



Jackson County Board of County Commissioners

Shelly Foreman

Community Relations Regional Director

November 4th, 2025

Vaya Health: Who We Are

Vaya Health is a public managed care organization (MCO) that prioritizes whole-person health. We manage Medicaid, federal, state, and local funding to connect the people we serve to health care services and supports.

- **Vaya Total Care:** Manage mental health, substance use, I/DD, TBI, physical health, and pharmacy services, as well as Long-term Services and Supports, for Medicaid beneficiaries.
- **Medicaid Direct:** North Carolina's health care program for Medicaid beneficiaries who are not enrolled in managed care plans. Vaya is responsible for managing mental health, substance use, I/DD, and TBI service.
- **Tailored Plan:** Manage mental health, substance use, I/DD, and TBI services for individuals without insurance – or too little insurance – who are eligible for care funded by the state of North Carolina or other public funds.

NC DHHS Prepares for Rural Health Transformation Program

Goal: Federal funding to increase access to care and improve health outcomes for North Carolina's 3+ million rural residents.

Background:

- Part of **H.R. 1** federal legislation, which also enacted Medicaid cuts projected to reduce NC funding by **\$49.9B over 10 years**.
- **RHTP funding:** \$50B total over 5 years (temporary, non-recurring).
- First \$25B split evenly among all states (~\$100M/year for NC).
- Second \$25B distributed at Center for Medicaid Services discretion.

NC DHHS Prepares for Rural Health Transformation Program

Strategic Goals:

- Make Rural America Healthy Again- *Prevention and Chronic Disease and Behavioral Health*
- Sustainable Access to Care- *Appropriate Care Availability and Provider Payments**
- Workforce Development
- Innovative Care
- Tech Innovation- *Consumer Tech Solutions, IT Advancements and T&T Assistance*

- **Cannot supplant or modify fee schedule payments for insurance reimbursable clinical services. Justify why provider payments are not already reimbursable or how the payment will fill a gap in care coverage*

NC DHHS Prepares for Rural Health Transformation Program

NC's application will outline plans to:

- Improve access to rural hospitals and providers.
- Strengthen the rural health care workforce.
- Foster provider partnerships.
- Improve outcomes for rural residents.

Fall 2025: NCDHHS will collect provider and community feedback here and input sessions at [Rural Health Transformation Program: Submit Your Input | NCDHHS](#).

Dec. 31, 2025: Target for CMS application approval.

Early 2026: Public notice and funding application process for providers/hospitals.

Vaya Health Updates

NC General Assembly passed “Mini Budget” and is still in process of finalizing. Hope that biennium budget will be passed now General Assembly now in session. Key areas of concern:

- “Mini Budget” Medicaid funding of \$600,000 million falls below NCDHHS projections.
 - ✓ The Division of Health Benefits and the GA Fiscal Research both projecting Medicaid shortfall. Disagreement between them on the amount of the shortfall.
 - ✓ Governor Stein and Secretary Sangvai sent joint communication outline proposed changes to FY 26 Medicaid budget and related provider rate reductions based on “Mini Budget” funding.
 - ✓ NCDHHS implemented rate reductions on October 1st with Medicaid services being cut by 3% and targeted services cut by either 8 or 10%.
 - ✓ The Administration and General Assembly are still negotiating the final funding for biennium budget.
 - ✓ Vaya will wait until November 1st to implement these reductions, with hopes that a final budget will mitigate these reductions.
- Vaya’s Single Stream (Indigent) Funding reduced by approximately \$6 million based on “Mini Budget”
- NCDHHS announces December 1st, 2025 as the “go-live” date for the state-wide BCBS Child and Family Specialty Plan Waiver.



Regional and County Projects and Network Development

Hope4NC Grant

Free and anonymous for all residents in affected communities:

Individual and group crisis recovery outreach

Public education

**Community networking and support
Assessment, referral, and resource connection**

**Team Leaders, Crisis Counselors, and
Community Liaison/Resource Linkage
staff in each region**

**No health plan required for grant
supports**

Hope4NC Helpline: 1-855-587-3463

Need someone to talk to?


**CALL
24/7**

The impact of Hurricane Helene can be overwhelming for adults, youth and children. Everyone has different stress responses that may include:

- Feeling alone.
- Irritability or feeling out of sorts.
- Head, stomach or body aches.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty concentrating, forgetful.
- Fear for your own health.
- Worrying about the health of your family or friends.
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.
- Feeling stuck, no time for self-care.
- Looking for ideas to stay calm and healthy.



HOPE  4 NC

HELPLINE 1-855-587-3463



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

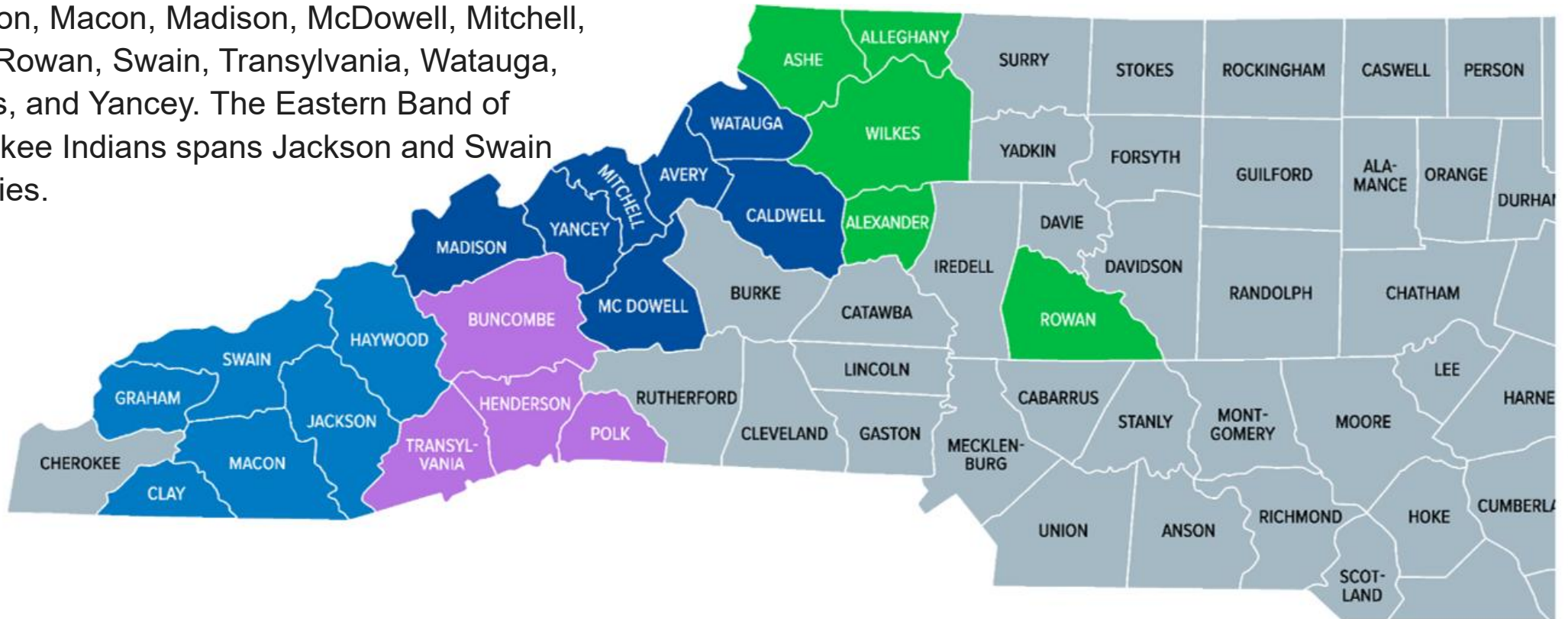
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HURRICANE HELENE IMPACTED COUNTIES in WNC

Vaya's CCP is serving 22 of the 25 impacted counties in WNC.

Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rowan, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians spans Jackson and Swain Counties.





Regional/County Projects

- Analenesgi Inpatient Unit taking Vaya Total Care members who are not enrolled, voluntary adult admissions.
- Behavioral Health Urgent Care at Balsam Center serving adolescents and adults experiencing a behavioral health crisis, as diversion from Emergency Departments.
- Appalachian Mountain Health Center has expanded behavioral health and Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program at Peachtree, Tallulah & Jackson Clinics.
- Dr. Matt Holmes w/ Hazelwood Health opening a new Addiction Treatment Clinic in County.
- Vaya facilitating a Sequential Intercept Mapping event in early February with County partners in Opioid Settlement/CIT Coalitions.

