

Integrated Care and Wellness Clinics (ICWC) and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in PA

In 2016, Pennsylvania applied for and received an Excellence in Mental Health demonstration planning grant to fund Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). These entities, a new provider type in Medicaid, are designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals. In return, CCBHCs receive an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate based on their anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of these complex populations.

CCBHCs are responsible for directly providing (or contracting with partner organizations to provide) nine types of services, with an emphasis on the provision of 24-hour crisis care, utilization of evidence-based practices, care coordination, and integration with physical health care. The demonstration program represents the largest investment in mental health and addiction care in generations.

Pennsylvania certified seven CCBHC program sites, most of whom are RCPA members. Those sites were paid a Prospective Payment daily rate for service delivery for the first two years of the CCBHC program. In 2019, when the federal government was in the midst of budget negotiations, there was no guarantee of continued funding with an extension of 30 days, 60 days, then another 90 days. It was not until the end of the year that funding was extended for a year.

As a result, at the end of 2019, Pennsylvania made a decision to convert the CCBHC to a Pennsylvania-specific brand called Integrated Care and Wellness Clinics (ICWC). The seven original CCBHCs worked to convert to the ICWC program, which also changed to a monthly prospective payment rate. In addition, there were some modifications to the reporting requirements.

In the meantime, in 2018, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) began offering CCBHC expansion grants directly to providers across the country. These grants do not involve the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), but are self-monitored and reported to SAMHSA.

Two of the first CCBHCs, now ICWCs, received the first SAMHSA expansion grants, and now all are applying or have applied for these grants. RCPA is aware of several providers applying for the expansion grant this year, including providers who were not in the original Pennsylvania CCBHC demonstration grant.

Whether CCBHC or ICWC, this service model is one that will remain. RCPA recommends that behavioral health and substance use disorder providers consider the SAMHSA grants as a path to certification. The National Council offers many resources for providers considering this transition. For more information, contact [Sarah Eyster](#).

Related Links:

- <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/ccbhc-success-center/>
- <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-20-012>