



## EBCI TRIBAL OPTION

[For Providers](#)



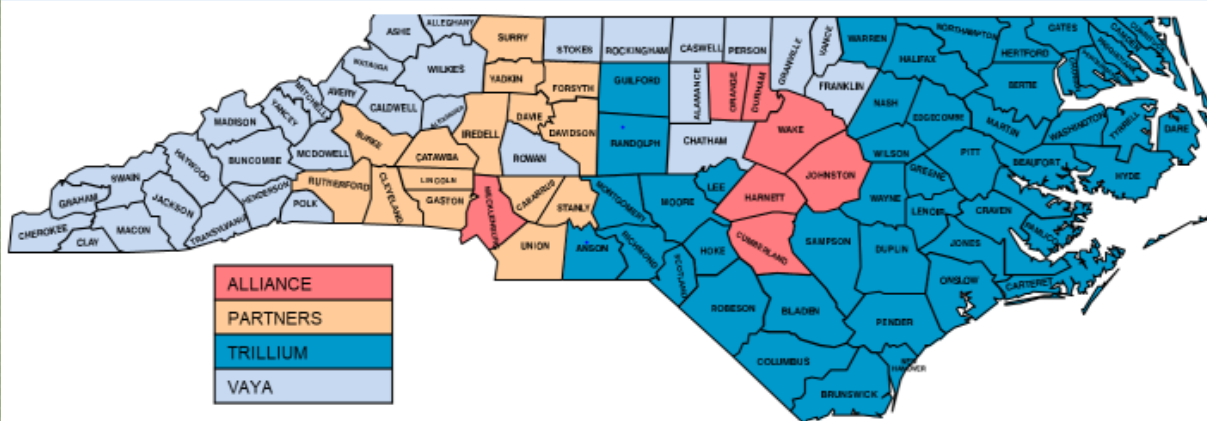
## September 2024 Provider Newsletter

### What is the EBCI Tribal Option?

EBCI Tribal Option assists approximately 4,900 Tribal-eligible Medicaid beneficiaries, primarily in Cherokee, Haywood, Swain, Jackson, and Graham counties.

[Learn More](#)

## LME/MCO COVERAGE MAP (AS OF FEB.1, 2024)



## NCDHHS Announces NC Medicaid Managed Care Children and Families Specialty Plan

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today announced Blue Cross Blue Shield NC was selected to operate the Children and Families Specialty Plan. A [first-of-its-kind initiative](#), the CFSP is a single, statewide NC Medicaid Managed Care plan that will wrap Medicaid-enrolled children, youth and their families in the child welfare system with seamless, integrated and coordinated health care.

Supporting children served by the child welfare system requires a close coordination across multiple systems and partners to ensure we support preserving families, reunification and securing permanency to ensure the best outcomes. Children and families in the child welfare system often find it hard to navigate getting the health care, social services and mental health care they need. The CFSP is designed to support this population by providing health care and mental health care coverage that follows the person — regardless of their geographic location or situation — and works across all these multiple systems.

"This plan will ensure there is a unified system of care and clear accountability when it comes to improving the health and wellbeing of our kids living with the most complex challenges," said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "We continue to improve how we serve people, so it's more efficient and promotes better outcomes."



The CFSP provides comprehensive coverage for all services provided by the Standard Plan in addition to most Tailored Plan services, such as 1915(i) Home and Community-Based Services and enhanced behavioral health and residential services. It also includes a broad range of behavioral health services such as outpatient therapy, inpatient treatment, and crisis and therapeutic residential options for children. Additionally, the CFSP is responsible for addressing unmet health-related resource needs, including housing, food, transportation, and interpersonal violence. The plan also covers pharmacy, long term services and supports (LTSS) and Intellectual/ Developmental Disability (I/DD) services.

At launch, the CFSP will operate statewide, offering robust care management to approximately 31,000 current and former foster care children and youth that will be enrolled automatically. Children of these eligible populations will also be automatically enrolled at launch and maintain enrollment while their parents are enrolled. In line with the plan's goal to support and strengthen families, the plan will also be available to parents and family members of children and youth served by the child welfare system, including those receiving Child Protective Services (CPS) In-Home Services. NCDHHS is currently working on estimating this population size, and service to family members will be available no sooner than July 2026.

"As we put this plan into action the department recognizes the importance of implementing a whole-person centered, well-coordinated system of care that will support Medicaid-enrolled children, youth and families served by the child welfare system," said Deputy Secretary of NC Medicaid Jay Ludlam.

Since 2021, NCDHHS has been leveraging the move to managed care for NC Medicaid to build an innovative health care delivery system that puts the health of beneficiaries at the forefront. Under Medicaid Managed Care, NC Medicaid Standard Plans and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Option launched on July 1, 2021, followed by Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans on July 1, 2024.

For information about the CFSP, please visit the [Children and Families Specialty Plan webpage](#).

More information about the transition to NC Medicaid Managed Care can be found on the Medicaid website at [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid/transformation).

The first CFSP contract was awarded to Blue Cross Blue Shield NC after a competitive selection process, and the term will last four years. Only entities operating as NC Medicaid Standard Plans, NC Medicaid Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans and any other entity that meets the definition of a Prepaid Health Plan under NCGS § 58-93-5 or the 2023 Appropriations Act were able to bid on the contract.

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**On Wednesday, September 18, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a webinar on state activities to eliminate congenital syphilis in newborns covered by Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).**

The webinar will include presentations from several states on how they address congenital syphilis in their Medicaid and CHIP programs, approached any barriers, and overcame challenges to achieve measurable health outcomes. Today, CMS also released a [new webpage](#) with information and additional resources on eliminating congenital syphilis.

**Congenital syphilis** occurs when people pass syphilis to their babies during pregnancy. Congenital

syphilis is preventable, yet the number of cases has more than tripled in recent years. Left

untreated, congenital syphilis can result in infant death, developmental delays, skeletal

abnormalities, deafness, meningitis, and ongoing adverse health outcomes throughout a child’s life. Syphilis risks for the pregnant person include miscarriage, ongoing infection, and more.



A lack of timely testing and treatment before and during pregnancy contributes to 88% of

congenital syphilis cases. Screening and treating before and during pregnancy are the best

approach to preventing congenital syphilis. Screening at birth can help identify the condition early

for the infant in addition to treating the parent.

We hope you will join us for this important webinar.

Webinar: Eliminating Congenital Syphilis Through Improved Care During Pregnancy

(Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 2:00 p.m. ET). To register for this webinar, [click here](#).

## SEPTEMBER 2024 TRIBAL OPTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

### RECOVERY MONTH



### CHILDHOOD OBESITY(BMI) AWARENESS



### NEWBORN SCREENING MONTH



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**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Section 9817 National Overview  
and State Spending Plan Summaries**

CMS released an updated [national overview](#) and updated [state spending plan summaries](#) for section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). The national overview and state summaries provide information on the amount of planned and reported state spending, as of the quarter ending December 31, 2023, on activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen home and community-based services.

For more information please visit the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Section 9817 page on Medicaid.gov](#)

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**The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an [informational bulletin](#) and [slide deck](#) to provide additional guidance to states on their obligation to come into compliance with federal regulations on timely processing of Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility renewals, as well as provide an update to the timeline in which states must complete unwinding-related renewals.**

To ensure that individuals who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP retain coverage, and to assist states in their continued transition to regular renewal processing,



CMS is providing states additional time to complete eligibility renewals, address persistent backlogs in processing redeterminations, and ensure that states achieve compliance with federal renewal timeliness requirements by December 2025.

To learn about the duration and conditions under which states may rely on an exception to those requirements, view the [informational bulletin on Medicaid.gov](#).

To review the suggested temporary strategies and ongoing practices to support timely Medicaid and CHIP renewal initiation and processing, view the [slide deck on Medicaid.gov](#).

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### Questions - Contact Live Help Desk

Submit questions to the Help Desk via email at [openpayments@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:openpayments@cms.hhs.gov) or by calling 1-855-326-8366 (TTY Line: 1-844-649-2766), Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (ET), excluding Federal holidays.

The Help Desk refers media inquiries to CMS' Press Office for response.

Visit the [Resources](#) page on the Open Payments website for many of the above resources.

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# EBCI TRIBAL OPTION

EAT WELL. PLAY WELL.  
STAY WELL.



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[Connect With Us](#)

