

CCBHC-T Year 1 Impact: *Illinois*

What is CCBHC-T?

The [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Transformation \(CCBHC-T\) Project](#) aims to transform and improve behavioral health services across Illinois. Funded by [Ballmer Group](#), the project provides tailored support and advisement to organizations throughout the state as they implement the CCBHC model. The project aims to increase access to care, improve the quality of services, strengthen the use of data to guide decision-making, identify long-term funding solutions, and build the systems needed to sustain and expand the CCBHC model over time. Through this work, Illinois is creating a stronger behavioral health system that can better meet the needs of individuals and families.

What is the CCBHC Model?

The [Certified Community Behavioral Health Center \(CCBHC\) model](#) is an integrated and sustainably financed model for behavioral health care delivery.

[Learn more about the CCBHC approach.](#)

The Illinois Vision for CCBHC-T

- **Improving access to behavioral health services** by developing strategies to help people connect with care and strengthening partnerships between CCBHCs and other community service providers.
- **Growing and strengthening the behavioral health workforce** by building on existing workforce initiatives, helping CCBHC clinics address their staffing needs, and strengthening behavioral health providers' ability to deliver coordinated, whole-person care.
- **Focusing on better outcomes for individuals and families** by identifying measures to track the performance of CCBHCs and the quality of behavioral healthcare delivered.
- **Building partnerships and collaboration** by strengthening state agency collaboration, aligning on a cohesive behavioral health workforce development and growth strategy, and supporting ongoing behavioral health care quality improvement efforts.
- **Planning for long-term financial sustainability of CCBHCs** by communicating the value of the CCBHC model, improving how CCBHC performance is measured and tracked, and assessing options for long-term funding.

Year 1: Progress and Impact in Illinois

Illinois envisions timely access to integrated, sustainable, quality behavioral health care for all Illinoisans.

Building a Shared Vision for CCBHCs

- Used CCBHC-T support to strengthen communication about the state's vision for CCBHCs and identify clear, measurable goals.
- Built greater alignment across state agencies around long-term CCBHC strategy.

Strengthening Partnerships and Statewide Coordination

- Launched Illinois' first CCBHC Steering Committee, bringing together behavioral health provider groups and other key stakeholders to coordinate care delivery systems.
- Leveraged ongoing cross-agency planning efforts to align CCBHC implementation with other major behavioral health initiatives, including mental health crisis services and workforce development, to support coordinated planning and decision-making for CCBHC implementation across the state.
- Added two staff dedicated to CCBHC transformation, increasing the state's capacity to support implementation and long-term sustainability.

Strengthening Quality Monitoring and Support for CCBHCs

- Implemented a statewide review process for CCBHCs, creating consistent procedures for assessing performance and identifying areas for improvement.
- Established processes to provide targeted support to strengthen service delivery for individuals and families in Illinois.

In Year 1, 315 Illinois-based trainees enrolled to advance toward clinical behavioral health licensure through the CCBHC-T Workforce Career Accelerator

[The CCBHC-T Workforce Career Accelerator](#) will provide behavioral health professionals in Illinois with financial assistance to obtain their licensure/certification.

Integrating Mental Health and Substance Use Care:

- Advanced efforts to provide more coordinated care for individuals with both mental health and substance use treatment needs.
- Delivered statewide guidance and targeted support to help clinics strengthen whole-person care practices.
- Worked across state agencies to align provider qualifications and billing requirements, helping improve quality of care regardless of diagnosis.

Workforce Development and Redesign:

- Did a formal assessment of behavioral health workforce gaps and used the information to prioritize specific workforce pipeline and retention strategies.
- Enrolled 37 clinics and over 300 behavioral health professionals in the Workforce Accelerator Program to increase the overall number of behavioral health clinicians working in Illinois CCBHCs and mental health crisis response settings.

Year 2: What's Next for Illinois?

Illinois enters Year 2 of the CCBHC-T Project with strong momentum and a solid foundation of cross-agency partnership for long-term implementation.

A key priority for year 2 will be **improving access to care** by developing a statewide access strategy, strengthening partnerships with community organizations such as schools, housing providers, and correctional systems, and clarifying how CCBHCs work alongside crisis response services to meet community needs.

Behavioral health workforce development will remain a critical priority. Building on findings from its workforce assessment, Illinois will seek to strengthen and expanding the peer workforce, reducing administrative burden for providers, and encourage collaboration among organizations to address staffing shortages through approaches such as shared staffing models.

Illinois will also focus on **assessing options to ensure the long-term financial sustainability** of the CCBHC model. Illinois will continue to strengthen its ability to use behavioral health outcomes and Medicaid claims data to inform financial planning and demonstrate the impact of CCBHC services for Illinois individuals and families.

Another major focus will be **improving data and analytics capabilities** to better engage in continuous quality improvement with CCBHCs and ultimately improve the quality of care delivered to Illinois individuals and families. Illinois plans to continue enhancing its data systems and align clinic and state priorities around shared behavioral health outcome measures.

Together, these efforts will help Illinois strengthen access to care, improve quality, and build a more sustainable behavioral health system for communities across the state.