

# WHAT IS A HCQU?

---

**Kelly Fisher**  
Milestone PA



Have you ever heard of a HCQU? HCQU stands for Healthcare Quality Unit. The HCQU's are unique to Pennsylvania. We offer support to people with intellectual disabilities, their families, Providers as well as other stakeholders. There are eight HCQU's across the State of PA. Every county within the Commonwealth is covered by a HCQU.

What do the HCQU's do? While each HCQU has similar responsibilities, each one is unique to addressing the needs of its geographical area.

There are two primary areas that all HCQU's provide. This includes Technical Assistance and Training.

Each HCQU employs clinicians. Some HCQU's have nurses while others may have nurses and behavioral health professionals. We know that often people with intellectual disabilities/autism (ID/A) may have different medical, behavioral, and mental health struggles. Many times, these can be demonstrated in unusual ways. Often, we see different medical conditions and mental health conditions present more frequently. A person's supporters may request a Technical Assistance, in this a clinician may review medical or behavioral records, meet with the person, meet with the family/Provider to see what issues may be present. Then suggestions will be made for ways to help support that person. This may include doctor appointments, testing, looking for medication interactions, sensory issues, mental health support, social stories as well as education.

The second thing that all HCQU's offer is education. This can be related to different medical, behavioral, and mental health topics. It can be tailored towards what the person is currently going through or topic specific. This education may be for the person, their supporters, or the system in general. The HCQU's can not provide any hands-on support but have the ability to offer many tools and best practice support.

For reference the following are Pennsylvania's HCQU's:

- **Central PA Health Care Quality Unit** — (Geisinger)

Central PA HCQU serves Blair, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Snyder, and Union counties.

- **Eastern PA Health Care Quality Unit** — (Advocacy Alliance)

Eastern PA HCQU serves Pike, Monroe, Carbon, Northampton, Lehigh, and Berks counties.

- **Northeastern PA Health Care Quality Unit** — (Advocacy Alliance)

Northeastern HCQU serves Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, Sullivan, Lackawanna, and Luzerne counties.

- **Northwest PA Health Care Quality Unit** — (Milestone HCQU Northwest)

Milestone HCQU Northwest serves Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, and Warren counties.

- **Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care** — (PMHCC, Inc.)

Philadelphia HCQU serves Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

- **South Central PA Health Care Quality Unit** — (Advocacy Alliance)

South Central HCQU serves Perry, Dauphin, Lebanon, Cumberland, Fulton, Franklin, Adams, York, and Lancaster counties.

- **Southwestern PA Health Care Quality Unit** — (Acentra)

Southwestern HCQU serves Allegheny, Bedford, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties.

- **Western PA Health Care Quality Unit** — (Milestone HCQU West)

Western HCQU serves Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango counties.