

CCBHC Certification Results Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. For providers with a designation of ‘Not Certified – Application Remains Open’: What exactly is the process for continuing review? When can we be reconsidered for contingent or full certification?**

The State Team will work closely with each provider to assist them in understanding any unmet criteria. Providers will be able to request a re-evaluation in alignment with the following dates (12/1/23, 2/1/24, 4/1/24, 6/1/24, 8/1/24). To do so, they will submit their supplemental materials and potentially complete a second site visit with the State Team to demonstrate progress towards satisfying key deficits identified in the initial application review. The State Team will make a determination regarding if the provider has met the requirements to be Contingently or Fully Certified. The provider will then need to work with the State Team to update staffing and cost reports as needed, initiate the MCO contracting process, and determine a billing start date.

Update: The State will begin accepting submission of full packages of supplemental materials from providers beginning 10/1/23. Providers should resubmit when they feel they are able to fully meet the requirements for contingent or full certification. Note, the State is prioritizing closing out open Certification and Cost Reporting requirements for the providers who are currently Contingently Certified first. This means the State likely will not be review these submitted materials in-depth until mid-October at the earliest. This means additional providers may achieve contingent or full certification status during Year 1 of the CCBHC program (currently slated for February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024), but not before the start of it.

- 2. For providers with a designation of ‘Not Certified – Application Closed’ and providers who have not submitted a prior application: When does the next application cycle start?**

The State will begin accepting applications for Year 2 of the program mid-January, 2024.

- 3. Why did the State decide to only contingently certify three CCBHCs? What happens to Rhode Islanders who don’t live in those catchment areas?**

The established CCBHC certification standards, criteria, and application evaluation process reflect the State’s mission and priority to ensure access to high quality services for all Rhode Islanders. All applicants are evaluated based on their demonstrated ability to meet the established certification requirements and their readiness to deliver the required CCBHC services with fidelity as of the slated program go-live date of February 1, 2024 (pending CMS authority and system readiness).

The State will continue to honor individual consumer choice. Any Rhode Islander can seek or continue to receive quality behavioral health services and supports at a non CCBHC-certified behavioral health provider site within their catchment area (as determined by their residential zip code). In this scenario, the provider would bill and be reimbursed for rendered services at the current fee-for-service (FFS) rate, rather than the prospective payment system (PPS) rate for CCBHCs.

If a Rhode Islander chooses to receive services from a CCBHC provider site outside of their designated catchment area, they may elect to do so, and the State will attribute them to the CCBHC of their choice. A 'request for transfer' process is currently under development by the State. This will be implemented before the slated program go-live date of February 1st.

4. Can Rhode Islanders continue to seek behavioral health services and supports from providers who aren't certified as CCBHCs?

Yes, the State will continue to honor individual consumer choice. Any Rhode Islander can seek, or continue to receive behavioral health services and supports at a non-CCBHC-certified behavioral health provider site within their catchment area (as determined by their residential zip code). In this scenario, the provider would bill for and be reimbursed for rendered services at the current fee-for-service (FFS) rate, rather than the prospective payment system (PPS) rate for CCBHCs.

5. Can Rhode Islanders go to the CCBHCs if they live in other catchment areas?

Yes, the State will continue to honor individual consumer choice. If a Rhode Islander chooses to receive services from a CCBHC provider site outside of their designated catchment area, they may elect to do so and the State will attribute them to the CCBHC of their choice. A 'request for transfer' process is currently under development by the State. This will be implemented before the slated program go-live date of February 1st.

6. If a provider is not certified as a CCBHC, what does that mean for its CCBHC Infrastructure Grant? Can these providers still spend the Phase 2 funding that they have been awarded? Are they still eligible to apply for Phase 3 funding?

Yes – current CCBHC Infrastructure Grantees may continue to spend the Phase 2 funding that they have been awarded. In addition, they remain eligible to apply for Phase 3 funding.

The intent of the Infrastructure Grant Program is to support the continued development of our State's providers to serve as CCBHCs. The State remains committed to this goal and investment, and will continue to work in partnership with providers to build their capacity and enhance their readiness to implement the CCBHC model, via the Grant Program which includes funding and free provider technical assistance (TA).

7. We're a community organization that wants to be a Designated Collaborating Organization (DCO) and we weren't chosen as one with the existing CCBHCs. What do we do to stay involved in the CCBHC process?

The State sees DCOs as integral partners in improving our behavioral health system and we are committed to expanding the CCBHC program by encouraging and CCBHCs to work with DCOs to expand their reach and quality and to exploring ways to incentivize these partnerships.

CCBHCs have the ability to build additional DCO partnership over time to strengthen the services they provide to all Rhode Islanders – and the State will be encouraging them to do so. Phase 3 Infrastructure Grant funding will be devoted to supporting the establishment of such agreements.

8. How will the State continue to support additional or new CCBHC applicants that are not certified to start on February 1st, to further grow the State’s CCBHC network over time?

The State remains committed to supporting the continued development of community partners/providers to serve as CCBHCs and DCOs. We will continue to work in partnership with providers to build their capacity and enhance their readiness to implement the CCBHC model, via the current CCBHC Infrastructure Grant Program and no cost technical assistance (TA) to all current grantees.