

Contracting with Health Plans

The Essential Community Provider (ECP) law requires health plan companies to offer a provider contract to any designated ECP located in the area served by the health plan company. The ECP must request a contract from the health plan company. Contracted rates must be at least as much per unit of service as are paid to other providers for the same or similar services. The health plan company may require ECPs to meet the same data requirements, utilization review, and quality assurance requirements that other contracted providers must meet. While the health plan company should not unduly delay the start date of a contract, it may choose a start date that will place the ECP on the same contracting schedule as other contracted providers.

Please note that ECP contracting requirements do not apply to companies with fewer than 50,000 enrollees, all of whom are on medical assistance.

If a health plan company does not respond to a request for a contract, or offers a contract that is not on par with other contracted providers, remind the health plan company of its obligations under Minnesota Statutes, Section 62Q.19, subdivisions 3 and 5. If the health plan company still does not offer an appropriate contract, you may contact the Managed Care System for assistance. Call 651-201-5100, or 800-657-3916, toll free.

The Minnesota Department of Health is authorized to impose monetary penalties against Health Maintenance Organizations that violate ECP law.

Health Plan Companies

By law, a health plan company must offer a provider contract to any designated Essential Community Provider located in the area served by the health plan company. Contracting with more health plan gives a provider access to more patients with a source of reimbursement for care.