

June 24, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito,

Thank you very much for your dedication, efforts, and support for continuing to strengthen lifesaving and critical mental health and substance use service access for individuals and families across our country.

Today we, the undersigned, are writing to strongly urge you to include funding for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Expansion Grants in the FY 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill at a funding level of \$553 million.

As our country continues to face mental health, substance use, and workforce shortage crises, we are immensely grateful for Congress' historic support for this approach to care that data have shown helps to bolster the workforce and strengthen access to timely and quality care for Americans in need. CCBHCs are on the front lines of the nation's crises, improving access for millions of Americans to receive medically necessary mental health and substance use services. Since launching in 2017, CCBHCs have dramatically improved access to a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services to individuals in vulnerable situations; such services include, for example, 24/7 crisis services as a part of the 988 crisis system, hiring hundreds of new substance use-focused clinicians, expanding medication assisted treatment, and reducing patient wait times. CCBHCs are a successful, integrated, and modern way of delivering 21st century mental health and substance use care to individuals and families.

We also recognize the realities of the current funding environment and wish to uplift that further investment in this program continues to be a critical step in ameliorating the complex crises we face that have serious costs to individuals, families, and our nation if individuals are unable to access the right care at the right time. Making the investment here supports cost savings in other services; one study has shown that for every dollar invested into early care and treatment for mental health and substance use challenges, there is a \$2-\$10 return in savings on health, criminal and justice, education, and economic

costs.¹ CCBHCs are an essential way to reach people with medically necessary care that also helps to stave off costs downstream or in more expensive settings. For example, CCBHCs have been shown to decrease emergency and inpatient hospital admissions, which are particularly costly settings for care that can be circumvented with appropriate care early on. One CCBHC established grantee reported, “... a 75% reduction in inpatient admissions, a 64% reduction in use of emergency department care, and a \$99 per-member per month cost savings, [...], that results in \$25M overall savings.” Further positively impacting the economy are the implications on the country’s workforce that strengthening the CCBHC model has shown. Recent data show that Medicaid CCBHCs and established grantees hired 11,292 new staff positions, staffing new and sorely needed mental health and substance use jobs across the nation.²

Moreover, data have continuously shown that CCBHCs are making a difference in communities throughout our nation. Today, there are nearly 500 CCBHCs across 46 states and territories (offering services in 40% of all U.S. counties, covering 62% of the nation’s population) serving an estimated 3 million people nationwide. Key findings from across the U.S. include:^{3,4}

- **Improved access to services:** Medicaid CCBHCs report a 33% increase in the number of individuals served; 60% of CCBHCs report the number of individuals engaged in medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder has increased since becoming a CCBHC.
- **Timely connection to care:** More than 80% of CCBHCs see clients for routine needs within 10 days of the initial call or referral, in contrast to the national average of 48 days.
 - CCBHCs decreased emergency room visits by 55%, reduced mental health care hospitalization by 55%, and decreased homelessness measured in the past 30 days by 31%.
- **Strengthening the Workforce:** Medicaid CCBHCs have reported increased hiring, adding a median of 22 new positions per clinic.

Funding for FY2025 CCBHC Expansion Grants at the above recommended level would allow for the grant program to grow its reach and enable grantees to continue their successful work in communities across the country. Such funding would support continuation of current CCBHC grantees’ services and would award approximately 161 new grantees, greatly improving access to lifesaving services for more Americans.

We greatly appreciate your time and consideration of the recommended funding for the CCBHC Expansion Grant program. We welcome any questions or further discussion regarding the comments described here; please contact Reyna Taylor, Sr. Vice President, Public Policy & Advocacy, National Council for Mental Wellbeing at ReynaT@thenationalcouncil.org. Thank you very much for your dedication and efforts on this important issue.

¹ <https://psu.pb.unizin.org/bbh143/chapter/7-4-prevention-of-substance-abuse-and-mental-illness-by-samhsa/>

² <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/resources/2024-ccbhc-impact-report/>

³ <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/program/ccbhc-success-center/ccbhc-overview/ccbhc-data-impact/>

⁴ <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2025-budget-in-brief.pdf>

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists

American Counseling Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

First Focus Campaign for Children

National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

NCQA - National Committee for Quality Assurance

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

National League for Nursing

Psychotherapy Action Network

The Kennedy Forum

Treatment Communities of America

Vibrant Emotional Health

State and Local Organizations

Alabama Council for Behavioral Healthcare

Alabama

Alaska Behavioral Health Association

Alaska

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California

CT Community Nonprofit Alliance

Connecticut

JSSA	DC, MD, VA
Gaudenzia, Inc	DC, DE, MD, PA
Georgia Association of Community Service Boards	Georgia
Avita Community Partners	Georgia
Bridge Health	Georgia
Casa-Trinity Inc.	Georgia
Douglas County Community Service Board	Georgia
Gateway Community Service Board	Georgia
Advantage Behavioral Health Systems	Georgia
Legacy Behavioral Health Services	Georgia
New Horizons Behavioral Health	Georgia
Pineland Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities	Georgia
Unison Behavioral Health	Georgia
View Point Health	Georgia
Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF)	Illinois
McHenry County Mental Health Board	Illinois
Cummins Behavioral Health Systems, Inc.	Indiana
Edgewater Health	Indiana
Family Health Center	Indiana
Hamilton Center, Inc.	Indiana
INcompass Healthcare	Indiana
Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers	Indiana
Northeastern Center, Inc.	Indiana
Oaklawn Psychiatric Center	Indiana
Porter-Starke Services	Indiana
Radiant Health	Indiana
Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.	Indiana
Southwestern Healthcare, Inc.	Indiana
Swanson Center	Indiana
Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas	Kansas
Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland	Maryland
Cornerstone Montgomery	Maryland
HealthPort	Maryland
Key Point Health Services Inc.	Maryland
Sheppard Pratt	Maryland
Alluma	Minnesota
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation	Minnesota
Central Minnesota Mental Health Center	Minnesota

Fraser	Minnesota
Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center	Minnesota
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs	Minnesota
North Homes Children and Family Services	Minnesota
Northland Counseling Center, Inc.	Minnesota
Range Mental Health Center	Minnesota
South Central Human Relations Center	Minnesota
Western Mental Health Center	Minnesota
Woodland Centers	Minnesota
Zumbro Valley Health Center	Minnesota
Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana	Montana
Acenda Integrated Health	New Jersey
Bright Harbor Healthcare	New Jersey
CPC Integrated Health	New Jersey
Declarations, Inc.	New Jersey
Family and Children's Services	New Jersey
Hunterdon Health	New Jersey
Integrity	New Jersey
Maryville, Inc.	New Jersey
Mental Health Center of Passaic	New Jersey
Monmouth Medical Center	New Jersey
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.	New Jersey
SERV Behavioral Health System, Inc.	New Jersey
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare	New York
Access: Supports for Living Inc.	New York
Delphi Rise	New York
Family & Children's Association (FCA)	New York
Family Services, Inc.	New York
Horizon Health Alliance	New York
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services	New York
Pinnacle Community Services	New York
South Shore Guidance Center (EPIC LI)	New York
Spectrum Health and Human Services	New York
Upstate Caring Partners	New York
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers	Ohio
Columbia Community Mental Health	Oregon
LifeWorks NW	Oregon

Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH)
Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness
CenClear Child Services
Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI
TAADAS
Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley Inc

Oregon
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Tennessee
Wyoming