

CCBHC-T Year 1 Impact: *Kansas*

What is CCBHC-T?

The [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Transformation \(CCBHC-T\) Project](#) aims to transform and improve behavioral health services across Kansas. 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, Kansas 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 Kansas Vision for CCBHC-T

- **Improving coordination of behavioral healthcare collaboration** by strengthening partnerships between CCBHCs and other healthcare and community providers, Managed Care Organizations, and state agencies to help individuals more easily access the services they need.
- **Expanding access to behavioral healthcare in rural and frontier communities** by enabling the use of telehealth services and evaluating whether provider networks have the capacity to meet local needs
- **Growing the behavioral health workforce** by attracting and retaining clinicians, creating new pathways into behavioral health careers, and expanding the use of peer support services and other trained support staff.
- **Improving the quality of behavioral healthcare** by expanding the use of proven treatment approaches for individuals with both mental health and substance use challenges, strengthening quality review processes, and using data to guide ongoing improvement.
- **Planning for long-term financial sustainability** by evaluating the broader impact of the CCBHC model, including its role in reducing hospitalizations and helping individuals return to their communities, employment, and daily activities, while identifying the right funding strategies to sustain statewide implementation.

Year 1: Progress and Impact in Kansas

Strengthening Partnerships and Coordination:

- Established multistakeholder meetings and other convening opportunities for state representatives, provider associations, clinics, managed care organizations, and other key partners to collaborate, provide feedback, problem-solve around CCBHC implementation, and strengthen alignment.
- Built a shared understanding of the value of the CCBHC model and aligned partners around common goals and priorities to create momentum and a shared vision for the future.
- Added two state-level project staff dedicated to supporting and sustaining CCBHC implementation, helping to strengthen the state's capacity to advance this work.

Planning for Long-Term Sustainability:

- Launched a statewide analysis to better understand and quantify the positive impact of CCBHCs on individuals, communities, and public systems, including involvement with the justice system, housing stability, and employment.
- Used financial analysis and planning support from CCBHC-T to help inform strategies for sustaining CCBHC services after the Kansas Medicaid Demonstration period ends.

What is the CCBHC Model?

CCBHC-T provides valuable opportunities for CCBHC leaders to gather in person, build relationships, and collectively problem-solve with national experts and leaders in other states.

In Year 1, these opportunities included a Change Leaders Forum:

"The Change Leaders Forum (CLF) was very beneficial thanks to the support and interaction with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) team as well as with the other states...CLF really provides space to work and grow."

- KDADS Executive

In Year 1, 332 Kansas-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 Kansas with financial assistance to obtain their licensure/certification.

"There has been meaningful change in data as the project has helped us focus on outcomes"

- KDADS Executive

Growing and Strengthening the Behavioral Health Workforce:

- Assessed workforce gaps across the behavioral health system and identified opportunities to strengthen recruitment and retention efforts moving forward.
- Enrolled 25 CCBHC sites and over 300 behavioral health professionals in the Workforce Career Accelerator Program to increase the overall number of behavioral health clinicians in Kansas.
- Began planning for workforce expansion through [Common Elements Treatment Approach \(CETA\)](#) pilots.

Using Data to Improve Access and Quality of Behavioral Healthcare:

- Advanced the development of a statewide dashboard to monitor key CCBHC performance measures and outcomes to improve quality of behavioral healthcare.
- Leveraged expert advisement to strengthen the state's approach to data collection, integration, and CCBHC performance monitoring to help clinics meet and exceed CCBHC standards and continuously improve the quality of care delivered to Kansas individuals and families.
- Convened representatives from state agencies, clinics, and managed care organizations to align on data and quality priorities, identify opportunities for collaboration and efficiency, and define collective actions and next steps

“The CCBHC-T project has helped us have a better bridge with the association because this project is a joint effort. It helps bring together centers and the state”

- KDADS Executive

Year 2: What's Next for Kansas?

Kansas enters Year 2 of the CCBHC-T Project with great momentum, strong partnerships, and a clear vision for strengthening access to high-quality behavioral health care across the state.

A key priority for Year 2 will be expanding access to care in rural and frontier communities. In July 2026, Kansas will launch a pilot of the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA), an innovative model that trains paraprofessionals to deliver certain behavioral health services. The pilot has the potential to expand access to care in areas facing persistent workforce shortages.

Kansas will also continue evaluating the broader impact of the CCBHC model through a cross-system financial analysis. This work will help the state better understand how CCBHCs improve outcomes for Kansas individuals and families across healthcare, criminal justice, housing, and emergency response systems, providing important information to support future planning.

Another major focus will continue to foster collaboration between clinics, Managed Care Organizations, and state partners to improve accountability for quality across the CCBHC network.

At the same time, Kansas will continue investing in the data systems needed to support ongoing improvement of behavioral healthcare. A statewide performance dashboard currently under development will provide state leaders and clinic managers with real-time information to guide decision-making, monitor outcomes, and identify opportunities to strengthen services.

Together, these efforts will help Kansas improve the accessibility and quality of behavioral care and build a more sustainable behavioral health system that can meet the needs of communities across the state.