

# Fact Sheet

## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Option Overview

### The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Option Launched July 2021

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

This fact sheet provides details on the EBCI Tribal Option and who is eligible 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 whole-person health care needs (e.g., medical, behavioral health, social determinants of health, pharmacy, dental) of federally recognized Tribal beneficiaries and others who qualify for services through IHS.
- Serves eligible beneficiaries including (but not limited to) those in the child welfare system, beneficiaries eligible for Tailored Plan services and/or justice involved beneficiaries.
- Includes care coordination in cooperation with Vaya Health (a Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO)) for a serious mental health disorder, substance use disorder, intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Manages a primary care provider network inclusive of Tribal and non-Tribal practices.
- Offers value-added services, such as wellness programs, education vouchers, breast pumps and children's athletic shoes (etc.).
- EBCI Tribal Option beneficiaries can get services from any NC Medicaid provider.

#### HOW DO PROVIDERS BILL THE EBCI TRIBAL OPTION?

Any NC Medicaid provider may render services to EBCI Tribal Option beneficiaries.

Providers should submit non-behavioral health prior authorizations, claims, follow-ups and credentialing requests to the NC Medicaid through NCTracks.

Providers should submit behavioral health prior authorizations, claims and follow-ups to the assigned health plan.

Please note that all claims for federally recognized tribal beneficiaries must be submitted for the full amount.

Providers are not permitted to collect copayments from EBCI Tribal Option beneficiaries.

## 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 and 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 beneficiaries
- Individuals who qualify for services through IHS
- Direct lineal descendants
- Non-Indian children under age 19 who reside in an Indian household
- Non-Indian pregnant women carrying an Indian child

See the [Managed Care Populations and Enrollment Notices Fact Sheet](#) for a list of the managed care status in NC FAST that qualify for the EBCI Tribal Option.

## EBCI AND CIHA OVERVIEW

The EBCI is the only North Carolina-based federally recognized tribe with a population of approximately 16,000 primarily located in Cherokee, Haywood, Jackson, Swain and Graham counties.

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 beneficiaries of the EBCI, including approximately 6,000 NC Medicaid beneficiaries.

