

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Use Services

SCFAC Update

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Director

NC DHHS Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services

March 12, 2026

MH/SU/IDD/TBI System Announcements & Updates

Awareness Celebrations

Brain Injury Awareness Month

Gov **Josh Stein** has proclaimed **March 2026 as Brain Injury Awareness Month**, recognizing the impact brain injuries have on individuals, families, and communities.

Each year, **2.8 million Americans** experience a traumatic brain injury (TBI). In North Carolina, **more than 80,000 people** will sustain a TBI this year. Brain injuries can affect movement, communication, emotions, and cognition.

New resource

- The **NC TBI Dashboard** is now available, showing data on individuals with a TBI diagnosis who have accessed **Medicaid and state-funded services**
- Data is refreshed **every 6–12 months** to support planning and data-informed decision-making

Upcoming webinar

- **TBI Dashboard Overview**
- **March 16, 2026 | 3:00–4:00 p.m.**

Get involved

- The **Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC)** is seeking applicants to help improve brain injury services across North Carolina.



Developmental Disabilities Month

March is **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**, a time to celebrate people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and strengthen efforts to build more inclusive communities.

Gov Josh Stein has proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, recognizing the more than **200,000 North Carolinians living with IDD** and the importance of expanding access to employment, education, housing, health care, and community participation.

New data

- The [Innovations Waiver Waitlist Dashboard](#) now includes enhanced metrics, including the **average time individuals have been on the waitlist**
- Data is available by **county and Tailored Plan**, offering new insight into service gaps and helping inform planning and advocacy

Supporting inclusion

- [Inclusion Connects](#) helps individuals and families navigate services and resources across the lifespan
- [Inclusion Works](#) promotes **Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)** and supports inclusive workplaces

Together, these efforts help strengthen opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to live, work, and participate fully in their communities.

Celebrating 2026 Social Work Month

Governor **Josh Stein** has recognized the [2026 theme](#): “**Social Workers: Uplift. Defend. Transform.**”

Social workers support North Carolinians in many roles—from **mental health care and crisis response to child welfare, aging services, and community programs**. Their work strengthens families, improves access to care, and supports healthier communities statewide.

Why it matters

- **97 of North Carolina’s 100 counties** are designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas
- Workforce shortages limit access to care and delay treatment

Workforce investments

- [Public Service Leadership Program \(PSLP\)](#) launched with the UNC System and Social Work Coalition to build the next generation of leaders
- [Licensed Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#) offers up to **\$50,000** for providers serving in high-need rural areas
- [Qualified Professional eligibility expansion](#) for community college graduates with AAS degrees in Social and Human Services

This month, we recognize and thank social workers for their dedication to supporting individuals, families, and communities across North Carolina.



Community Events

Black Mental Health Conference

DMH/DD/SUS participated in the first [Black Mental Health Conference](#), a gathering designed to empower, represent, and connect Black mental health professionals across disciplines.

This year's theme, **Black Power**, highlighted a strengths-based perspective focused on progress and community leadership in mental health.

Division engagement

- Hosted a **988 Crisis Services information table**
- Connected with mental health professionals and community partners
- Shared information about how **988** connects people to immediate mental health support

The event created space for meaningful dialogue and opened opportunities for continued collaboration to strengthen mental health support across North Carolina.



Hope4NC Community Outreach

Hope4NC teams continue strengthening partnerships and outreach efforts across **Western North Carolina**, supporting communities impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Recent engagement

- Partnered with the **NC 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** at the **Black Mental Health Conference** in Raleigh to promote crisis services and explore community-based outreach strategies
- Participated in **Caldwell and Burke County Long-Term Recovery Group meetings** and provided education sessions with **Duke Energy**

Community connections

- Bat Cave craft group gatherings
- Outreach at **The Village in Buncombe County**
- Wellness event at **Tohi Edasdi Recovery Center** on the **Qualla Boundary**

These efforts help expand awareness of the **Hope4NC Crisis Counseling Program**, connect survivors to resources, and provide crisis counseling and supportive follow-up.



Raleigh Recovery Café Opens

NCDHHS joined [Promise Resource Network \(PRN\)](#) and community partners on February 24 to celebrate the opening of the [Raleigh Recovery Café](#). **Kelly Crosbie**, Director of DMH/DD/SUS, delivered remarks highlighting the importance of trauma-informed, peer-led recovery supports. **First Lady Anna Stein** also attended the event.

About the Recovery Café model

- Healing-centered spaces for people affected by trauma, substance use, mental health challenges, incarceration, and social isolation
- Focus on peer support, connection, and multiple pathways to recovery

State support

- NCDHHS provided **\$688,196** to help launch the Raleigh site
- PRN also operates a Recovery Café in Charlotte, respite centers in Charlotte and the Triangle, and the [Statewide Peer Warmline](#) in partnership with **988**

Learn more about the Recovery Café model at recoverycafenetwork.org.



Immigrant Mental Health Solidarity Network Hosts Second Annual Convening

The **Immigrant Mental Health Solidarity Network** held its second annual convening **March 2–3 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh**, bringing together partners to strengthen collaboration and address immigrant mental health across North Carolina

Division engagement

- **Kelly Crosbie**, DMH/DD/SUS Director, delivered the keynote, sharing her family's immigration story and highlighting the role of community support in improving mental health outcomes
- **Pooja Mehta**, AAPI Community Outreach Lead, served as emcee and presented on immigrant mental health and the **Tarang AAPI outreach initiative**

Community partnerships

- The event was presented by **El Futuro** and **NC Counts Coalition**
- Director Crosbie highlighted DMH/DD/SUS partnerships supporting immigrant mental health, including **Montagnard Association, Strong Minds, UCA Waves, and El Futuro**

The convening provided space for partners to share updates, build connections, and advance collaboration to better support immigrant communities across the state.



Inclusion Connects March Webinar Series

To recognize **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**, **Inclusion Connects** is hosting a **special webinar series throughout March** designed to inform, connect, and empower families, advocates, providers, and community members.

Featured sessions

- **Olmstead and North Carolina's Olmstead Plan** — [Watch Replay](#)
- [Side by Side: IDD & Brain Injury Awareness Month Fireside Chat](#) — March 9
- [Interpersonal Violence & Supporting People with IDD and TBI](#) — March 11
- [Introducing the TBI Dashboard](#) — March 16
- [Inclusion Works Lunch & Learn with R.V. Kuser](#) — March 18
- [Welcome to TULA: Trillium Ultimate Living Assistant](#) — March 26

These sessions highlight **disability rights, inclusion, services, and innovations** that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across North Carolina.

Closed captioning and ASL interpretation will be provided for most sessions.



From Numbers to Knowledge: Introducing the TBI Dashboard

The [North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) Dashboard](#) is now available. The dashboard includes information on individuals with a TBI diagnosis who have accessed services across **Medicaid and state-funded programs**.

Join us for an overview of the new dashboard and a **live demonstration** showing how it can support data-informed planning and decision-making.

Date & Time

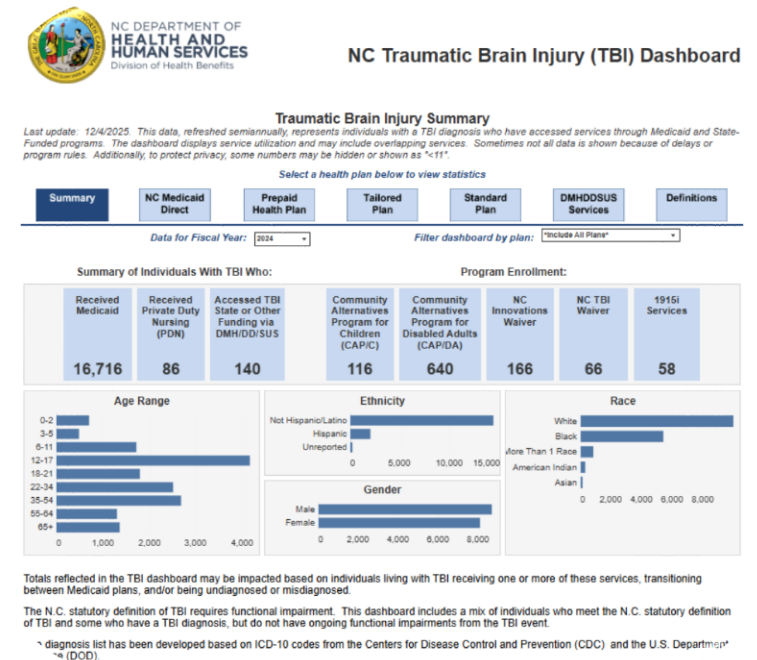
March 16, 2026 | 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Register

[Sign up to attend the webinar](#)

Accessibility

Closed captioning and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be provided.



Inclusion Works Lunch & Learn

Join [Inclusion Works](#) for a special Lunch & Learn in recognition of **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. This session features a recorded interview with **R.V. Kuser**, educator, author, and advocate.

Kuser has more than **30 years of experience** supporting individuals with learning disabilities, including autism and schizophrenia—experiences he has also navigated personally. His work focuses on helping individuals and organizations better understand disability and promote inclusion.

Featured author

- *Challenged But Not Defeated*
- *Weight a Minute!*
- *My Schizophrenia Story*

Date & Time

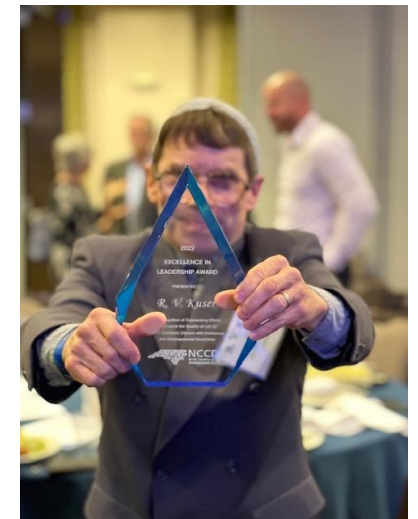
March 18, 2026 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Register

[Sign up to attend the Lunch & Learn](#)

Accessibility

Closed captioning and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be provided.



Welcome to TULA: Trillium Ultimate Living Assistant

TULA Technology makes two-way communication simple, enabling on-demand remote support and real-time monitoring.

In this session, you'll learn how TULA works, explore its benefits and goals, and get answers to your questions.

This is your chance to find out if TULA is the right solution for you and the person you support.

Date/Time: Thursday, March 26, 2026, 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Registration: [Register for the webinar](#)

Closed-Captioning will be provided.



Request for Proposals: Youth Prevention Education Grants

The **NC Problem Gambling Program** is offering grants of up to **\$10,000** for middle schools, high schools, and at-risk community programs in North Carolina to implement the **Youth Prevention Education (YPE) 10-module curriculum**.

Grantees receive **instructor training, technical support, and all program materials**.

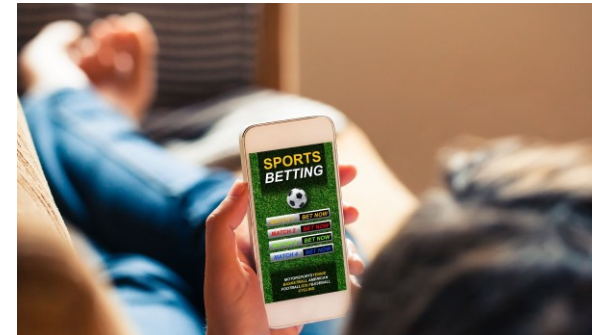
The program helps prevent youth problem gambling and other high-risk behaviors by educating students about how social, physical, and digital environments can create toxic stress that affects decision-making and brain health.

Key requirements

- Attend an [RFP webinar](#) to receive the application
- Review [grant guidelines](#) before applying

Timeline

- **March 15, 2026** — Applications due
- **April 15, 2026** — Awards announced
- **April 30, 2026** — Contracts due
- **June 1, 2026** — Funding distributed
- **July 15, 2026** — Complete UNC-BHS Adolescent Gambling & Gaming modules
- **July 19–21, 2026** — Attend NCFADS Summer School (Wilmington)



Strategic Plan Progress

NCDHHS released a [year-one progress report](#) on the DMH/DD/SUS [2024–2029 Strategic Plan](#), highlighting work to build a more coordinated and accessible system of care across North Carolina

The report outlines progress across **seven priority areas**, including expanding access to care, strengthening I/DD and TBI services, preventing substance misuse and overdose, building the workforce, improving the crisis system, supporting justice-involved individuals, and expanding recovery and community-based services.

Highlights from the first year

- Opened **7 [Behavioral Health Urgent Care centers](#)** and **1 Facility-Based Crisis center**
- Launched **2 [Mobile Opioid Treatment Programs](#)** to expand access to medication for opioid use disorder
- Introduced [Unshame NC](#) with **Anna Stein** to reduce stigma around substance use disorder and treatment
- Expanded the [Licensed Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#) to support providers serving rural and underserved communities

The report reflects continued progress toward strengthening mental health, substance use, and disability services across the state.

Youth Leadership Forum

Youth LEAD NC is hosting the **North Carolina Youth Leadership Forum (NCYLF)**, a week-long leadership experience for youth and young adults with disabilities.

This **fully accessible, no-cost program** focuses on self-advocacy, independent living, and leadership through workshops, peer connections, and skill-building activities.

Details

- **Location:** North Carolina State University
- **Delegate dates:** July 19–23, 2026
- **Participants:** 15–20 delegates selected each year

Applications

- **March 6, 2026** — Deadline to schedule application assistance
- **March 20, 2026** — Applications due

For application support: parker@youthleadnc.org | (919) 278-7176 (text welcome)



Black Youth Suicide Prevention Report

NCDHHS released the [2025 Annual Report](#) for the [NC Black Youth Suicide Prevention Action Plan](#), highlighting progress made across the state.

In 2025, partners worked together to launch the action plan and turn ideas into action by hosting statewide events, training hundreds of community members, and creating spaces for connection and support.

The report highlights North Carolina's progress and outlines next steps as partners continue working to ensure young people feel **seen, supported, and safe**.

2025 Annual Report

NC Black Youth Suicide Prevention Action Plan



Social Work Workforce Partnership

NCDHHS joined the **UNC System** and the **Social Work Coalition on NC Workforce Development** to launch a partnership aimed at strengthening North Carolina's social work workforce.

The initiative introduces the **Public Service Leadership Program (PSLP)**, which will work with **high schools, community colleges, and universities** to raise awareness of careers in social work and prepare students to support children, individuals, and families across the state.

Why it matters

- North Carolina had **9,830 licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs)** in 2024
- Metro areas have **twice as many LCSWs per capita** as non-metro areas
- **41 counties** have fewer than four LCSWs per 10,000 residents

Program approach

- Build a pipeline of future social workers
- Expand **workforce capacity**, especially in rural communities
- Strengthen access to mental health and social services statewide

The five-year initiative includes **planning, pilot, and testing phases**, with the **UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work** leading implementation.



Video: 3:50

ROOTS Hub Lead Applications

NCDHHS is accepting applications from organizations interested in serving as **ROOTS Hub Leads** for the [NC Rural Health Transformation Program](#).

ROOTS Hubs are regional networks that coordinate efforts to improve **primary care, behavioral health, workforce development, value-based payment, and digital health** in rural communities.

Key details

- Up to **6 organizations** will be selected
- One Hub Lead will represent each [NC Medicaid region](#)
- Hub Leads will serve as the **regional programmatic and fiduciary lead**

Applications due

April 2, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.

Interested organizations should review the [Request for Applicants materials](#) and the [ROOTS Hub Leads RFA webinar](#) for eligibility and application details.



New 988 Outreach Materials

DMH/DD/SUS has released **updated 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline outreach materials** to help communities share clear, accessible information about where to turn in a mental health crisis.

The new materials highlight the message **“No Matter Your Struggle, You Are Not Alone”** and are available in **English and Spanish** through the [Crisis Services Communications Toolkit](#).

Available materials

- [988 General Flyer](#)
- [988 General Poster](#)
- [988 Rack Card](#)

Community organizations, providers, and partners can download these resources to support **outreach, events, public spaces, and digital communications**.



Trauma-Informed Workforce Wellness Training for Western NC

NCDHHS and the [Center for Child and Family Health](#) are offering trauma-informed wellness training for **child welfare, adult protective services, and mental health professionals** in the **27 western NC counties impacted by Hurricane Helene**.

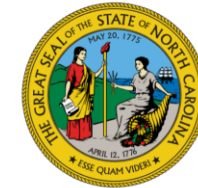
The training focuses on supporting frontline staff through **supervision strategies, burnout prevention, grief support, case consultation, and team connection**.

Upcoming workshops

- **March 20, 2026 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.** — Organizational Tools for Morale & Connection
- **May 8, 2026 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.** — Skills for Renewing Energy and Purpose

[Register to reserve your spot](#) or [download the training flyer](#) for more information.

This initiative is supported by the **Division of Social Services, DMH/DD/SUS, Vaya Health/Hope4NC, and Positive Childhood Alliance**.



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**CENTER FOR
CHILD & FAMILY
HEALTH**

Advanced Training Series for Direct Support Professionals

NCDHHS, in partnership with the **NC Community College System**, is offering a **free Advanced Training Course Series** for current and aspiring **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)**.

The program includes two **eight-week virtual courses** designed to strengthen skills and expand career opportunities supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Course options

- **DDT 3110:** Core Skills for Supporting Individuals with IDD
March 16 – May 12
- **DDT 3120:** Advanced Skills for DSPs
June 8 – July 31

Note: Courses include a required **weekly online meeting Mondays, 4:30–5:15 p.m.**

Participants can register through the [A-B Tech Direct Support Professionals webpage](#) and submit the [DSP Registration Form](#) to conedregistration@abtech.edu.

Learn more about efforts to [strengthen the DSP workforce](#) on the [Inclusion Connects website](#).

North Carolina Rural Health Transformation Program (NCRHTP)

Ahead:

- Overview of NC's Rural Health Transformation Program (NCRHTP) award
- Highlights of NC's RHTP initiatives and governance
- Looking ahead and important next steps
- Panel discussion and Q&A



North Carolina awarded \$213 Million for Rural Health Transformation Program

December 31, 2025 by WWAY News



(Photo: PxHere / MGN)

RALEIGH, NC (News Release) — The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today awarded North Carolina \$213 million through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). These funds will improve health care access for rural North Carolinians. In November, North Carolina submitted its application for these funds with bipartisan support from the state's congressional delegation. These funds are awarded for 2026, and North Carolina will be eligible for more funding each year for the next five years.

The Rural Health Transformation Fund is a unique, \$213M+ opportunity to transform rural health in North Carolina

Rural Health Challenges in North Carolina at-a-glance



28.4% of North Carolinians are rural (nearly 3 million people).



Chronic, perinatal, & mental health needs i.e., 17% higher diabetes rate compared to urban areas; 90 counties are mental health shortage areas; maternal care deserts and higher pregnancy-related mortality; higher infant death rates



Workforce shortages where 24 counties lack adequate primary care; shortages in behavioral health, oral health and EMS are acute.



Financial instability i.e., 12 rural hospitals have closed or converted since 2006 limiting access to emergency and inpatient care.

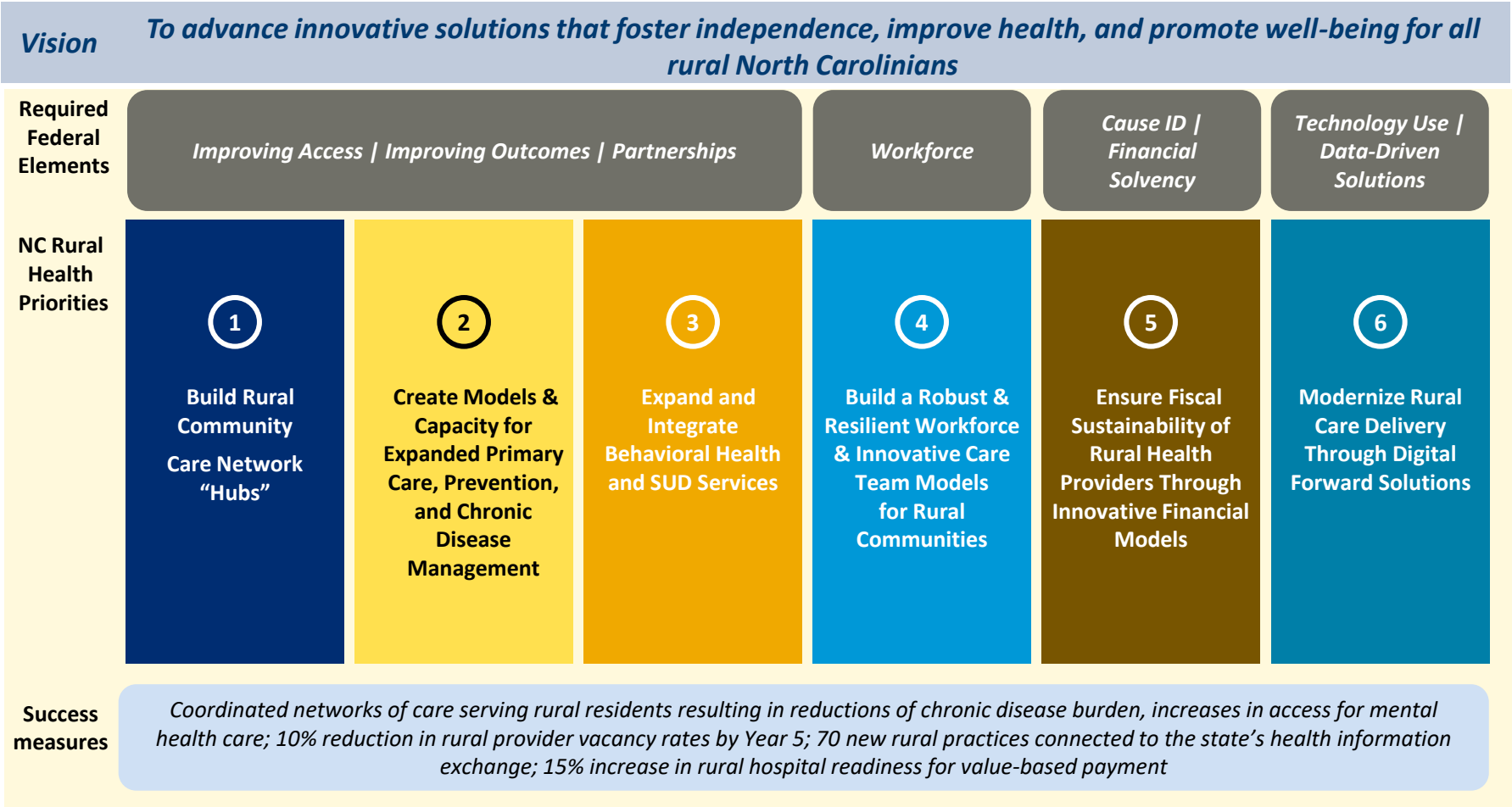


Digital divide including broadband gaps and low digital literacy limit telehealth and care coordination.

Guiding Principles for NCRHTP Implementation

- ✓ **Maximize resources for rural health**
- ✓ **Build out details on high level approaches**
- ✓ **Achieve quick wins**
- ✓ **Plan for long-term sustainability**
- ✓ **Prioritize measurable, community-level impact**
- ✓ **Employ flexible and agile approach; pivot when needed**
- ✓ **Communicate transparently and with integrity**

Six Initiatives Work Together to Achieve NCRHTP Goals



Timeline and Milestones for Project Year 2026*

January – March 2026

- Submit revised budget to CMS by January 30 for \$213M Year 1 funding.
- Establish statewide program management and governance structures.
- Release Request for Applications (RFA) for NC ROOTS Hub Lead entities.

April – October 2026

- Conduct award process for regional hubs; Select and onboard Regional Hub Lead entities; Regional hubs develop action plans and local governance.
- Expand reach of existing statewide efforts aligned with NCRHTP.
 - Expanded behavioral health/SUD services
 - Expanded perinatal mental health support
 - Increased HIE participation, digital literacy efforts, & Rural Health Innovation Fund
 - Workforce initiatives launched
- Submit first annual progress report to CMS.
- Maintain continuous engagement with stakeholders and CMS to monitor success and progress toward goals.

Note: Year-two funding is conditional upon Year-one success.

** Assuming timely approvals from CMS and state administrative process, follows federal fiscal year*

Immediate Next Steps

- **DHHS focus on Implementation activities**
 - Revise Implementation Plan
 - Build out requirements for prioritized initiatives/activities (Quick wins)
- **Continued stakeholder communication and engagement**
 - Use existing engagements to (i.e., information through divisions, conferences, and community partner engagements)
 - Design and implement advisory committee structure
 - Initiate DHHS standard communication to partners/vendors to protect procurement/potential Conflict of interest
- **How you can get involved**
 - Visit our website to obtain information including upcoming procurements and awards (e.g., NC ROOTS Lead Entity application process)
 - Respond to RFAs or other requests for information when posted
 - Engage with ROOTS Hubs as partners once selected
 - Participate in existing advisory groups, councils and meetings i.e. Side by Side to get information

Learn More

Learn more, including links to FAQs, Town Hall recording, and other NC award information:

Visit: ncdhhs.gov/rhtp



[NC Rural Health Transformation Program ROOTS Hub Leads Pre-RFA Webinar](#)

Why Integrated Care Is So Important

Healthcare has often been fragmented and providers are specialized, overlooking the Whole Person

Statistics

- People with SMI die 15-20 years earlier than the general population
- Schizophrenia is associated with a 3x risk of dying from a respiratory disease and a 2x risk of dying from a form of heart disease
- Depression is linked to a 50% increased risk of dying from cancer and a 67% increased from heart disease
- People with diabetes are 2-3x more likely to develop depression
- People with diabetes and depression have a 46% increased risk for all cause mortality

What is a CCBHC?



- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic**
- A model of care designed to ensure people have access to **comprehensive, coordinated** behavioral health care, with a heightened focus on **quality and evidence-based care**
- CCBHCs must serve anyone who requests mental health or substance use treatment, **regardless of ability to pay or place of residence**
- **6** areas of quality standards, **over 180 metrics**
- Must provide, or contract to provide, **9 required services**
- Today, providers can become a CCBHC by receiving **funding** from the **State or Federal level**

Strategic Plan Priority 1: Increase Access to Care Across the State

Goal 1.1: Increase Treatment Initiation and Retention

- “One Stop Shop” making it easier to access behavioral health care by reducing fragmentation

Goal 1.2: Promote Access to Integrated Care

- CCBHCs conduct primary care screenings and either have strong partnerships with Primary Care providers or in-house Primary Care providers
- CCBHCs have strong care coordination and targeted case management capabilities

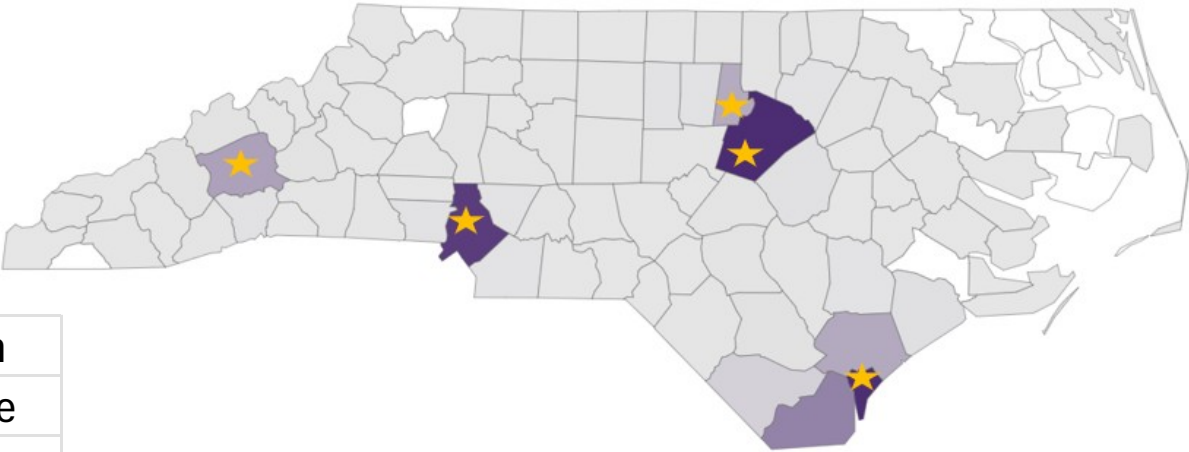
Goal 1.3: Increase Care Giver Support

- CCBHCs are required to offer peer support, counseling, and family support

DHHS Funded CCBHC Reach

Year (SFY)	Number of Individuals Served at DHHS funded CCBHC
2023	12,751
2024	17,086
2025	21,036

CCBHC	Location
Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center	Charlotte
B & D Integrated Health Services	Durham
Coastal Horizons Center	Wilmington
Mountain Area Health Ed. Center (MAHEC)	Asheville
SouthLight Healthcare	Raleigh



Expansion with RHTP

- DMH/DD/SUS is working closely with LME/MCO to finalize certification criteria and certification process
- RHTP funds slated to implement 3-4 new CCBHCs
- RHTP funds slated to support Quality Improvement and Technical Assistance within CCBHCs

Stay Connected with Hot Topics!

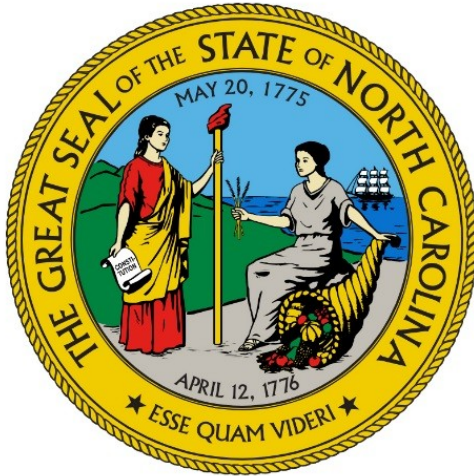
We can't fit everything into today's presentation, but you can catch all the latest updates **every Tuesday and Thursday** through our **Hot Topics Newsletter and webpage**.

- New programs and initiatives
- Community success stories
- Upcoming events and funding opportunities
- Resources you can share with your networks

Sign up for the [Hot Topics Newsletter](#)

Visit the brand new [Hot Topics Webpage](#)





NC Department of Health and Human Services

State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC)

Quarterly Report Update

March 11, 2026

SCFAC 2023-2024 Recommendations

Traumatic Brain Injury

SCFAC 2023-2024 Recommendations

NCDHHS Response: Complete

Recommendation 7: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Traumatic Brain Injury Dashboard

DHHS Response:

NC Medicaid is pleased to share that the North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Services Dashboard is now live and available to stakeholders.

The dashboard provides a consolidated view of individuals with a TBI diagnosis who have accessed services across Medicaid and state-funded programs. This resource is intended to support transparency, inform system planning, and strengthen data-driven decision-making for beneficiaries, families, providers, Tailored Plans, and community partners.

To promote timely and meaningful insights while protecting individual health information, data is refreshed on a rolling basis approximately every six to twelve months, depending on program reporting cycles.

We encourage partners to review the dashboard and incorporate the information into ongoing quality improvement, access monitoring, and service planning efforts.

Access the dashboard here: [NC Medicaid Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) Dashboard | NC Medicaid](#)

SCFAC 2023-2024 Recommendations

Veterans

SCFAC 2023-2024 Recommendations

NCDHHS Response: Complete

Recommendation 4: Veterans and Military Families

Enhance supports for Veterans and families through collaboration such as NCServes Programs

DHHS Response:

The Division continues to incorporate deliberate steps to advance support strategies for veterans and military families; working closely with the NC Governor's Working Group, that is charged with facilitating collaboration and coordination among federal, state, and local agency partners that touch a veteran's life in NC.

In partnership with the NC Governor's Challenge, the Division has provided support and funding for the creation of a website and materials for AskMeNC (www.askmenc.org). To help identify veterans and family members of veterans so they can be connected to resources and benefits. This campaign successfully launched on Nov 7, 2025 with the support of Governor Stein.

The Division has supported extended hours for NCServes Call Coordination Center; meeting veterans and their families where they need it most: after hours, on the weekends, and holidays.

This recommendation can be closed but is an ongoing strategy to ensure enhanced support for veterans and military families in NC.

SCFAC 2024-2025 Recommendations

Veterans

SCFAC 2024-2025 Recommendations

NCDHHS Response: In-Progress

Recommendation 6: Veterans and Military Families

Enhancing the Veterans Support Specialist Training Curriculum

DHHS Response:

DMH/DD/SUS fully supports the creation of a Mini-Track Series to address training gaps for those working with Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) who don't require full Veterans Support Specialist (VSS) certification.

- DMH/DD/SUS is committed to expanding training access, standardizing certification, and integrating VSS roles across the state.
- Mini-Track series reflects best practices in curriculum design.
- Expand the VSS Program.
- The Division's Veteran's Services Coordinator will work closely with the Governor's Institute (GI) to ensure high-quality, relevant training.

Amendment to GI contract has been submitted and is in final phase of approval process. In anticipation of an executed contract, GI has "pre-planned" to ensure an expeditious process upon funding availability.

SCFAC 2023-2024 Recommendations

Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

SCFAC 2023-2024 Recommendations

NCDHHS Response: In-Progress

Recommendation 9(a): Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Require all frontline I/DD service providers complete a minimum of 2-hour annual Interpersonal Violence (IPV) training.

Recommendation 9(b): Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Require all I/DD providers to offer accessible Interpersonal Violence (IPV) prevention curriculum to individuals with I/DD and their families.

Recommendation 9(c): Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Require all I/DD providers to partner with at least one Interpersonal Violence (IPV) service provider to ensure coordinated, accessible, and I/DD informed IPV prevention, response and training.

DHHS Response/Update:

- IPV Subcommittee continues to meet 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- Core Competencies (inclusive of IPV Training) continue to move forward.
- [Interpersonal Violence Resource Hub](#) is live on the Inclusion Connects Webpage to provide training and resources to the community and people with IDD/TBI.
- Department continues to provide education and awareness to the community (i.e. - "Intersection of IPV: Supporting People with IDD/TBI" webinar on 3/11, exploring potential training opportunities on Sexual Health Training)

SCFAC 2024-2025 Recommendations

Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

SCFAC 2025-2026 Recommendations

NCDHHS Response: Complete

Recommendation 2: Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Annual cost-of-living adjustments to Medicaid Capitation Rates for Innovations and 1915(i) services.

DHHS Response:

NC Medicaid works annually to develop actuarially sound capitation rates. These rates include consideration for historical trends related to utilization and unit cost growth observed as compared to the base data. Additionally, the Department reviews available funds and works with the Legislature to identify priority investment areas, including adjustments to provider fee schedules and rates, for opportunities to align with market measures as the budget allows.

SCFAC 2024-2025 Recommendations

Crisis Services

SCFAC 2024-2025 Recommendations

NCDHHS Response: Complete

Recommendation 8: Mental Health Services

Expanding Access to the Clubhouse Model for Individuals with Severe Persistent Mental Illness in North Carolina

DHHS Response:

- MHBG dollars were allocated to each of the 8 existing Clubhouses to use for Accreditation, specialized Clubhouse International training and Clubhouse International membership dues, to allow them to provide quality Clubhouse programming and to meet the fidelity of the model. An example of utilization of this allocation has provided in-person immersive Clubhouse International training to over 30+ Clubhouse Members, leading to increased recovery focus and structured programming.
- State funded dollars were allocated to each of the 8 existing Clubhouses to use for the modernization of the Clubhouses. Providing a safe and well-maintained area for programming is essential for community participation to increase services and enrich programming provided by Clubhouses. An example of utilization of this allocation has provided several vans for transportation so Clubhouse Members can go on community outings. Kitchen equipment, industrial stoves, refrigerators and house repairs/maintenance.

SCFAC 2024-2025 Recommendations

NCDHHS Response: Complete

Recommendation 8: Mental Health Services (Cont.)

Expanding Access to the Clubhouse Model for Individuals with Severe Persistent Mental Illness in North Carolina

DHHS Response:

- A partnership and contractual agreement with Clubhouse International has been executed and is in the implementation stage. This will provide a 5-year Clubhouse Initiative: Strengthening and Expansion project. This will include the development of 7-10 new Clubhouses state-wide, modernization of existing Clubhouses and strengthening the Clubhouse Coalition. This will expand quality Clubhouse programming to increase the number of people with mental illness who have access to and receive support and services from Accredited Clubhouse programs.
- The Clubhouse Model is an evidence-based, non-clinical psychosocial rehabilitation approach that empowers adults with severe persistent mental illness to recover by fostering a sense of belonging, purpose, and social connection through shared work and community engagement.