

A Special Message from President & CEO Chuck Ingolia

WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

I'm honored to share our 2024 Annual Report. The work outlined in this snapshot is informed by our hardworking members and guided by our diligent board of directors. You'll see your priorities reflected throughout the report and especially in our new [Five-Year Strategic Plan](#).

The Strategic Plan will guide us as we define our advocacy efforts, support our members, develop training programs, refine membership initiatives and strengthen our brand in the years ahead. It also outlines our unwavering commitment to focus on the biggest challenge you face — recruiting and retaining a sufficient workforce to meet the demand for services in your communities.

To tackle this critical challenge, our new [Center for Workforce Solutions](#) offers resources and technical assistance opportunities for members. We continue to explore new ways to support the workforce, including through our [Apprenticeship Program Capacity Building project](#), forthcoming Leadership Training Series, [High Performance Leadership Academy](#) and [Middle Management Academy](#) — each vital to organizations providing mental health and substance use care.

Our largest workforce development project, the Kaiser Permanente-funded [National Mental Health Workforce Acceleration Collaborative](#), is addressing the workforce shortage by removing barriers to licensure, while also increasing the diversity of licensed clinicians and the availability of culturally responsive mental health services for lower-income people of color.

Meanwhile, our efforts to expand [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics \(CCBHCs\)](#) received a historic boost with passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed into law on March 9. The law codified a definition for CCBHCs in Medicaid, marking the first time since the creation of the Medicaid program in 1965 that a specific mental health and substance use care benefit is defined in federal law.

Momentum grew when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and together with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, welcomed 10 new states into the CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration Program: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Vermont.

These profound changes will remove barriers and increase access to lifesaving mental health and substance use treatment and care at CCBHCs, now serving an [estimated 3 million people](#).

I'm so grateful for the work we achieved this year, but I know there's more we can do. I know new challenges will arise. The National Council and our board of directors will continue to work on your behalf to overcome those challenges. Many more achievements await us in the coming year!

Be well,



Chuck Ingolia
President and CEO
National Council for Mental Wellbeing