

Essential Community Providers



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What is the State of Colorado’s definition of an essential community provider (ECP)?*

Essential community providers are providers that historically serve medically needy or medically indigent patients and demonstrate a commitment to serve low income and medically indigent populations who comprise a significant portion of the patient population.

2. *What is the Affordable Care Act (ACA) definition of ECP?*

Essential community providers are providers that serve predominantly low income, medically underserved individuals.

3. *The ACA definition has additional types of clinics and hospitals in the definition of ECP. How will this affect the state designation?*

If your provider type is not listed on the ECP application, but you meet the ACA definition; you will mark “other” on the application, list your provider type, and submit the required documentation listed on the application.

4. *Who should be designated as an ECP?*

Any provider that serves, and shows a commitment to serve low income, medically needy or medically indigent patients.

5. *How do I become designated as an ECP?*

Complete the [application](#) by going to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing [website](#).

6. *Why do I need to be designated as an ECP?*

ECPs, and the populations they serve, cannot be excluded from provider networks in the counties the health insurance plans serve. Health insurance plans must “ensure a sufficient choice of providers consistent with section 2702(c) of the Public Health Service Act.”

7. *I am already on the Department of Insurance (DOI) list as an ECP; why do I need to be designated by the State of Colorado?*

To participate in the Health Insurance Marketplace (Connect for Health Colorado), you will need to be designated by the State of Colorado.

8. *Do I need to choose the medical program I want to be considered an ECP for?*

Once a provider is designated by the State of Colorado as an ECP, they are an ECP in all medical programs.

9. *Do I need to be designated as an ECP to participate in the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC)?*

At this time, it is not a requirement of the ACC program.



10. Do I need to be designated as an ECP to participate as a qualified health center for the Health Insurance Marketplace (Connect for Health Colorado)?

Right now, the preliminary outlook is that they will need to meet the Medicaid definition of an ECP.

11. Upon designation as an ECP, are there any reporting requirements?

There are no annual reporting requirements. The application must be completed every three years, in which you will need to resubmit:

- The total number of non-Medicaid/CHP+ patients served at your facility in the past 12 months
- The number of patients counted above that are under 185% of the FPL
- A copy of your current sliding fee scale, if applicable

12. How long does the ECP designation last?

The ECP designation lasts for three years from the date of authorization.

13. If I am part of a health network, with several clinics, does each clinic need to be designated as an ECP?

Yes, as long as all clinics in the health network serve and show a commitment to serve low income, medically needy or medically indigent patients.

14. Where can I find more information?

For more information, please visit colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/essential-community-providers.