EHR Funding Program for Behavioral Health/IDD Providers

Frequently Asked Questions

As a Behavioral Health Provider, why do I need an electronic health record?

The State of North Carolina recognizes that managing behavioral health and intellectual disability practices is different than managing family medicine practices and primary care clinics. The complexities and unique structure of your in-patient, partial inpatient, or strictly outpatient services capture information critical to giving that person whole person care.

Deploying an Electronic Health Record for your practice will increase service delivery efficiencies, improve medication management and provide better security of patient data. It is also accessible from everywhere so as your organization may begin to mobilize your data will be readily inquirable from your providers anywhere.

Finally, to continue to receive State funds for the provision of health care services providers must be connected to NC HealthConnex, the state designated health information exchange by certain dates in 2018 and 2019.

What is NC HealthConnex?

North Carolina's state-designated health information exchange, NC HealthConnex—operated by the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA)—provides a secure statewide network for health care providers in North Carolina to share important patient health information and improve patient care. NC HealthConnex requires electronic health records in order to be connected and send clinical and demographic data about your patients.

How does my practice know which Electronic Health Record to buy?

Your practice will need to determine what software works best for your specific organization. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) developed adoption and implementation documentation that is helpful in the planning and procurement process. BH/IDD practices need to coordinate with other specialties to help their patients. Your practice software must, therefore, include support for HL7 compliance and enable you to communicate with various specialties. This capability will allow your organizations to connect to NC HealthConnex. For a list of vendors that NC HealthConnex is already engaged with click here. If you don't see the vendor your working with on that list, please ensure that they can meet the following technical standards.

Is my practice eligible for this program?

Eligible Practices fall under the following criteria:

(i) are Medicaid-enrolled outpatient practices that have an active NPI number in NCTracks;

(ii) provide behavioral health, mental health, or intellectual and developmental disorder services (See taxonomy list);

(iii) attest that they have not received funding for EHR adoption or meaningful use;

(iv) attest that they do not have electronic health record technology as of May 1, 2018;*

(v) for calendar year 2017, had behavioral health, mental health, or intellectual and developmental disorder services providers make up 75% of their affiliated health care providers based on NC TRACKS data.

*Practices that attest that they do have a practice management system as of May 1, 2018 that could be upgraded to an electronic health record may apply.

How do I apply for this program?

Visit the NC DHHS Office of Rural Health website to complete an online application. Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis between May 1-31, 2018. Applications will close at 11:59 PM May 31, 2018.

How will the DHHS Office of Health Information Technology determine eligibility?

The DHHS Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) will utilize NC TRACKS data to verify that for calendar year 2017 at least 75% of the practice's affiliated providers had behavioral health, mental health, or intellectual and developmental disorder taxonomy. The Office of Rural Health will inform your practice regarding eligibility by July 1, 2018.

If you are not aware of how to find your taxonomy codes, click here and scroll down to "How to View and update Taxonomy."

What if my taxonomy code is not listed, but I provide behavioral health treatment to patients?

If your practice's taxonomy is not on the list, but for the calendar year 2017, at least 75% of your affiliated health care providers had behavioral health, mental health, or intellectual and developmental disorder based on NC TRACKS data, please email NCHealthIT@dhhs.nc.gov for assistance with next steps on applying for funding.

What are the program requirements?

Once you are notified that you are eligible to receive funding your organization must do the following:

1. Select an NC HealthConnex compatible EHR with the North Carolina Office of Rural Health Technical Assistance Team.
2. Procure and implement an Electronic Health Record by January/February 2019. The Office of Rural Health Information Technology Team will touch base monthly to ensure milestones for implementation are met.

3. Complete a Participation Agreement with the NC HIEA by February 1, 2019, which will allow your organization to begin connectivity to NC HealthConnex.
4. Submit EHR Receipt to Office of Rural Health once you are live in production or have been in onboarding for more than 30 days.

What if the EHR my practice procures is not compatible with NC HealthConnex?

In order to qualify for funding, your organization must connect to NC HealthConnex. We strongly encourage that you choose from a vendor that is already working with NC HealthConnex (found here) or can attest to meeting the Technical Specifications. If your EHR Vendor has questions about their ability to meet these technical specifications, please contact Vanessa Green, Vanessa.green@nc.gov or

What if my EHR is not in place by the January/February deadline?

Applicants can file the NC HIEA extension request process. Do they still qualify for this funding? If applicants have not completely implemented their procured EHR by January of 2019, they must be able to provide a contract in place with their EHR and sign a Participation Agreement with NC HealthConnex and complete an Extension Form indicating their plan to implement and connect within the coming three months.

What is the total amount of reimbursement?

Reimbursements will come through NC Tracks after the practice has either connected to NC HealthConnex or has been in the onboarding process for over 30 days. Payment will not exceed the total cost of behavioral health EHR implementation and will go directly to the practice.

Eligible Practice with 26+ providers	up to $20,000
Eligible Practice with 12-25 providers	up to $15,000
Eligible Practice with 11 or fewer providers	up to $10,000

For further questions about eligibility for the BH EHR Funding Program contact:

Lakeisha Moore – Lakeisha.moore@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-527-6473

For additional questions about NC HealthConnex and connectivity contact:

Kenya Servia- Kenya.servia@nc.gov or 919-754-6847