

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics A QUICK GLANCE

Legislative Update January 2026



The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Model, which launched as a federal initiative in 2014, is designed to improve access, quality, and coordination of comprehensive behavioral health care across **nine core services** including mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

In January 2025, DSS began to evaluate this model through a CCBHC Planning Grant from SAMHSA. This model aims to strengthen the behavioral health system by ensuring integrated, accessible, person-centered care meets the unique needs of the communities served across rural, frontier, and urban communities.



Behavioral Health
Crisis Services



Screening, Assessment
& Diagnosis



Person-Centered
Treatment Planning



Outpatient Mental
Health & SUD Services



Primary Care Screening
& Monitoring



Targeted Case
Management Services



Psychiatric
Rehabilitation Services



Peer Support Services



Community Care for
Military and Veterans

What are the benefits to South Dakota?

System-level cost reductions

- ✓ **Reduced system-wide emergency service costs**
CCBHCs coordinate with hospitals, law enforcement, and emergency services to create a no-wrong-door approach. This means crisis calls get routed to behavioral health professionals first, which can prevent crisis situations that often lead to costly emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and law enforcement involvement.
- ✓ **Lower incarceration costs**
Many individuals with untreated mental health or substance use disorders end up in the criminal justice system. CCBHCs provide early intervention and treatment, reducing jail admissions and associated taxpayer expenses.
- ✓ **Better health outcomes result in lower long-term cost**
Effective treatment and recovery support decrease chronic health issues and disability claims, reducing strain on Medicaid and other state-funded programs.

Enhanced crisis care capacity and sustainability

- ✓ **Coordinated crisis continuum**
The model essentially transforms crisis care from a reactive, fragmented emergency response into a coordinated, recovery-oriented system built into comprehensive ongoing care. When someone calls in crisis, they're connected to the same care system that will provide their follow-up care, preventing gaps that often lead to recurring crises or hospitalizations.
- ✓ **Ensures crisis capacity remains in place long-term**
CCBHCs integrate crisis care in the broader continuum of care so communities don't experience service gaps when grant-funded crisis programs end.

Increased efficiency and improved care delivery

- ✓ **Incentivizes outcomes over volume**
Rates are set to reflect the true cost of delivering required services, structured in a way that better supports workforce stability, crisis infrastructure, and care coordination staffing and supports.
- ✓ **Improved efficiency through integration of services**
CCBHCs coordinate care across mental health, substance use, and physical health services, reducing duplication of efforts and the number of trips rural patients, in particular, need to take to access comprehensive care.
- ✓ **Team-based, whole-person care**
CCBHCs are designed to identify and address the unique needs of the population it serves including children, adolescents, veterans, and tribal citizens, provided by a multidisciplinary care team delivering evidence-based approaches as part of a collaboratively developed, patient-centered treatment plan.



Integrated Behavioral Health System via CCBHC Certification and Collaborative Care Expansion

Supported through Rural Health Transformation and CCBHC Planning Efforts

South Dakota will enhance its Behavioral Health Care System to expand regional coverage, provide timely access to care, and integrate clinical improvement standards.

- The **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Model**, through certified clinics, provides comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care through same-day access, 24/7 crisis services, and integrated physical and behavioral health care.
- The **Collaborative Care Model**, through primary care settings, coordinates care between physicians, behavioral health case managers, and psychiatric consultants.

Together, these evidence-based models will serve as the foundation for delivering high-quality behavioral health care closer to home for rural and frontier patients. When both models are in place, they will work in tandem to provide unified, coordinated support.

90-DAY PLAN

Jan - Mar 2026

2026 Goals

Initial phases of the project aim to shape a scope of services and reimbursement methodology for CCBHC and Collaborative Care systems across South Dakota, informed by stakeholders internal and external to DSS.

Clinic Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial cohort of behavioral health clinics seeking provisional certification identified and in progress on cost reporting to inform scope of services and rate determinations
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder Steering Committee established, including potential providers, partners, and members of key state departments• Stakeholder input gathered on scope of services, access standards, prospective payment rate methodology, and data/reporting
CCBHC Scope of Services & Certification Standards Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowable services defined within the required core CCBHC service areas• Determination of crisis care service requirements for CCBHCs• Draft CCBHC Certification Manual complete
CCBHC Service Delivery Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansion or infrastructure resources needed in order to meet access standards identified among initial cohort of clinics• Identification of Designated Collaborating Organizations (DCOs) for initial cohort of clinics
Payment System Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PPS rate methodology selected• Preliminary cost report efforts among initial cohort in progress
Training & Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary training plan for CCBHC providers complete
Data Compliance, Quality Assurance, & Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identified system gaps and needs for data sharing among provider EHRs and state data systems
Bonus or Incentive Based Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established preliminary framework of a potential incentive-based plan
Collaborative Care Model Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine scope and target population and regions/communities for engagement
Sustainability Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of workforce development gaps and needs to implement these models



CCBHC Infrastructure Development & Certification

Establish the foundational certification process, provisional certification of at least two CCBHCs, publication of the Certification Manual, and development of partnership agreements and care coordination networks across the service continuum.



Payment Systems & Financial Sustainability

Development of PPS rate methodology, cost reporting and audit procedures, determination of incentive-based payment models, assessment of funding sources including potential CCBHC Demonstration grant pursuit, and completion of fiscal impact analysis.



Data Systems & Quality Management

Design and deployment of data sharing systems, establishment of outcomes reporting and population health management standards, development of monitoring and oversight regulations, and creation of quality assurance framework.



Stakeholder Engagement & Capacity Building

Gather stakeholder input on CCBHC criteria and standards, expand Mobile Crisis Response and Collaborative Care model capacity, establish ongoing training and technical assistance plans, and conduct Community Health Needs Assessments.



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