

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Implementation

In December 2024, Connecticut was selected for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) planning grant!

A planning grant has been awarded to states that implement the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model in select behavioral health outpatient clinics. A Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) initiative aims to improve community-based behavioral health services. CCBHCs are required to deliver integrated care to individuals and families of all ages, offering comprehensive services to those seeking mental health or substance use disorder assistance, regardless of their financial situation, location, or age. These clinics provide prompt access to a wide range of services, including prevention, crisis intervention, screening, care coordination, and evidence-based practices. The program employs a cost-based Prospective Payment System (PPS) to ensure adequate funding for all aspects of the CCBHC initiative. Beyond the core service standards, CCBHC providers must adhere to various organizational and practice standards, as well as engage in Quality Improvement Processes to guarantee high-quality, equitable, and effective care.

In the 2025 planning phase, Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP), in collaboration with Caelon Behavioral Health CT, will establish a data infrastructure for tracking quality measures, assess the needs of the communities served by the CCBHCs and select clinics for

the CCBHC model implementation. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be issued in the coming months for providers interested in becoming a CCBHC. Upon completion of the planning grant, Connecticut will apply for a four-year CCBHC demonstration grant, which will include a payment system that compensates providers based on the actual costs incurred by each clinic. Other states implementing the CCBHC model have seen significant improvements in workforce readiness and care quality.

The CT BHP is responsible for overseeing the planning grant and collaborates with several community partners:

- ✓ **Caelon Behavioral Health CT** will manage the grant's daily operations, including meeting coordination, data collection and reporting, and submissions to SAMHSA.
- ✓ **Mercer**, a consulting firm, will assist with actuarial analyses and the development of the prospective payment system.
- ✓ **Child Health and Development Institute** will offer and coordinate technical support in workforce development, as well as the identification, selection, and sustainability of Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs).
- ✓ **National Council on Quality Assurance** will review the selected CCBHCs to ensure they meet the certification criteria required by this initiative.



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The 'Community' in CCBHC

CCBHC services:

CCBHCs deliver the following, either directly or through formal partnerships:

- ✓ 24/7 access to crisis services
- ✓ Outpatient mental health and substance use services
- ✓ Person and family-centered treatment planning
- ✓ Community-based mental health care for veterans
- ✓ Peer/family support and counselor services
- ✓ Targeted care management
- ✓ Outpatient primary care screening and monitoring
- ✓ Psychiatric rehabilitation services
- ✓ Screening, diagnosis, and risk assessment
- ✓ Preventative care
- ✓ Evidence-based practices (EBP)

Your voice matters

A steering committee inclusive of persons with lived experience will govern the CCBHC grant. Supported by diverse workgroups, the committee aims to unite stakeholders such as providers, state agencies, veterans, tribal communities, individuals with disabling conditions, those with direct behavioral health experience, and LGBTQAI+ members. This diversity is key to fostering innovation and ensuring comprehensive community service by CCBHCs.

For more information about the CCBHC, the planning grant, steering committee, or the sub-committees, contact Caroline Anyzeski at Caroline.Anyzeski@ct.gov or Fatmata Williams at Fatmata.Williams@ct.gov