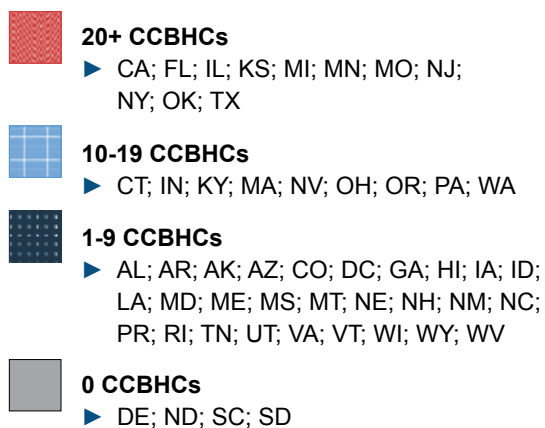


# What Is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic?

[Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics](#) (CCBHCs) transform community behavioral health systems by delivering comprehensive, coordinated mental health and substance use disorder care. CCBHCs increase access to and improve the quality of behavioral health services. This includes, at a minimum, a set of nine core outpatient services that adhere to federally defined standards in the [CCBHC Certification Criteria](#), including 24/7 mobile crisis response. CCBHC services and recovery supports must respond to local community needs, incorporate evidence-based practices and establish care coordination as a central part of service delivery. CCBHCs must serve anyone who needs behavioral health care in the community, regardless of age, ability to pay or place of residence, including people with serious or complex mental or substance use conditions, and must provide developmentally appropriate care to children and youth. As of July 2025, there are over 500 CCBHCs operating in 46 states, the D.C. and Puerto Rico.

## Legend

*\*All numbers accurate as of July 2025.*



## Impact of CCBHCs

CCBHCs are improving care across the United States, serving an estimated 3 million people as of March 2024.<sup>1</sup> Select outcomes from the include:

As of June 30, 2024, **55.7% of the US population** lived in a county served by a CCBHC.<sup>1</sup>

**Served 13% more people on average** since becoming a CCBHC, increasing access to care.<sup>2</sup>

All CCBHCs are required to serve children and youth and **43% of CCBHCs have increased the number of children and youth they serve.**<sup>2</sup>

**87% of CCBHCs directly provide medications for Opioid Use Disorder and 46% of CCBHCs in the Medicaid Demonstration** started providing medications for alcohol or opioid use as a result of becoming a CCBHC, increasing access to these life-saving medications.<sup>2,3</sup>

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## Key Features of the CCBHC Model

CCBHCs must meet federal criteria across six domains: (1) Staffing, (2) Availability and Accessibility of Services, (3) Care Coordination, (4) Scope of Services, (5) Quality and Other Reporting and (6) Organizational Authority, Governance and Accreditation.<sup>4</sup> Key features of the model include:

- ▶ Responsiveness to local needs: CCBHCs use community needs assessments to ensure that programs address local priorities.
- ▶ Increased access and availability: CCBHCs must see people in crisis immediately, people with urgent needs the next business day, and everyone else within 10 business days.
- ▶ Comprehensive, coordinated care: CCBHCs provide the full range of outpatient services for mental and substance use disorders, along with care coordination to ensure care is received.
- ▶ Evidence-based, data-driven, quality care: CCBHCs provide a range of evidence-based services and supports and are required to use data for continuous improvement.

## Core CCBHC Services

CCBHCs are required to provide nine core services directly or through formal partnerships with entities called Designated Collaborating Organizations (DCOs)\*:

1. Crisis Behavioral Health Services
2. Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Use Services
3. Person- and Family-centered Treatment Planning
4. Community-based Mental Health Care Veterans
5. Peer, Family Support and Counselor Services
6. Targeted Case Management
7. Outpatient Primary Care Screening and Monitoring
8. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
9. Screening, Diagnosis and Risk Assessment

## Funding CCBHCs

### SAMHSA CCBHC Expansion Grants

SAMHSA CCBHC Expansion (CCBHC-E) grant recipients implement the CCBHC model, improve their programs and provide uncompensated care. Grant recipients fund their CCBHC programs using a combination of grants and other funding sources (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, private health coverage and state/local funding). The grants directly provide clinics with time-limited funding of up to \$4 million over four years via two tracks: 1) CCBHC-Planning, Development and Implementation (CCBHC-PDI) grants, which establish new CCBHCs that are expected to comply with the certification criteria within one year of award; 2) CCBHC-Improvement and Advancement (CCBHC-IA) grants, which support existing CCBHCs to expand and improve their programs.

### Section 223 CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration and State Programs

CCBHCs are also funded through some state Medicaid programs, which create a stable source of funding to provide CCBHC services to Medicaid-eligible individuals. In many states, this funding is provided through a cost-based [prospective payment](#), which reimburses for the nine-required services and provides states and CCBHCs flexibility to develop their CCBHC service arrays that meet community needs. In these programs, states oversee CCBHCs and certify them as meeting the certification criteria.

1. Section 223 CCBHC Demonstration: Established in 2017, this program supports selected states to transform care at chosen providers through the CCBHC model and provides enhanced federal reimbursement for prospective payments that drive these changes.<sup>4</sup>
2. Independent state Medicaid funding: Medicaid state plan or Section 1115 Demonstration authority, rather than the Section 223 CCBHC Demonstration, that supports the CCBHC model.<sup>4</sup>

To learn more, [visit SAMHSA's CCBHC page](#), which also includes [information about available technical assistance](#).

\*Even if using DCOs, CCBHCs are required to deliver directly at least 51% of encounters across the core services (excluding crisis services).

## References

<sup>1</sup> Mauri, A. I., Xiang, N., Adams, D. R., & Purtle, J. (2024). [Proportion of US Counties and Population Served by Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics](#). JAMA Health Forum, 5(10), e243001.

<sup>2</sup> National Council for Mental Wellbeing. (2024). [2024 CCBHC Impact Report](#).

<sup>3</sup> Brown, J. D., Stewart, K. A., Miller, R. L., Dehus, E., Rose, T., DeWitt, K., Chapman, R., Wishon, A., Breslau, J., Dey, J., & Jacobus-Kantor, L. (2022). [Implementation and impacts of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic demonstration: Findings from the national evaluation](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>4</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2023, March). [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic \(CCBHC\) Certification Criteria](#).