



ADAM SMITH

WASHINGTON'S 9TH DISTRICT

Community Health Access Through Resilient Grid Energy (CHARGE) Act Rep. Adam Smith (WA-09) & Rep. David Valadao (CA-22)

Overview

The **CHARGE Act of 2025** strengthens community health resilience by providing Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) with reliable, affordable, and sustainable power through the deployment of solar energy systems and energy storage technologies. Across the United States, thousands of FQHCs serve as lifelines for vulnerable populations—offering preventative healthcare, vaccinations, and chronic disease treatment. Yet many of these facilities lack the backup energy infrastructure needed to maintain operations during grid outages, extreme weather, or emergencies. The CHARGE Act offers a pragmatic, nonpartisan solution: leveraging clean-energy technology to safeguard health services, reducing costs, and enhancing community resilience.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) in 2024 provided a graphical [snapshot](#) of community health centers with solar microgrids – showing the valuable work already being done, but more support is needed to expand this capability. In Puerto Rico, 70% of health centers have solar microgrids following the lessons learned from Hurricane Maria – they're an important part of maintaining operations after extreme weather/natural disasters.

What the Bill Does

The bill provides a targeted, fiscally responsible solution to ensure community health facilities have access to clean, resilient power while reducing long-term energy costs and supporting local renewable-energy jobs. Most FQHCs have limited/insufficient capabilities for sustained power generation to maintain operations during grid disruptions, extreme weather, or emergencies. The bill specifically:

- **Establishes a new grant program** at the DOE led by the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, to help FQHCs deploy **solar energy systems** and/or **energy storage technologies**.
- **Authorizes \$50 million per year (FY 2026–2030)** to fund installation projects and technical assistance programs nationwide.
- **Allows broad participation** by state and local governments, nonprofits, and a provider consortia or network that is majority owned or majority controlled by one or more FQHCs.
- **Supports technical assistance** to ensure that FQHCs can design, install, and operate these systems effectively and sustainably.

Endorsed by: National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA), Washington Association for Community Health (WACH), Solar United Neighbors, and Healthpoint