

Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act (S. 2069/H.R. 4323)

[Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics \(CCBHCs\)](#) provide critical care for people with mental health and substance use challenges. Since the launch of the model in 2017, CCBHCs have supported communities and states in reducing unmet need for care, improving access to medication-assisted substance use treatment, diverting people in crisis from hospitals, emergency departments, and jails, and expanding the behavioral health workforce. The Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act creates a sustainable mechanism to expand access to comprehensive mental health and substance use treatment through CCBHCs.

Who do CCBHCs Serve? CCBHCs serve anyone in need of mental health or substance use treatment—regardless of their insurance coverage, residence or ability to pay. **CCBHCs currently serve an estimated 1.5 million people** and are a critical part of the safety net, providing care for people with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders as well as those that are underserved including children and youth, justice-involved populations, and veterans and service members.

CCBHCs Have:

- ✓ Dramatically increased access to mental health and addiction treatment.
- ✓ Expanded states' capacity to address the overdose crisis.
- ✓ Bolstered the behavioral health workforce by an estimated 9,000 new staff positions, averaging 41 new jobs per clinic.
- ✓ Established innovative partnerships with law enforcement, schools and hospitals to improve care, reduce recidivism and prevent hospital readmissions.

CCBHCs' Impact

CCBHCs meet rigorous criteria, including providing 24-hour crisis services, comprehensive outpatient mental health and substance use care, and enhanced care coordination and partnerships with primary care, hospital partners, and law enforcement. CCBHCs are subject to quality reporting that holds them accountable for improving outcomes.

[A recent survey of CCBHCs](#) conducted by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing found:

- **50% provide same-day access to care** for clients and nearly all respondents (93%) provide care within 10 days of initial contact, compared to the national average wait time of 48 days.
- **79% coordinate with hospitals and emergency departments** to prevent avoidable admissions when individuals are in crisis.
- **89% offer one or more forms of medication-assisted treatment (MAT)**, the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder, compared to only 56% of substance use clinics nationwide.
- **95% collaborate with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies** to reduce incarceration and improve crisis response.

The Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act would:

- **Allow any state or territory the option to participate in the CCBHC demonstration program** (currently, only 10 states are in the demonstration) and allocates additional planning grant monies for states to prepare to do so.
- **Authorize monies for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) CCBHC Expansion Grants**, an important tool in helping provider organizations adopt the CCBHC model and prepare for participation in state-led CCBHC implementation efforts.
- **Establish and fund a technical assistance center** for current and prospective CCBHCs within SAMHSA.

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