

# Fact Sheet

## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Option Overview

### County Playbook: NC Medicaid Managed Care

#### EBCI Tribal Option Launched July 2021

NC Medicaid transitioned most Medicaid beneficiaries who are federally recognized tribal members or qualify for services through Indian Health Service (IHS) to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Tribal Option on July 1, 2021.

This Fact Sheet provides details on what the EBCI Tribal Option is and who qualifies for the EBCI Tribal Option.

#### WHAT IS THE EBCI TRIBAL OPTION?

The EBCI Tribal Option is the primary care case management entity (PCCMe) created by the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority (CIHA). The EBCI Tribal Option:

- Manages the primary care needs (immunizations, well-visits, sick visits) of federally recognized tribal members and others who qualify for services through IHS.
- Includes care coordination by Vaya Health [a Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO)] for a mental health disorder, substance use disorder, intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Offers added services, such as wellness programs and education vouchers.

EBCI Tribal Option members can get services from any NC Medicaid or NC Health Choice provider.

#### EBCI TRIBAL OPTION REGION

The EBCI Tribal Option is available to beneficiaries who live in the following counties:

- Buncombe, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain, Transylvania

**Note:** The EBCI Tribal Option is *primarily* offered in these counties: Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson and Swain.



## EBCI TRIBAL OPTION ELIGIBILITY AND POPULATIONS

NC Medicaid is responsible for managing and maintaining EBCI Tribal Option enrollment criteria. The following people qualify for the EBCI Tribal Option:

- Federally recognized tribal members
- Individuals who qualify for services through IHS
  - Direct lineal descendants
  - Non-Indian children under age 19
  - Non-Indian pregnant women carrying an Indian child

Beneficiaries with the following managed care status in NC FAST qualify for the EBCI Tribal Option:

Tribal – Exempt	Tribal – Tailored Plan – TCL	Tribal – Foster Care/Adoption – Dual Eligible
IHS – Exempt	IHS – Tailored Plan – TCL	IHS – Foster Care/Adoption – Dual Eligible
Tribal – Tailored Plan	Tribal – Tailored Plan – ICF	Tribal – Temporarily Excluded – CAP/C
IHS – Tailored Plan	IHS – Tailored Plan – ICF	IHS – Temporarily Excluded – CAP/C
Tribal – Tailored Plan – Dual Eligible	Tribal – Tailored Plan – SFR	Tribal – Temporarily Excluded – CAP/DA
IHS – Tailored Plan – Dual Eligible	IHS – Tailored Plan – SFR	IHS – Temporarily Excluded – CAP/DA
Tribal – Tailored Plan – TBI/Innovation	Tribal – Foster Care/Adoption	Tribal – Temporarily Excluded – Medically Needy
IHS – Tailored Plan – TBI/Innovation	IHS – Foster Care/Adoption	IHS – Temporarily Excluded – Medically Needy
Tribal – Tailored Plan – TBI/Innovation – Dual Eligible	Tribal – Foster Care/Adoption – Tailored Plan	
IHS – Tailored Plan – TBI/Innovation – Dual Eligible	IHS – Foster Care/Adoption – Tailored Plan	

## EBCI AND CIHA OVERVIEW

**EBCI:** The EBCI is the only North Carolina-based federally recognized tribe with a population of approximately 16,000 in the five-county Purchase/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA). The PRCDA is the geographic area where the EBCI Tribal Option primarily operates.

**CIHA:** CIHA is the primary health system for the EBCI. CIHA has delegated authority to manage programs, functions, services and activities provided by IHS. CIHA provides medical care for more than 13,000 members of the EBCI, including approximately 4,000 NC Medicaid beneficiaries.

Fact Sheets are updated periodically with new information. Created Dec. 21, 2021.  
For more information, please visit <https://www.medicaid.ncdhs.gov/transformation>.