

2023 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Improvement and Advancement Grants

OVERVIEW

On March 18th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Improvement and Advancement Grants. CCBHCs provide comprehensive person- and family-centered services that aim to increase access to community-based care, stabilize individuals in crisis, and provide the necessary treatment and recovery support services for individuals with complex mental and substance use disorders.

Through this opportunity, 62 certified CCBHCs will be awarded \$1 million annually during the four-year grant period. Funding should support the expansion or improvement of CCBHC services, with the goal of increased access to community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment and support (including 24/7 crisis services) to any individual in need, regardless of ability to pay or place of residence.

The full NOFO is available [here](#). Applications are due on May 22nd.

FUNDING

SAMHSA will provide annual awards of up to \$1 million through this program. Funding limitations are as follows:

- No more than 15 percent of the total grant award may be used for infrastructure development;
- No more than 20 percent of the total grant award may be used for data collection, performance measurement, and performance assessment, including incentives for participating in the required data collection follow-up;
- No more than \$30,000 per year may be used for the purchase of prescribed or over-the-counter medications; and
- Funding may not be used to provide services in inpatient settings, residential treatment facilities, or jails/prisons (with the exception of in-reach, treatment planning, and transitional services).

Awarded applicants must use third-party reimbursement and other revenue realized from the provision of services to the extent possible. Grant funds should only be used for: services to individuals who are not covered by public or commercial health insurance programs; services to individuals for whom coverage has been formally determined to be unaffordable; or services that are not sufficiently covered by an individual's health insurance plan.

Contracts will last for up to four years starting on September 30th.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit entities operating existing state-certified CCBHCs or CCBHCs that have successfully met all certification criteria as part of a prior CCBHC award.

Applicants and their designated collaborating organizations (DCOs), if applicable, must:

- Be licensed, certified, and/or approved by the state to provide mental health and substance use disorder services;
- Have at least two years of experience providing relevant services; and
- Comply with all applicable local and state licensing, accreditation, and certification requirements.

Recipients will be expected to comply with the updated CCBHC Certification Criteria ([here](#)) by July 1, 2024. Awarded organizations must hire a part-time Project Director and a part-time Evaluator for the program and both positions will require prior approval by SAMHSA.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Awarded organizations must use program funding to provide all nine core CCHBC services:

- Crisis mental health services, including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention services, and crisis stabilization;
- Screening, assessment, and diagnosis, including risk assessment;
- Patient-centered treatment planning or similar processes, including risk assessment and crisis planning;
- Outpatient mental health and substance abuse services;
- Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk (e.g., BMI, blood pressure, tobacco use, HIV/viral hepatitis);
- Targeted case management;
- Psychiatric rehabilitation services;
- Peer support, counselor services, and family supports; and
- Intensive, community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans.

Awarded organizations must also:

- Conduct at least one community needs assessment during the project period;
- Implement infrastructure development activities needed to continue meeting the certification criteria and improve the quality and effectiveness of CCBHC services;
- Involve consumers and family members in designing, providing, monitoring, and evaluating program services; and
- Develop and implement a sustainability plan to support delivery of services once federal grant funding ends.

Awarded organizations must develop a behavioral health disparities impact statement no later than 60 days after receiving an award.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Population of Focus and Statement of Need (10 points)
- Proposed Implementation Approach (30 points)
- Proposed Evidence-Based Service/Practice (15 points)
- Staff and Organizational Experience (25 points)
- Data Collection and Performance Measurement (20 points)

Awards will be distributed based on the above criteria, the availability of funds, and an equitable distribution of funding by geographic area, population of focus, and program size.

Timeline

Applications must be submitted by May 22nd. Awards are expected to be announced on August 31st.

Program and eligibility questions should be submitted to Mary Blake at CCBHC@samhsa.hhs.gov.

Fiscal/budget questions may be submitted to FOACMHS@samhsa.hhs.gov. Grant review process and application status questions may be submitted to Emily Chan at Emily.Chan@samhsa.hhs.gov.