



Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

Frequently asked questions

Q What impact does the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act have on CCBHCs?

The CARES Act extends funding for the current eight-state CCBHC demonstration program to November 30, 2020. It also expands the demonstration program to two additional states. Read the bill in its entirety here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text>

Q Who is eligible for funding from the CARES Act?

States who originally applied to be part of the CCBHC demonstration program but were not among the eight states selected. According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, an enhanced federal match rate is available for the first eight quarters of the demonstration for new states, and for the eight quarters beginning 1/1/2020 for the eight current demonstration states.

Q What is the timeline for the CCBHC CARES Act funding?

The two new demonstration program states will be selected by the Secretary of Health and Human Services within six months of the legislation and will receive two full years of funding.

Q What other changes were made to CCBHCs in 2020?

Increased focus on providing the following in one single location:

- Comprehensive 24/7 access to community-based mental and substance use disorder services
- Treatment of co-occurring disorders
- Physical healthcare

[SAMHSA](#) opened the CCBHC Expansion grant program to entities across all 50 states. This was an important step toward making CCBHCs available across the country.

For more information on CCBHCs and how your organization can meet the challenges of value-based models, visit www.ntst.com/CCBHC

Q What are the certification criteria for becoming a CCBHC?

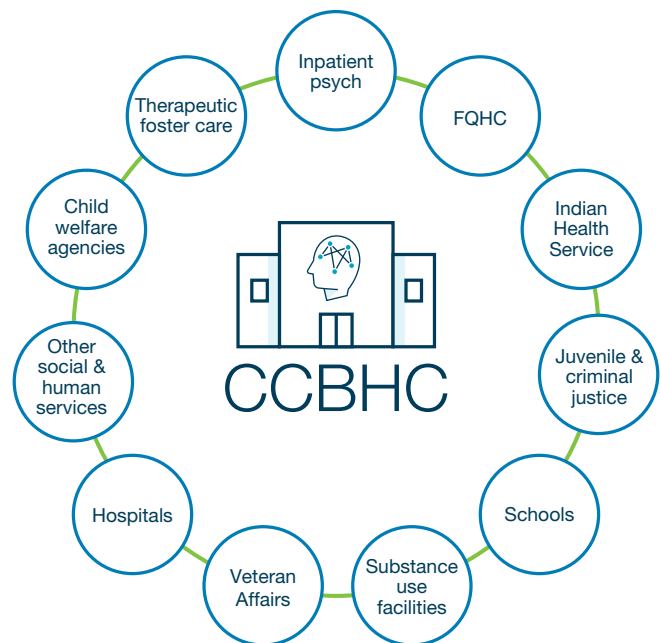
[CCBHCs](#) [must] provide a comprehensive collection of services that create access, stabilize people in crisis, and provide the needed treatment and recovery support services for those with the most serious and complex mental and substance use disorders.

- Crisis mental health services
- Screening, assessment and diagnosis, including risk assessment
- Patient-centered treatment planning
- Outpatient mental health and substance use services
- Primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators/health risk
- Targeted care management
- Psychiatric rehabilitation services
- Peer support and family supports
- Intensive, community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans

They must also [meet criteria in six key areas](#):

- Staffing
- Availability and accessibility of services
- Care coordination
- Scope of services
- Quality and other reporting
- Organizational authority

You can learn the specifics and more information about the current grant program in the SAMHSA document: [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Grants](#)



CCBHCs are designed to coordinate care across the spectrum of health services, including physical and behavioral healthcare, as well as social services, housing, educational systems and employment opportunities.

Q What have been the results thus far of the CCBHC demonstration program?

A September 2019 Report to Congress demonstrated the impact of CCBHCs thus far. [Here are a few excerpts from the report.](#)

- 100% use electronic medical record (EMR) for mental health and SUD records as well as case management and care coordination
- Over 90% use EMR for quality measure reporting, electronic care plans and E-prescribing
- 82% use EMR with integrated lab results, 57% use EMR to request tests/receive results, and 55% incorporate lab results into the health record
- 79% use EMR for clinical decision support
- 61% do not have primary care records in their electronic health record (EHR)
- Fewer than 50% report that their EMR allows electronic exchange of clinical information with other external providers and DCOs

Q What areas should our organization focus on as we prepare for funding?

Evaluate your technology and operations strategies to start getting your organization ready. Key areas in which to start:

1. Care coordination

[The goal of CCBHCs is to provide more effective care at lower costs.](#) For your organization, it's critical to have processes and technology that connect to care providers outside of your organization. You may already have processes in place to do this, but you should start formalizing current partnerships and looking for ways to establish new ones with other organizations.

You'll also need technology to help you make seamless connections:

- EHR support for evidence-based practices
- Workflows that support referrals, follow-ups and appointment alerts
- ONC-certified health information technology that provides the integration of physical, behavioral and addictions healthcare services
- Reporting capabilities to track timeliness and availability of services

Carequality™ is an industry-driven initiative designed to accelerate health data exchange among multi-platform networks, healthcare providers, EHR vendors and health information exchange (HIE) vendors.

CareManager™ is an [EHR agnostic population health management platform](#) that provides care coordination, interoperability, analytics, outcomes and risk stratification. By utilizing cloud-based technology, the solution assists with lowering risk of readmission without compromising quality.

Participating providers can follow a shared care plan, transfer consumer data, track clinical quality measures and manage authorizations and claims across their network. CareManager aggregates data to identify trends and presents health and treatment outcomes for analytics-driven decision making.

2. Interoperability

The CCBHC program addresses physical and behavioral health, as well as the social services each individual and family need to achieve well-being. [Treatment must be tracked wherever it takes place](#) — from emergency departments (EDs) and acute care to post-detoxification step-down services and residential programs. Data and results must also be available for population health management.

3. Mobility and mobile workforce management

CCBHCs commonly provide services in consumers homes, schools, justice related facilities, hospitals and EDs and acute care settings.

With our [mobile solutions](#), clinicians, case managers and care providers gain quick, yet secure access to accurate, up-to-date information when they provide care and services in the field.

Whether you are you connected to the internet or not, you have a complete view of an individual's health record which enables documentation of care anywhere, anytime.

4. Telehealth

Our [mobile and web-based platform](#) brings healthcare directly to the consumer.

- Expand the reach of specialized care during times of crisis
- Improve care outcomes with timely access to high-demand specialties, such as addiction treatment, psychiatry and after-hours access to physicians

[Telehealth](#) enables collaboration across a network of more than 200 million consumers, 600,000 providers and more than 25,000 organizations.

5. Quality measures and reporting

Some aspects of data reporting will be the responsibility of the state, using Medicaid claims and encounter data. Other quality measures and reporting will be the responsibility of the CCBHC with the EHR as the source of data.

Continuous quality improvement (CQI) plans that cover the needs of specific segments of the population served, as well as a clinic-wide plan, will be required. Your organization will need the ability to track data, measure progress and generate reporting on performance management and quality measurement:

- Our data analytics solution is fully integrated with EHR and care coordination solutions to offer a full-fledged business intelligence platform and insights into clinical, financial and operational data
- Dashboards for real-time performance monitoring that supports quality measures, allowing immediate action to initiate changes for improvement

Technology is available now to simplify reporting and analysis. Netsmart CarePathways™ suite of solutions includes [KPI Dashboards](#), streamlines tracking key performance indicators and includes automatic data extraction from your EHR.

We have a dedicated CCBHC specialist team ready to help you succeed. [Contact us for a demo or consultation.](#)

Here's one more thing you can do to prepare: Choose a partner who understands the challenges you face.

Technology only works as well as the strategy and the company behind it. With Netsmart, you have a partner with the experience and technology to address the real issues that impact your organization.

We're also an advocate for human services providers, working with legislators and policymakers in Washington, DC, and at the state level to make sure your voice is heard.