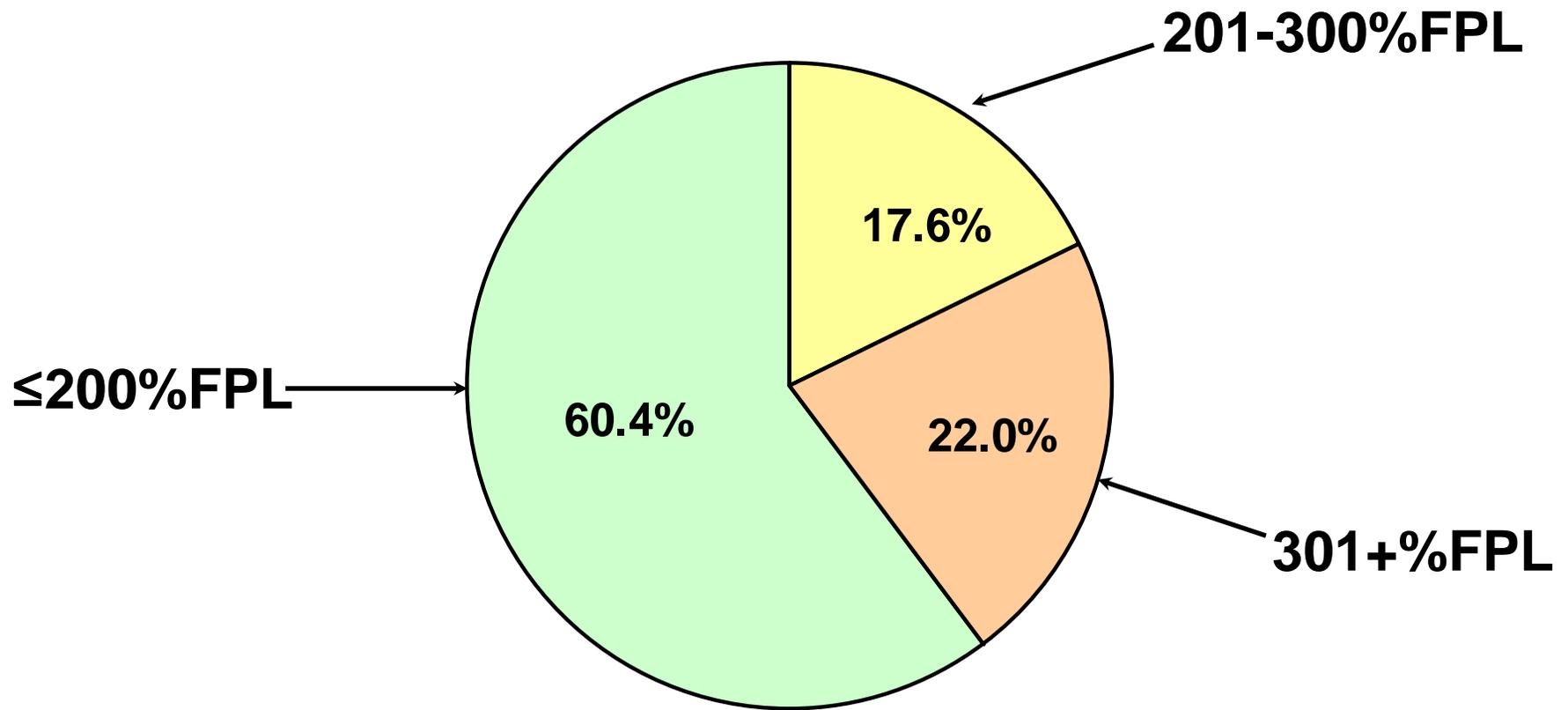
\$5 Million/Yr to Strengthen and Expand Virginia's Health Safety Net!

Presentation to the
Senate Finance Health & Human Resources Subcommittee

January 28, 2008

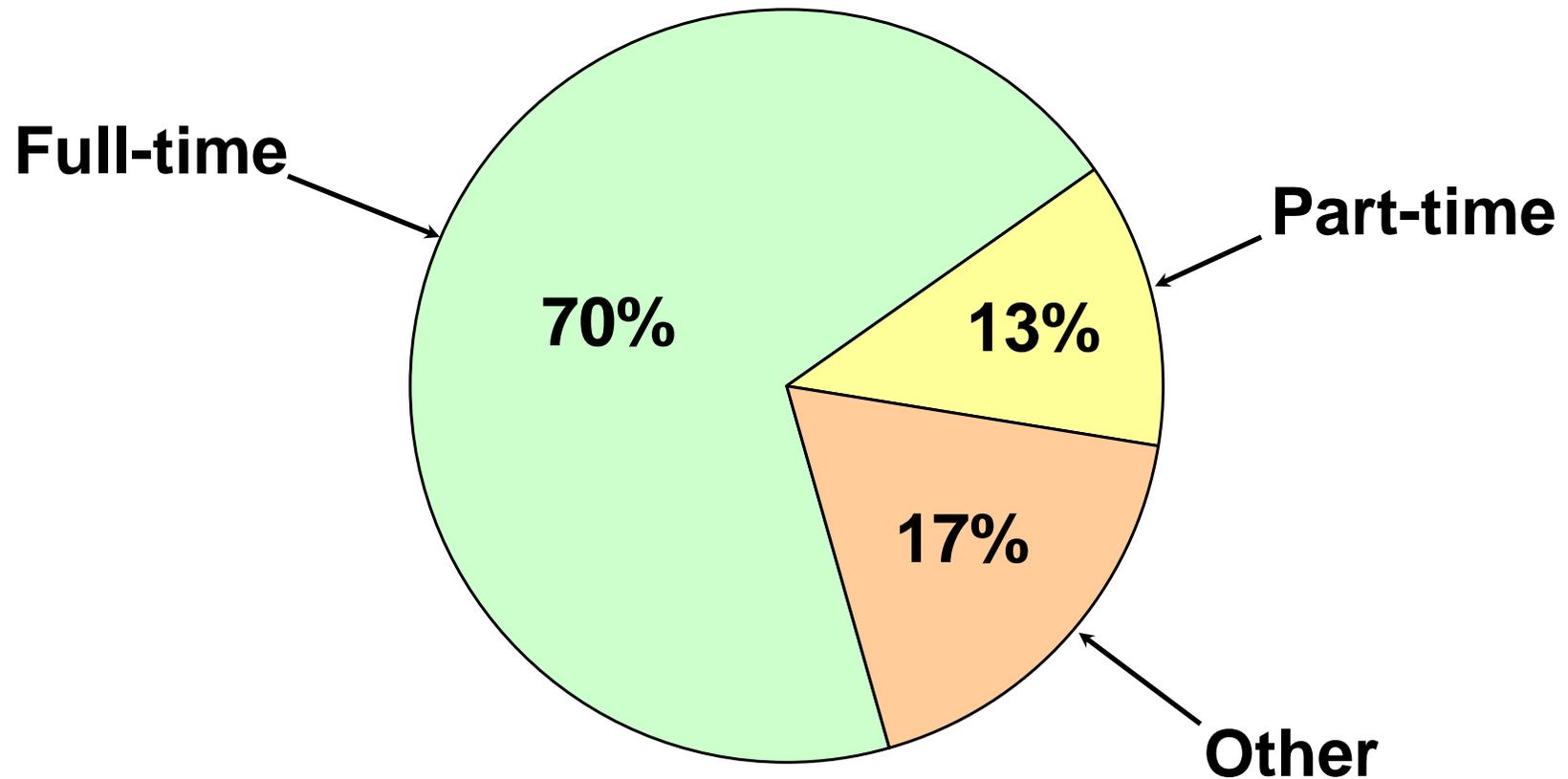


Over 1,000,000 Uninsured Virginians



Household Income of Uninsured (2005)

Over 1,000,000 Uninsured Virginians



Household Employment Status of the Uninsured (2005)

Free Clinics and Community Health Centers

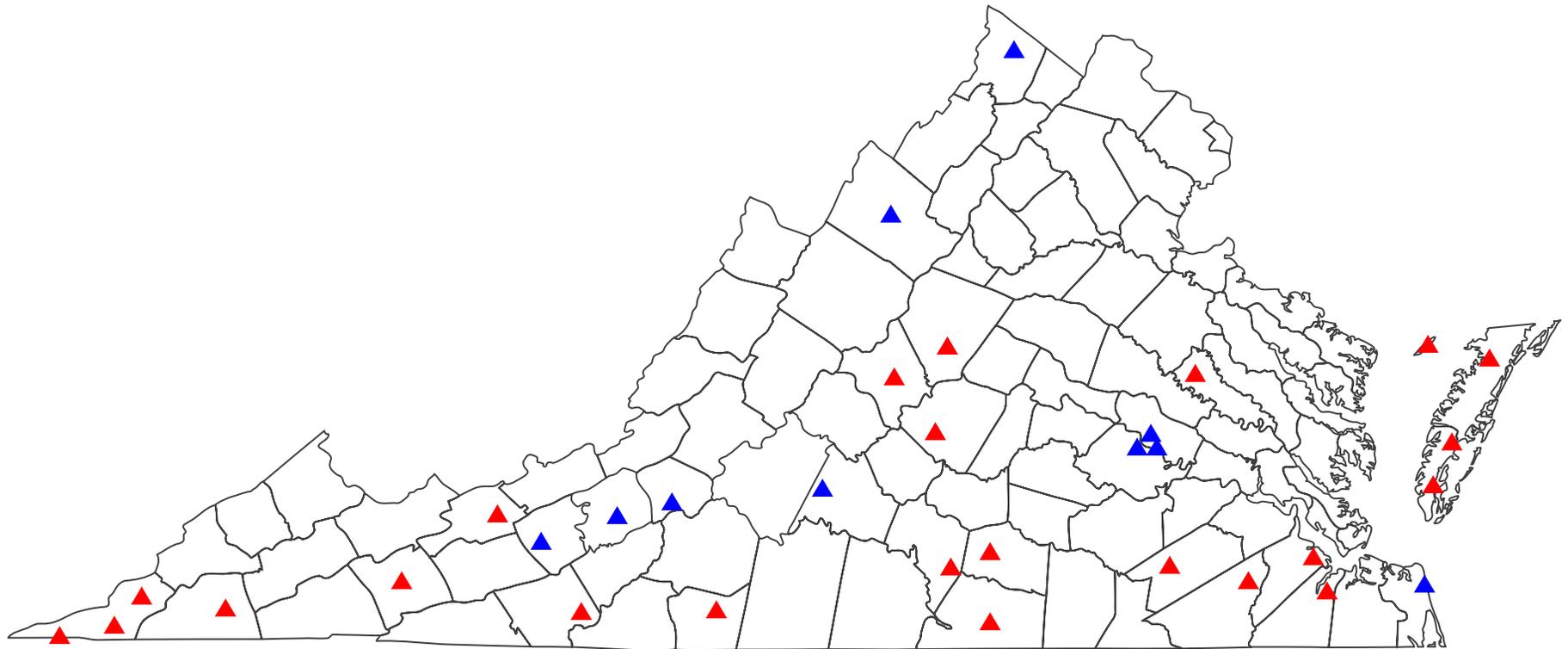
- **Free Clinics (50@62 sites)**

Non-profit organizations which provide care to the uninsured, typically utilizing a combination of volunteers and paid staff. Most provide medical care and prescription medications. Some dental and mental health services are also offered by a growing number. Hours of operation range from 2-40 hours a week.

- **Community Health Centers (31@97 sites)**

Non-profit medical practices located in medically underserved areas, which provide care to all residents (*insured and uninsured*) utilizing paid staff. Medications, dental and mental health services are either available onsite or via referrals. Centers are open at least 40 hours a week. The uninsured are charged for services on a sliding fee scale.

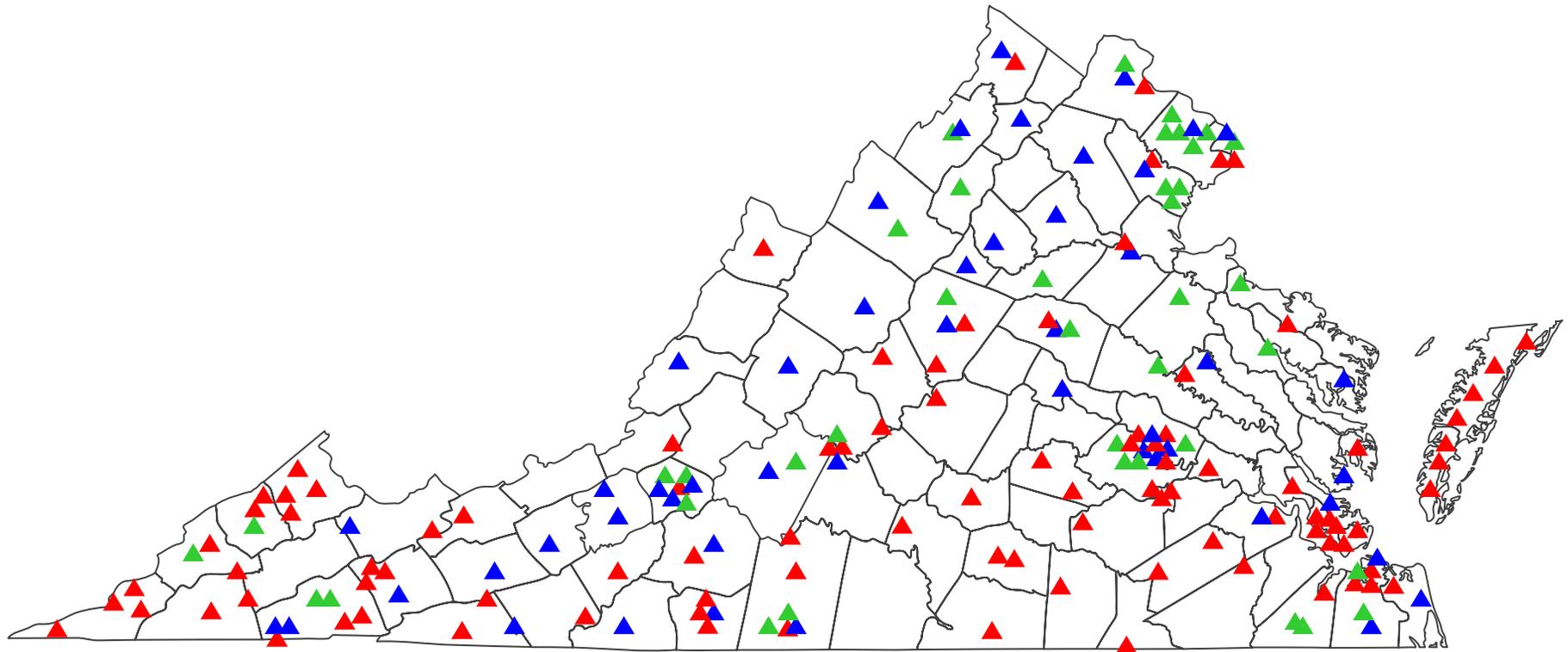
Virginia Health Safety Net Providers (1992)



▲ Free Clinics (10 organizations)

▲ Community Health Centers (14 organizations with 23 sites)

Virginia Health Safety Net Providers (2008)



▲ Free Clinics (50 organizations with 62 sites)

▲ Community Health Centers (31 organizations with 97 sites)

▲ Other Health Safety Net Providers (35 organizations with 37 sites)

Factors in Growth of Virginia's Health Safety Net



- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield (*\$9 million to free clinics*)
- President Bush's Community Health Center Initiative (*\$12 million*)
- Virginia Health Care Foundation (*\$17.9 million to free clinics and community health centers*)

Accomplishments Of Virginia's Health Safety Net

- Provided a medical home to 153,000 (25%) uninsured Virginians \leq 200% FPL in 2006.
- Enabled many very sick Virginians to avoid costly ER visits (*70% of free clinic patients and 57% of uninsured community health center patients in 2006 had at least one chronic illness*).

Leverage of Health Safety Net

- ***Free clinics*** use 10,000+ volunteers to provide \$5.40 in health care for every \$1 spent.
- ***Community health centers*** bring in more than \$37 million per year in federal grants and other funding, and provide 1226 full-time jobs, resulting in an economic ripple effect of \$127 million.
- ***Virginia Health Care Foundation*** generates over \$11 in cash, health services and other in-kind contributions for every \$1 expended.

Safety Net Providers Are Strained Beyond Capacity

- Increase of 6,000 uninsured at community health centers in 2006.
- 77% of centers exceed the ratio of uninsured to insured patients recommended by the federal government.
- Although 78% of free clinics try to manage demand by establishing low eligibility levels (*101-125% FPL*), people are turned away each week. (*Lotteries for slots, waiting lists, new patients*).
- 20 cities and counties (*15%*) have no local safety net provider.

The Need For Dental Care Is Even Greater

- Over 3 million Virginians have no dental insurance, but only 45 cities and counties have a dental safety net provider for the uninsured.
 - Capacity ranges from 4 hours/week to full time.
- In 2006, Virginia dental safety net only provided 43,791 visits (*many were limited to extractions only*).

The Dental Safety Net is *OVERWHELMED*

- “Average 320 calls per month for 70 new slots available.” (*Northern Virginia Dental Clinic*)
- “4 month wait. Pain is not an emergency.” (*Augusta Free Dental Clinic*)
- “Had to turn away 45 people last Thursday evening. People with abscesses have to wait a month.” (*Moss Free Clinic Fredericksburg*)
- “1,007 people on waiting list, including 270 awaiting extractions.” (*Charlottesville Free Clinic*)
- “The waiting list has 100 patients, even though we’ve now limited dental services to our medical patients, and are turning away all others.” (*CrossOver Health Center – Richmond*)









Eastern Shore Mission of Mercy (MOM) Project



Martinsville MOM



Roanoke MOM

What Will the New Health Safety Net Money Buy?



- **Some Relief !!!**
- The appropriations to the VAFC & VACHA will be allocated to their members via formulas based on the number of uninsured patients each serves.
- Utilization of the funds will be determined by each local clinic/center, and could differ from year to year depending on local needs and availability of resources, e.g. disposable supplies (*blood testing strips, dental items*), support personnel, replace equipment, acute or emergency meds.

What Will the New Health Safety Net Money Buy?



- \$500,000 of the appropriation to VHCF is designated for dental services, e.g.:
 - Full-time dentist: *(2,500 visits per year)*
 - Dental equipment (*operatories, compressors, x-ray, etc.*)
 - Dental hygienist and/or assistants
 - Volunteer recruiter

- \$1 million of the appropriation to VHCF will be utilized to expand patient capacity and/or services at existing clinics/centers and to increase the number of free clinics and community health centers that serve low income and uninsured Virginians, e.g.:
 - Full-time Nurse Practitioner: *(1,900–2,100 visits)*
 - Full-time Physician: *(3,800–4,200 visits)*
 - Full-time Pharmacist: *(48,000 scrips)*
 - Volunteer Recruiter/Coordinator



***“When you have your health,
you have everything.***

But, what if you don't?”