

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)

Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs)

SM-22-002: CCBHC–Planning Development and Implementation (CCBHC–PDI)

SM-22-012: CCBHC–Improvement and Advancement (CCBHC–IA)

NOFO Clarifications

Letters of Commitment from Service Provider Organizations

While CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFOs both require letters of commitment from all direct service provider organizations that have agreed to partner in the proposed project (see Section IV.2 of the Notices of Funding Opportunity), only letters from Designated Collaborating Organizations (DCOs) will be considered by reviewers in rating and scoring of applications. As stated in the Evaluation Criteria of each NOFO (see Section V.2. under Section D. Staff and Organizational Experience), the letters should include (a) the services the DCO plans to provide under the umbrella of the CCBHC and (b) an assurance that they have at least two years of experience providing those services.

Eligibility to apply for CCBHC-PDI NOFO SM-22-002

The intent of the CCBHC-PDI Notice of Funding Opportunity (SM-22-002) is for the development of new CCBHCs. An organization that currently operates a clinic as a Medicaid Demonstration program site, a CCBHC-Expansion grant site, or a site that is certified by the state may be eligible to apply for the CCBHC-PDI NOFO if the organization intends to establish a new CCBHC serving a new geographic catchment area that will be able to meet the CCBHC Certification Criteria requirements within a year of award, as long as the organization and the proposed new clinic meet all other eligibility requirements.

Letter from the State

The intent of the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO requirement for a letter from the state is to facilitate state awareness of clinics that are applying for SAMHSA CCBHC grants and for states to provide general concurrence with organization's decision to apply. There is no expectation that states will perform in-depth reviews of applications or be required to support or sustain successful applicants post award. In addition, the state has the option of indicating intent to serve as the CCBHC certifying body for the applicant organization; however, the state is not required to certify CCBHCs, and applicants will not be penalized if the state does not affirm intent to certify.

FAQs

- **Which NOFO should my organization apply to?**

There are two NOFOs that were released by SAMHSA in FY2022, SM-22-002 (CCBHC–PDI) and SM-22-012 (CCBHC–IA). The CCBHC–PDI NOFO (SM-22-002) is geared towards CCBHCs that are not fully established at the time of application/award. The CCBHC-IA NOFO (SM-22-012) is for existing CCBHCs that have been certified by their State or that have received a prior SAMHSA CCBHC-E grant to serve the geographic area identified in the application and have received acceptance by SAMHSA of their attestation of meeting the CCBHC Certification Criteria requirements.

- **Are state agencies eligible to apply?**

The CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFOs are designed to support behavioral health care services organizations increase access to and deliver comprehensive mental health and SUD services to individuals across the life span. Eligible applicants include organizations that are part of a local government health authority. A CCBHC is considered part of a local government behavioral health authority when a locality, county, region, or state maintains authority to oversee behavioral health services at the local level and utilizes the clinic to provide those services. (see Section III.1 of the NOFO).

- **Are for-profit organizations eligible to apply?**

No. As stated in Appendix C of both the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFOs, “For-profit organizations and foreign entities are not eligible to apply for SAMHSA grants.”

- **Are Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) eligible to apply?**

There is no restriction on FQHCs applying to either NOFO. FQHCs are encouraged to review the NOFOs to determine if they meet (a) the eligibility requirements listed in Section III.1 Eligibility Information and (b) the requirements listed under Evidence of Experience and Credentials (see page 20 of CCBHC-PDI, SM-22-002 and page 21 of CCBHC-IA, SM-22-012). They should also review the required activities and expectations to determine whether they have the capacity to meet the expectations of the respective NOFO.

- **Our agency was awarded a SAMHSA CCBHC-E grant in the past. Are we eligible to apply?**

If you were awarded a previous SAMHSA CCBHC expansion grant, with the exception of CCBHC-E (SM-21-013) funded in 2021, you are eligible to apply for the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO. You may be eligible to apply for the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) NOFO if you plan

to create a new clinic that is serving different catchment area than your first grant and that will be able to meet the CCBHC Certification Criteria requirements within a year of award.

- **Our agency received a CCBHC-Expansion grant under SM-21-13. Are we eligible to apply?**

No, you are not eligible to apply for either the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-012) or the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO.

- **If our agency received a CCBHC-Expansion grant that began prior to August 2021, are we eligible to apply for the CCBHC-PDI NOFO (SM-22-002) if we want to start a new CCBHC in a new geographic catchment area?**

Yes, your agency is eligible to apply to establish a new CCBHC serving a new geographic catchment area that will be able to meet the CCBHC Certification Criteria requirements within a year of award, as long as the organization and the proposed new clinic meet all other eligibility requirements.

- **If we are certified by our state, are we eligible to apply for either of the NOFOs?**

You are eligible to apply for CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012), as long as you meet all other Eligibility Requirements under Section III. Eligibility Information. If your clinic is certified by the state, you are NOT eligible to apply for the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002). Please see pg. 8 of the NOFO, which states, "The intent of this program is for new CCBHCs." For clinics that had been certified in their state, but are not any longer being certified by the state as a CCBHC at the time of application, they should apply for the CCBHC-PDI NOFO (SM-22-002)

- **Does applying for another SAMHSA grant impact out opportunity to apply for this grant?**

Applying for another grant should not impact your ability to apply for either of the CCBHC funding opportunities, as long as your organization meets the NOFO requirements and has the capacity to meet all grant requirement and implement more than one award.

- **We are an organization looking to establish a CCBHC for the first time, but we have almost all the certification criteria already in place. Is the CCBHC-PDI opportunity still appropriate for us or should we apply for the CCBHC-IA?**

CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) is a funding opportunity for clinics that are not fully established as a CCBHC at the time of application/award. The CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO is for clinics that are already certified by their State or that attested to meeting the CCBHC certification criteria under a prior CCBHC-Expansion grant except for those that received awards under SM-21-013. Please see the Section III of each NOFO for details for eligibility requirements. While the CCBHC-PDI requires grant recipients to meet the CCBHC certification criteria by

the end of the first grant year, there is nothing preventing grant recipients from doing this sooner.

- **Do CCBHCs have to serve all ages?**

Yes, per Section I.1 of both CCBHC-PDI and CCBHC-IA NOFOs, SAMHSA expects that this program will improve behavioral health care for individuals across the lifespan (i.e., children, adolescents and transition age youth, adults, and older adults) by supporting providers to operate in accordance with the Federal CCBHC criteria. Furthermore, the CCBHC certification criteria (4.b.1) require that, "Services for children and youth are family-centered, youth-guided, and developmentally appropriate."

- **If we apply for either the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) or the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO, does the CCBHC have to provide both mental health and substance use disorder treatment directly?**

Yes, to meet the CCBHC Certification Criteria, a CCBHC must directly provide outpatient mental health and substance use disorder services directly, although the clinic may also use a Designated Collaborating Organization (DCO) to provide specialty services (see the CCBHC Certification Criteria for additional information at:

https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/ccbhc-criteria.pdf).

Please review each NOFO regarding eligibility criteria as there are different requirements for what needs to be in place re delivery of mental health and substance use treatment at the time of application. Also, please review the required activities under each NOFO for details on requirements for implementation of services in alignment with the Certification Criteria.

- **Are we allowed to deliver in-patient services under either of the NOFOs?**

No, per Section IV.5 of the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFOs, grant funds may not be used to provide services for in-patient settings, residential/inpatient substance abuse treatment facilities, or jails and prisons with the exception of in-reach, treatment planning, and transitional service to facilitate seamless coordination with community-based mental health and SUD services. Note that services at provided at temporary crisis stabilization settings are allowable.

- **Are we required to use Designated Collaborating Organizations (DCOs) under either of the NOFOs?**

No, neither the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) nor the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO require the use of DCOs, as long as the applicant clinic is able to provide directly all nine (9) core services required under the CCBHC Certification Criteria.

- **Will we have to collect clinic-level quality measures for this grant?**

Yes, grant recipients for both CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFOs will be required to collect data on the clinic-level quality measures required under the CCBHC Certification Criteria and report on these data in the annual progress performance report starting at the end of the second grant year (See NOFO Section I.6. Data Collection/Performance Measurement and Project Performance Assessment). Additional information about the collection of quality measures will be provided post award.

- **If my state indicates that it does not intend to certify our clinic as a CCBHC in the state letter, will that adversely impact my application?**

No, neither the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) nor the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO require that the state certify CCBHCs. The letter allows the state to indicate whether the state plans to certify.

- **What is the difference between the letter from the State (Attachment 10) and the letter to the Single State Agency (Attachment 6) required in both the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFOs?**

Per both NOFOs, applications must include, as Attachment 10, a letter from the state indicating the state's concurrence and general approval of the applicant's proposal to improve and advance a CCBHC within the state. to provide general concurrence with organization's decision to apply. There is no expectation that states will perform in-depth reviews of applications or be required to support or sustain successful applicants post award. In the letter, the state also should indicate whether or not it plans to be a CCBHC certifying body for the applicant organization. The state is not required to certify CCBHCs, and applicants will not be penalized if the state does not affirm intent to certify.

The application must also include a Public Health Impact Statement (PHSIS) as Attachment 7 if the following apply:

- Your state does not participate in the Intergovernmental Review (E.O. 12372) process and has not designated a Single State Point of Contact (SPOC), **and**
- You are a community-based, non-governmental service provider.

If you are a state or local government or American Indian/Alaska Native tribe or tribal organization, you are not subject to these requirements. The PHSIS must also be submitted to the head(s) of appropriate state and local health agencies in the area(s) to be affected no later than the application deadline. The PHSIS is intended to keep state and local health officials informed of proposed health services grant applications submitted by community-based, non-governmental organizations within their jurisdictions. The PHSIS consists of the following information:

- A copy of the first page of the application (SF-424); and

- A summary of the project, no longer than one page in length that provides: 1) a description of the population to be served; 2) a summary of the services to be provided; and 3) a description of the coordination planned with appropriate state or local health agencies.

Please see Appendix J of the NOFO for complete information on the requirements related to the Intergovernmental Review (E.O. 12372) requirements. If you are a state or local government or American Indian/Alaska Native tribe or tribal organization, you are not subject to these requirements.

- **Does my organization need to be certified as a CCBHC to apply?**

Neither the CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) nor the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO require that applicants be certified as a CCBHC. CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) requires that applicant clinics be either existing state-certified CCBHCs or CCBHCs that have successfully met all certification criteria and had their attestation accepted under a prior SAMHSA CCBHC-Expansion grant award within the past two years. (See Section I.7. Demonstration of Compliance with CCBHC Certification Requirements and Section III.3. Eligibility Information, Other Requirements.)

For prior CCBHC-E grant recipients that have had their attestation under a previous CCBHC-E grant accepted by SAMHSA, they can apply to the CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFO despite not being certified (note: SAMHSA does not certify CCBHCs through the CCBHC-E grant program but accepts the attestations of grant recipients that they meet the CCBHC Certification after review of an attestation submission).

- **We are interested in the Implementation Science Pilot allowable activity. How much information do we need to provide in our application?**

As indicated in the Section 1.4 of both CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) NOFOs and the link with additional information about the implementation science pilot (see <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/ccbhc-implementation-science-pilot.pdf>), applicants may propose to engage in (and dedicate a portion of their budgets to) activities that would assist with the implementation of and adherence to appropriate evidence-based treatments and practices for individuals with complex behavioral and physical health needs. Applicants should indicate their intention to participate in the implementation science pilot in Attachment 12 of your application. Successful applicants will be permitted to submit a budget revision upon implementation of the pilot. Following award, the SAMHSA-funded CCBHC-E National Technical Assistance and Training Center (CCBHC-E NTTAC) and SAMHSA will work with recipients to ensure they have every opportunity to partner and brainstorm project ideas with a researcher. Throughout the project period, grant recipients will be expected to engage with the CCBHC-E NTTAC (<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/ccbhc-e-nttac/>). Areas of TTA support include:

- 1) Information from a literature review that will identify best practices and evidence-based/evidence-informed treatments for various categories of psychiatric disorders, strategies to address gaps in the delivery and knowledge of available practices, including implementation science models, and adaptations that may be needed for various populations.
- 2) Needs assessment and informal discussions early in the project to better understand barriers and facilitators to implementing EBPs and evidence-informed practices.
- 3) Ongoing technical assistance with their grant implementation science projects.