



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS RECOMMENDATION #22: EXPAND AND SUSTAIN CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS

Recommendation Overview:

Montana, like many other states, is working to build an integrated mental health and substance use treatment system with sustainable funding. The state has made significant strides in addressing its behavioral health (BH) challenges by improving access to mental health and substance use services. **The department has identified the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model as a key component in its strategy for building a more integrated system and increasing access to community-based behavioral health care.** CCBHCs are specially designated clinics that provide coordinated BH care to anyone needing mental health or substance use services, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, age, or diagnosis.

In 2023 and 2025, DPHHS received Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) state planning grants to support a needs assessment and develop a reimbursement methodology for a future statewide CCBHC model. Four providers have received SAMHSA CCBHC planning grants for two or more years and are actively working with the department to meet the full requirements. **This recommendation aims to enhance the capacity and infrastructure of Montana’s BH system to adopt and sustain the CCBHC model statewide.** The department plans to submit its application in SFY26 to SAMHSA to become a CCBHC Medicaid demonstration state in SFY27.

Intended Impact:

This recommendation proposes enhancing the service capacity of adult and children’s behavioral health service delivery systems. Example performance measures for this recommendation may include:

- Decreased emergency department (ED) utilization.
- Increased workforce training and capacity.
- Increased follow-up after ED visit for mental illness.
- Increased access to community-based behavioral health services.

Governor’s Budget Amounts:





Funding by Year ¹		Funding Sources ²	
SFY26	SFY27	State Special Revenue	Federal Funds
\$0 ³	\$40.4M ³	\$8.5M ³	\$32.0M ³

This recommendation includes enhancing Montana’s capacity and infrastructure to adopt and sustain the CCBHC model statewide. The BHSFG funding request will support operations (including for data, technology, and indirect costs), state staffing for oversight and monitoring

(two FTEs), and vendor or contractor support such as grant writing, cost reporting, and evaluation activities. If awarded a CCBHC demonstration grant, the state will temporarily receive an enhanced federal match and then will develop a long-term sustainability plan focused on establishing a permanent state-based funding mechanism.⁴

Implementation Considerations:

The BHSFG Commission identified this Phase 2 recommendation as a leading focus area that may be influenced by the completion of a foundational recommendation and/or are non-foundational in nature.⁵ It is designated to receive funding in SFY27 in the Governor’s Budget.

Project Requirements	Project Needs
<p>Staffing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire two department staff for oversight and monitoring. • Engage a vendor or contractor support for grant writing, cost reporting, and evaluation activities.
<p>System / Infrastructure</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement state technology upgrades to enhance data management and reporting capabilities to support the CCBHC model effectively. • Adopt necessary Medicaid Management Information System changes, such as MMIS service codes and modifiers. • Assure Montana providers are ready to meet all SAMSHA requirements.
<p>Legislative / Regulatory</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet all CMS/ SAMHSA requirements. • Create operating policies and provider manual and revise the Medicaid Management Information System and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARMs).
<p>Finance / Sustainability</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish prospective payment system (PPS) rate for CCBHC services. • Allocate state funds and develop financial oversight mechanisms to support the demonstration program, including securing enhanced federal Medicaid match.

¹ In November 2024, Governor Gianforte authorized \$100M for SFY26 and SFY27 to implement 10 recommendations identified by the BHSFG Commission. The cost estimates for this recommendation in the BHSFG final report may vary due to the timing of projected expenditures and additional adjustments.

² Federal match is projected to cover part of ongoing costs but is not expected to begin immediately.

³ Budget figures and totals may vary due to rounding.

⁴ All long-term recurring program costs are assumed to be eligible for federal matching.

⁵ The BHSFG recommendations included in the Governor’s budget are all eight Phase 1 recommendations and two Phase 2 recommendations. Phase 1 Foundational Recommendations are those that build the needed infrastructure for subsequent recommendations to succeed and/or are critical to strengthening and sustaining system operations.