

FAQs

EHR Incentive Funding Demonstration Program for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment Providers

What is the program?

Congress has passed the [SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act](#), a comprehensive opioid prevention, treatment and recovery bill. President Trump signed it into law in late October.

[Section 6001](#) of the legislation authorizes the testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record (EHR) technology to improve the quality and coordination of care through the electronic documentation and exchange of health information. The program will be administered by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

When will the program begin?

CMMI will develop the framework and is expected to release program details in early 2019.

What providers are eligible?

The legislation amends Section 1115A(b)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(b)(2)(B)) and defines a number of entities as eligible for the program:

- **Psychiatric hospitals** (as defined in section 1861(f))
- **Community mental health centers** (as defined in section 1861(ff)(3)(B))
- **Hospitals** that participate in a State plan under Title XIX or a waiver of such plan
- **Treatment facilities** that participate in such a State plan or such a waiver
- **Mental health or substance use disorder providers** that participate in such a State plan or such a waiver
- **Clinical psychologists** (as defined in section 1861(ii))
- **Nurse practitioners** (as defined in section 1861(aa)(5)) with respect to the provision of psychiatric services
- **Clinical social workers** (as defined in section 1861(hh)(1))

Click [here](#) for detailed provider definitions in the sections of the Social Security Act cited above.

What is the funding amount and process to apply?

Funding amount for the incentives, application procedure and timeframe are expected to be disseminated by CMMI in early 2019. We will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

What Netsmart clients will be eligible?

Providers from any Netsmart client community will be eligible if they meet the provider eligibility criteria above.