

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)
Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
SM-23-016: CCBHC–Improvement and Advancement (CCBHC–IA)

NOFO Clarifications

Letters of Commitment from Service Provider Organizations

The CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO requires 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). As stated in the Evaluation Criteria of the 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-IA NOFO SM-23-016

The intent of the CCBHC-IA NOFO (SM-23-016) is to support CCBHCs that have been certified by their states or that participated in a previous CCBHC-Expansion award to further expand or improve their CCBHC services. This funding opportunity is available to eligible organizations who are in compliance with the CCBHC Certification Criteria as demonstrated by state certification OR by SAMHSA acceptance of CCBHC Certification Attestation of meeting the CCBHC Certification Criteria within the past two years. **Applications that do not comply with this requirement will be screened out and will not be reviewed (Page 8 of the NOFO).**

Eligible organizations may submit separate applications for more than one clinic (e.g., a state or provider organization applying on behalf of multiple clinics). It is recommended that you review the information on eligibility in Appendix C of the NOFO.

Definition of a Clinic

For the purposes of CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO, a CCBHC is defined as a behavioral health provider clinic that is individually responsible for meeting the six CCBHC criteria requirements

and all nine services in a manner that meets or exceeds the standards set in the CCBHC certification criteria.

Clarification on Eligibility for prior CCBHC-Expansion Grant recipients

If you were awarded a previous SAMHSA CCBHC grant, with the exception of CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) funded in 2022, you are eligible to apply for the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO, as long as you meet all other eligibility requirements. If your organization received a CCBHC-Expansion grant in FY2020 or in FY2021 and the clinic that was supported under that grant received GPO acceptance of the attestation of meeting the CCBHC Certification Criteria more than two (2) years prior, your organization may be eligible to apply for the CCBHC-IA NOFO (SM-23-016) to expand or improve that clinic as long as you meet all other eligibility requirements. Note that, if the SAMHSA attestation acceptance for the clinic was received more than two years ago, the applicant organization will be expected to submit an updated attestation based on an updated Community Needs Assessment following award, if the application is successful.

FAQs

- **Should my organization apply to the CCBHC-IA NOFO or the CCBHC-PDI NOFO?**

There are two NOFOs that were released by SAMHSA in FY2023, SM-23-024 (CCBHC-PDI) and SM-23-016 (CCBHC-IA). The CCBHC-PDI NOFO (SM-23-024) is geared towards CCBHCs that are not fully established at the time of application/award. The CCBHC-IA NOFO (SM-23-016) 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-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO is 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 the CCCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO, “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 the CCCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO. FQHCs are encouraged to review the NOFO 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 22). They should also review the required activities and expectations to determine whether they have the capacity to meet the expectations of the respective NOFO.

- **If we are certified by our state, are we eligible to apply for this NOFO?**

You are eligible to apply for CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016), as long as you meet all other Eligibility Requirements under Section III. Eligibility Information. Clinics who were previously certified in their state, but are not any longer being certified by the state as a CCBHC at the time of application are not eligible to apply for this NOFO, but they may be eligible to apply for the CCBHC-PDI NOFO (SM-23-024), as long as they meet all other Eligibility Requirements under Section III. Eligibility Information: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-23-024>

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

Applying for another grant does not impact your ability to apply for the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO and vice versa, 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-IA opportunity still appropriate for us or should we apply for the CCBHC-PDI?**

The CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO is for clinics that are already certified by their State or that attested to meeting the CCBHC certification criteria under a prior CCBHC grant except for those that received awards under CCBHC-PDI (SM-22-002) and CCBHC-IA (SM-22-012) funded in 2022. CCBHC-PDI (SM-23-024) is a funding opportunity for clinics that are not fully established as a CCBHC at the time of application/award. 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.

Applicants who apply to the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO must submit one of the following or they will be screened out (page 20):

- A copy of their application for state certification and a copy of the state's certification notice or approval;

OR

- If not certified by the state, a copy of communication from SAMHSA accepting an attestation as a part of a previous CCBHC-Expansion award along with any supporting documentation provided to SAMHSA that demonstrated certification compliance.

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

Yes, please refer to page 5 of the CCBHC-IA NOFO (SM-23-016). As italicized, a CCBHC is required to meet the need of any individual seeking care, regardless of age. "The purpose of this program is to transform community behavioral health systems and provide comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care by: (a) assisting organizations in the planning for and development and implementation of a new CCBHC that meets the CCBHC Certification Criteria (b) providing a comprehensive range of outreach, screening, assessment, treatment, care coordination, and recovery supports based on a needs assessment that aligns with the CCBHC Certification Criteria, and (c) supporting recovery from mental

illness and/or substance use disorders (SUD) by providing access to high-quality mental health and SUD services, regardless of an individual's ability to pay.”

Please also refer to I.3. REQUIRED ACTIVITIES, page 22 and 23 for the NOFO, specifically the following:

“The applicant organization must be an existing licensed mental health or SUD provider that is capable of becoming licensed, certified, and/or approved by the state, territory, or American Indian/Alaska Native tribe or tribal organization to provide both mental health and SUD services to individuals of all ages at the time-of-service delivery, i.e., twelve months after award.” However, the NOFO also requires that successful applicants provide at least five of the nine required core service by six months after award, and, within one year of the grant, provide all nine core services for individuals with or at risk for both mental health and substance use disorders across the life span (children and adults). (See Section I.3. Required Services.) You will have to determine how your organization will meet the requirements for eligibility and for implementation of required activities in your proposed approach.

- **If we apply for the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) 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 services (see the CCBHC Certification Criteria for additional information at:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/ccbhc-criteria-2023.pdf>.

Please review the NOFO regarding Eligibility Criteria starting on page 20, 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 starting on page 9 for details on requirements for implementation of services in alignment with the Certification Criteria.

- **Are we allowed to deliver in-patient services under this NOFO?**

No, per Section IV.5, page 29 of the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO, 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 this NOFO?**

No, the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO does not 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, recipients of the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO are 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, beginning in the second year. Guidance on collection and reporting of clinic-level quality measures will be provided following award. Recipients must adhere to any guidance and adjustments related to the measures provided by HHS. Please refer to page 14 of the NOFO.

- **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, the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO does not 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 Mental Health Authority (Attachment 10) and the letter to the Single State Agency (Attachment 6) required in the NOFO?**

Per the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO, applications must include, as Attachment 10, a letter from the state mental health authority 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.

In addition, if your state does not participate in the Intergovernmental Review (E.O. 12372) process, has not designated a Single State Point of Contact (SPOC), **and** you are a community-based, non-governmental service provider, the application must also include a Public Health Impact Statement (PHSIS) as Attachment 6 (see Appendix J for more details).

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?**

The CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO does not require that applicants be certified as a CCBHC. It does however require 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 program grant award. (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 approved under a previous CCBHC-E grant accepted by SAMHSA, they can apply to the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) 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 applied last year but were not awarded, can we use the letters from last year for this application?**

Please see Section IV.2, page 25 of the NOFO for requirements related to Attachment 1 and Letters of Commitment, which are required from all DCOs (if you are using DCOs) and any other direct service provider organizations or other entities with which you have established an MOA/MOU to the support the proposed project.

Attachment 1: Direct Service Provider Organizations

1. A list of direct service provider organizations to include all DCOs and other entities that have established Memoranda of Agreement or Understanding to support the proposed project.
2. Letters of Commitment from these direct service provider organizations.

- **I heard that the most recent cohort of IA grants were required to develop a random sampling plan of NOMS data. Will that same requirement apply to selected grantees of the CCBHC-IA (SM-23-016) NOFO?**

At this time, SAMHSA does not intend to change the existing requirement that CCBHC-IA grant recipients collect NOMS data from a random sample of CCBHC service recipients. Additional information will be provided following award.