



FACT SHEET

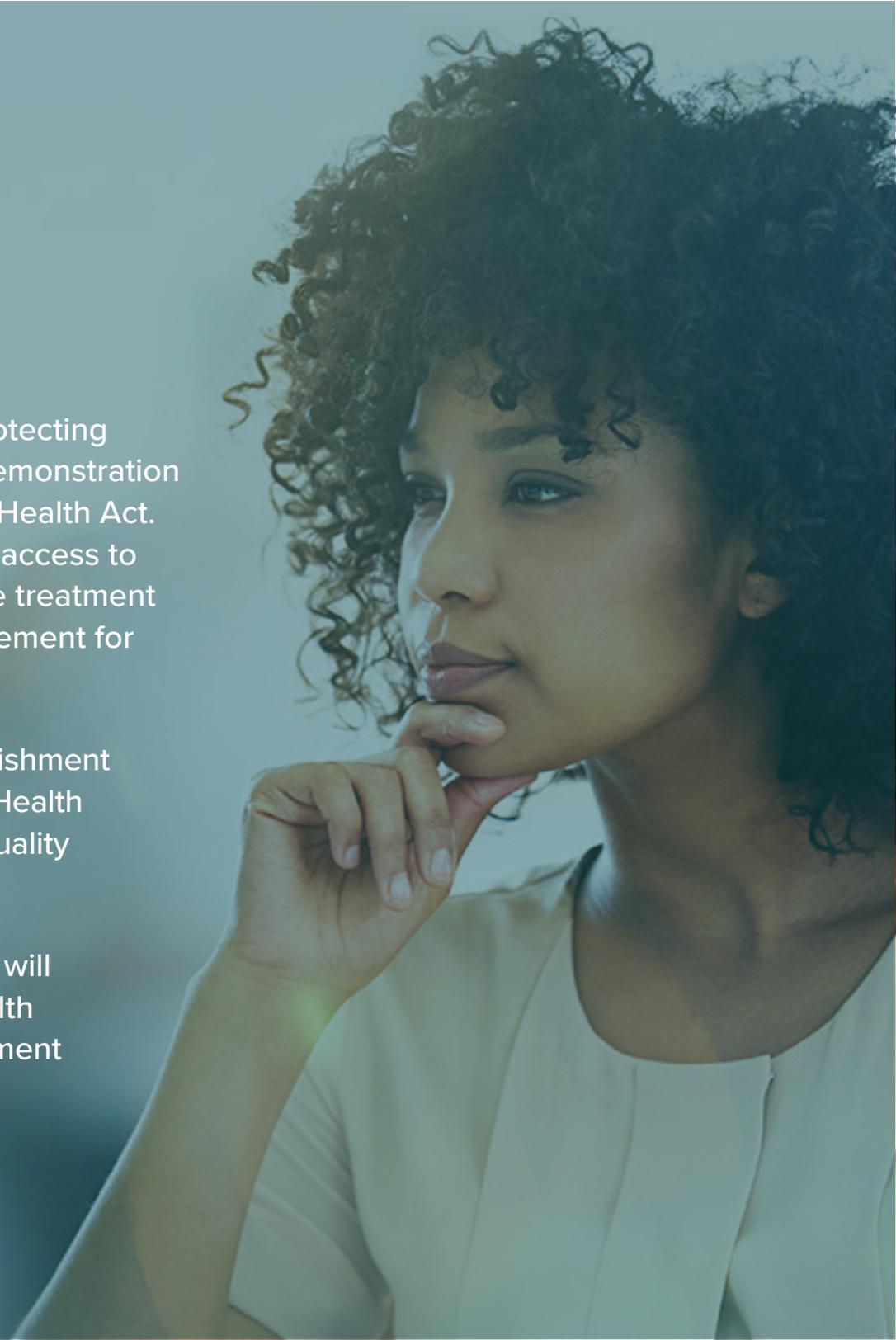
**Certified Community  
Behavioral Health Clinics  
& The Excellence in  
Mental Health Act**



On March 31, 2014, Congress passed the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, which included a demonstration program based on the Excellence in Mental Health Act. The Excellence Act will increase Americans' access to community mental health and substance use treatment services while improving Medicaid reimbursement for these services.

The legislation includes criteria for the establishment of federally Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) with a goal to improve the quality of mental health care for all Americans.

When fully implemented, the Excellence Act will infuse over \$1 billion into the behavioral health system, making it the biggest federal investment in mental health and addiction services in generations.





THIS DOCUMENT WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS INCLUDING:

**What are the components of the Excellence in Mental Health Act?**

---

**What is the timeline?**

---

**What are the certification criteria for becoming a CCBHC?**

---

**What are the 9 required CCBHC services?**

---

**What happens to states that aren't chosen for the initial demonstration period?**

---

**What are the intended outcomes for CCBHC patients?**

## How can Core Solutions help?

Core Solutions Inc. is committed to meeting the needs of the Behavioral Healthcare providers who are seeking to become a CCBHC. As part of this commitment, Core is working on ensuring that Core's Cx360 platform will be able to support the data collection needs for a CCBHC as it pertains to CCBHC grant requirements. Cx360 will support the federal criteria for the CCBHC, which is based on SAMHSA's Metrics and Quality Measures for Behavioral Health Clinics. Complete datasets and reporting templates will be incorporated into Cx360 by April 2017.

**For help meeting the CCBHC criteria, contact us at [coresolutions.com](http://coresolutions.com) or 610.687.6080.**

# What are the components of the Excellence in Mental Health Act?

1. Creates criteria for “Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics” as entities designed to serve individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders that provide intensive, person-centered, multidisciplinary, evidence-based screening, assessment, diagnostics, treatment, prevention and wellness services.
2. Provides funding that will be available to states as planning grants to develop applications to participate in the 2-year pilot. Through a competitive process, in October 2015 SAMHSA awarded grants to 24 states to begin putting together their certification processes and developing their payment methodologies. Only states that have received a planning grant will be eligible to apply to participate in the pilot.
3. Stipulates that eight (8) states will be selected to participate in the 2-year pilot program. The match rate for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic services is either the Enhanced FMAP/CHIP rate or, for newly eligible “expansion” Medicaid beneficiaries, the current FMAP for that population – which is 100% now and moves down to 90% by 2020.
4. Requires participating states to develop a Prospective Payment System for reimbursing Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics for required services provided by these entities.
5. Requires Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics to engage in partnerships with a variety of health system partners, from primary care to hospitals, VA centers and more. The emphasis on these partnerships reflects the need for health care organizations to work together to demonstrate concrete health outcomes and high-value care.
6. Improves behavioral health resources for public safety by providing a much-needed infusion of funding into the addiction and mental health system, expanding treatment capacity and alleviating the burden on public safety officers.

# What is the timeline?

## PHASE 1

In October 2015, SAMSHA and CMS awarded \$22.9 million to 24 states to receive one-year planning grants to develop a CCBHC program and prospective payment system (PPS) reimbursement rates

## PHASE 2

In October 2016, eight states will be named to participate in a two-year demonstration program that runs from January 2017 through December 2018.

# What are the certification criteria for becoming a CCBHC?

The Excellence in Mental Health Act outlined requirements for CCBHCs across six core areas:

- 1 Staffing
- 2 Availability and accessibility of services
- 3 Care coordination; scope of services
- 4 Quality and other reporting
- 5 Organizational authority, governance and accreditation

Subsequent guidance from SAMHSA delineated specific standards in each of the core areas. In turn, states are responsible for operationalizing those standards and establishing their own certification process for potential CCBHCs. CCBHCs must be certified before the October deadline for states to submit their applications to participate in the demonstration program.

# What are the 9 required CCBHC services?

CCBHCs must offer the following services either directly or through a formal contract with a Designated Collaborating Organization (DCO). These services must be offered and will be paid for even if they are not included in a state's Medicaid plan:

## **ONE**

Crisis mental health services including 24-hour mobile crisisteam, emergency crisis intervention and crisis stabilization\*

## **TWO**

Screening, assessment and diagnosis including risk assessment\*

## **THREE**

Patient-Centered treatment planning or similar processes, including risk assessment and crisis planning\*

## **FOUR**

Outpatient mental health and substance use services\*

## **FIVE**

Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk\*\*

## **SIX**

Targeted case management\*\*

## **SEVEN**

Psychiatric rehabilitation services\*\*

## **EIGHT**

Peer support and counselor services and family supports\*\*

## **NINE**

Intensive, community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans, particularly those members and veterans located in rural areas, provided the care is consistent with minimum clinical mental health guidelines promulgated by the Veterans Health Administration, including clinical guidelines contained in the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook of such Administration\*\*

\*CCBHC must directly provide \*\*May be provided by CCBHC and/or DCO

# What happens to states that aren't chosen for the initial demonstration period?

Currently, 24 states are planning their participation in the demonstration; unfortunately, SAMHSA can only fund 8 of the 24 states in this initial program. The National Council is working hard to secure funding for all the 24 states who have drafted proposals. Let your Member of Congress know you support funding all 24 states.

## What are the intended outcomes for CCBHC patients?

- Seamless transitions for patients across the full spectrum of health services
- Patient and family satisfaction with program participation
- Reduced mortality
- Reduced suicide rates
- Reduced substance abuse
- Reduced hospitalization
- Reduced rates of incarceration
- Reduced rates of homelessness

For help meeting the CCBHC criteria, contact us at [coresolutions.com](http://coresolutions.com) or 610.687.6080.