

## Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics: Vital to New York's Addiction Treatment

November 2018

Despite the surging opioid crisis, only one in every ten Americans with an addiction disorder will receive treatment in any given year.<sup>i</sup> To address this issue, Congress enacted the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program to fill the gaps in unmet need for addiction and mental health care and expand access to comprehensive, community-based treatment. Starting in 2017, sixty-six CCBHCs launched in eight states, including thirteen in New York. [Early experiences](#) from the program demonstrate how CCBHCs are dramatically improving access to addiction care.

### CCBHCs are Addressing the Opioid Epidemic in New York

CCBHCs are, for many communities in New York, the first integrated mental health and substance use treatment facility.

- 100% of New York's CCBHCs have expanded access to opioid treatment by training staff and community partners in naloxone administration.
- 95% of New York's CCBHCs hired new staff with addiction specialty or trained existing staff in addiction-focused competencies within their first six months of operation.
- 100% of New York's CCBHCs in May 2018 reported they had expanded the scope of their addiction service offerings, including launching or expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), the gold standard in addiction treatment.

### What will New York's Opioid Response Lose if they Lose CCBHCs?

CCBHCs have made tremendous strides in expanding access to lifesaving addiction treatment, but the two-year demonstration project is set to expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The end of the CCBHC initiative would mean the loss of the funding that has supported these treatment gains—resulting in program closures, staff layoffs and decreased addiction treatment access for New York's most vulnerable individuals.

- As of November 2018, eight New York CCBHCs report they are now serving over **13,000 new clients**, who would be expected to **lose treatment access** to some degree if the CCBHC program ended.
- Out of the 13,000 new patients being served, over **3,000 are now able to receive MAT**. Two-thirds of New York CCBHCs surveyed reported if the CCBHC program were to end they would have to **terminate or sharply scale back their MAT activities by 50-to-100%**.
- These eight clinics have hired **388 new staff**, including 32 new DATA-2000 waived buprenorphine prescribers. If the CCBHC program ends, three-quarters of these clinics report they would have to **lay off a total of 25 buprenorphine prescribers, effectively decimating their clients' gains in access to MAT**.

*"If the CCBHC program would end we will be forced to close our services! [...] This will leave our 1,800 clients stranded with NO care [and] will force us to lay off over 100 professional staff and over 25 support staff. This is simply not an option! Individuals suffering from SMI and SUD have benefited from the CCBHC range of services and have finally gotten the level of care they desperately need, which for many means regaining a meaningful and productive life, not cycling in and out of ER's and hospitals."  
– NY CCBHC, November 2018*

### Future of CCBHCs in New York

Congress has the opportunity to extend this successful program and ensure lifesaving treatment access remains a reality for New Yorkers. The Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S. 1905/H.R. 3931) would extend the state's CCBHCs activities for an additional year and expand the program to 11 additional states that applied but were excluded from participation by the eight-state limit in the current law.

**We urge members of the New York Congressional delegation to sign on as cosponsors of the bill and actively attach it to the next moving vehicle within Congress** to extend this important program that has already proven incredibly beneficial to New York.

<sup>i</sup> Park-Lee, E. et al. (2017) Receipt of Services for Substance Use and Mental Health Issues among Adults: Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Accessed online at <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DR-FFR2-2016/NSDUH-DR-FFR2-2016.pdf>