

# 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](https://colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/essential-community-providers).