

Iowa Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Demonstration

June 2024

BACKGROUND

In 2023 Iowa was awarded a \$1 million planning grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support the design and implementation of an Iowa CCBHC program. States that received a state planning grant were required to apply to be part of the CCBHC Demonstration in March of 2024.

On June 4, 2024, SAMHSA announced that Iowa was one of 10 states selected to join the new cohort of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Demonstration programs for fiscal year 2025. The CCBHC Demonstration is a 4-year Medicaid demonstration program that requires the State to certify providers meet a high threshold of Federal criteria, develop a specialized prospective payment system (PPS) rate methodology for Medicaid payment, and includes enhanced federal funding once CCBHCs have been certified by the State.

For the last year, we've worked diligently to provide technical assistance and certification activity, material development, and planning for operationalization of the CCBHC demonstration. Many providers who were provisionally credentialed are demonstrating readiness or near-readiness for final certification and initial guidance documents are developed.

Simultaneously, Iowa passed landmark legislation to redesign the state's behavioral health service system, including alignment and integration of current services and supports. This work includes examination and fundamental changes to funding, governance, oversight, and accountability structures. Because of the incredible work on both initiatives, we can align the launch of our new behavioral health service system and our CCBHC's on July 1, 2025.

WHAT IS A CCBHC?

CCBHCs are specialty clinics that provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services. CCBHCs are bricks and mortar behavioral health safety net providers required to serve anyone who walks through their doors, *regardless of their age, diagnosis, insurance status or place of residence*. CCBHCs are required to provide or coordinate nine core services:

- Crisis mental health services including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention, and crisis stabilization.
- Screening, assessment, and diagnosis including risk assessment.
- Patient-Centered treatment planning or similar processes, including risk assessment and crisis planning.
- Outpatient mental health and substance use services.
- Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk.
- Case management.
- Psychiatric rehabilitation services.

- Peer support, counseling services, and family support services.
- Intensive community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans.

WHAT ARE THE CCBHC DEMONSTRATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES?

The primary goal of the CCBHC demonstration is to expand access to community-based behavioral health services for individuals across the lifespan, including crisis services and evidence-based practices. Target populations for CCBHCs are persons with a serious mental illness, children with a serious emotional disturbance, and individuals with significant substance use disorders while making services available to the entire community. Care integration and coordination is a key service provided by a CCBHC and helps ensure that individuals served by CCBHCs received holistic person and family-centered services, driven by the needs and preferences of people receiving services. CCBHCs are required to serve any individual, regardless of diagnosis age, residence, or insurance coverage. CCBHCs report data on the type and quality of services provided to identify needs and promote high-quality services with positive outcomes for individuals served.

PROVIDER CERTIFICATION

Iowa already has had many providers who have been granted expansion grant funding from SAMHSA to build their provider capacity and readiness to deliver in a CCBHC model. These providers are considered by SAMHSA to be *self-certified*. Self-certification is not as rigorous and is not equivalent to the required state certification process. Most of Iowa’s providers who are self-certified were not found to meet all 113 Federal certification criteria. Iowa HHS has worked through the CCBHC planning grant cycle to both develop its certification processes, identify an initial cohort of provisionally certified providers, and deployed provider technical assistance to help providers reach full certification status. Iowa provisionally certified nine providers as CCBHCs.

PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM

Under the CCBHC Demonstration, state certified CCBHC providers are eligible for an alternative Medicaid reimbursement structure for the behavioral health services delivered by the CCBHC. The alternative payment system known as Prospective Payment System (PPS) utilizes a cost-based methodology.

Implementation Timeline

<i>Decision points finalized for CCBHC provider requirements and funding and CCBHC work embedded in the statewide plan for Iowa’s behavioral health service system.</i>	Summer 2024
<i>Final provider and payer policy and billing guidance documents developed and issued by Iowa HHS.</i>	Fall 2024
<i>Final CCBHC Provider certification for inclusion in Year 1 of the Demonstration</i>	Late Fall 2024
<i>CCBHC Provider Enrollment with Medicaid.</i>	Late Fall 2024
<i>Payer system configurations finalized.</i>	Winter 2025
<i>Payment Systems Tested and Operational</i>	Spring 2025
<i>Data Systems for State and Clinic Collected Quality Measures are Operational and tested</i>	Spring and Summer 2025
<i>CCBHC Demonstration Year 1 Start</i>	July 1, 2025
