



Supporting and Expanding Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

BOTTOM LINE



Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) provide critical care for people with mental health and substance use challenges. Every state should have the opportunity to participate in the CCBHC demonstration program.

THE ASK



Cosponsor and support the passage of the [Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act](#) (S. 2069/ H.R. 4323)

Since 2017, CCBHCs have provided critical care for people with mental health and substance use challenges. CCBHCs serve anyone in need of such services regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay. Today, the more than 430 CCBHCs operating in 40+ states and territories serve millions of people, providing crucial support to communities. CCBHCs are reducing unmet need for care, improving access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use and mental health care, diverting people in crisis from over-burdened systems like hospitals and jails, and expanding the behavioral health workforce. But more must be done to ensure people in every state can access the lifesaving services CCBHCs provide.

The Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act (S. 2069/H.R. 4323) creates an opportunity to help ensure access to comprehensive mental health and substance use treatment through CCBHCs. The bill would allow any state or territory the option to apply to participate in the CCBHC demonstration program and allocate additional planning grant monies for states to prepare to do so. It would 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. Additionally, it would continue to fund a technical assistance center for current and prospective CCBHCs within SAMHSA.

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

INTRODUCED BY:

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WHY DO WE NEED THE EXCELLENCE ACT AND CCBHCs?

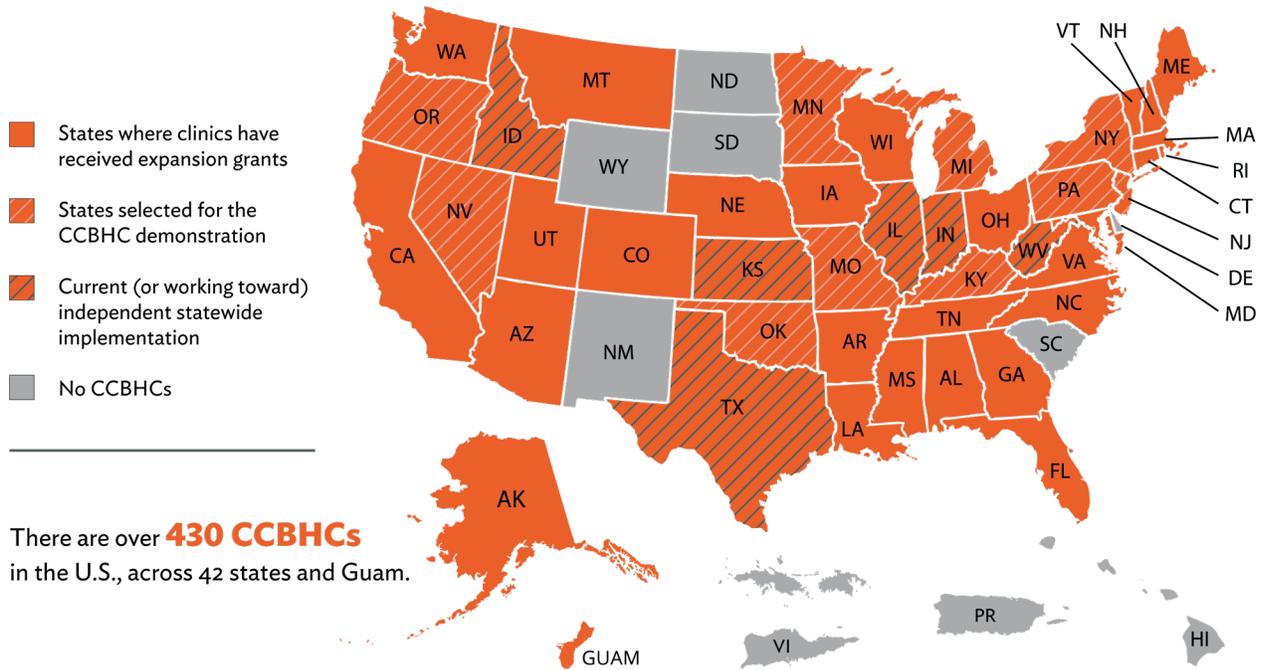
CCBHCs dramatically increase access to mental health and substance use treatment. According to a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, utilization of CCBHC services was associated with a nearly 90% reduction in client hospitalizations from 2015 to 2019.¹ A recent survey² conducted by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing found that 50% of CCBHCs provide same-day access to care for clients' routine needs and nearly all respondents (93%) provide care within 10 days of initial contact, compared to the national average wait time of 48 days. 79% of CCBHCs coordinate with hospitals and emergency departments to prevent avoidable admissions when individuals are in crisis.

CCBHCs expand states' capacity to address the overdose crisis. An overwhelming majority of CCBHCs (89%) offer one or more forms of MAT, the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder when combined with clinical care, compared to only 56% of substance use treatment clinics nationwide.

The CCBHC model is alleviating the impact of the community-based mental health and substance use care workforce shortage by enabling clinics to increase hiring. CCBHCs hired an estimated 9,000 new staff positions across all active CCBHCs. On average, this resulted in 41 new jobs per clinic including roles such as psychiatrists and peers.³

CCBHCs establish innovative partnerships with law enforcement, schools and hospitals to improve care, reduce recidivism and prevent hospital readmissions. All CCBHCs must collaborate with law enforcement or criminal justice agencies to reduce incarceration and improve crisis response. The GAO found the CCBHC model accrued savings for law enforcement from reduced interactions with clinic clients.

Status of Participation in the CCBHC Model



1 Government Accountability Office. (2021, September). CMS Guidance Needed to Better Align Demonstration Payment Rates with Costs and Prevent Duplication. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-104466.pdf>

2 National Council for Mental Wellbeing. (2021, May). Leading a Bold Shift in Mental Health & Substance Use Care – CCBHC Impact Report. <https://www.TheNationalCouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-CCBHC-Impact-Report.pdf?dof=375ateTbd56>

3 National Council for Mental Wellbeing. (2021). CCBHC Impact Report. <https://www.TheNationalCouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-CCBHC-Impact-Report.pdf?dof=375ateTbd56>

