

Strengthening the Behavioral Health Workforce in Colorado: An Approach to Community Partnership

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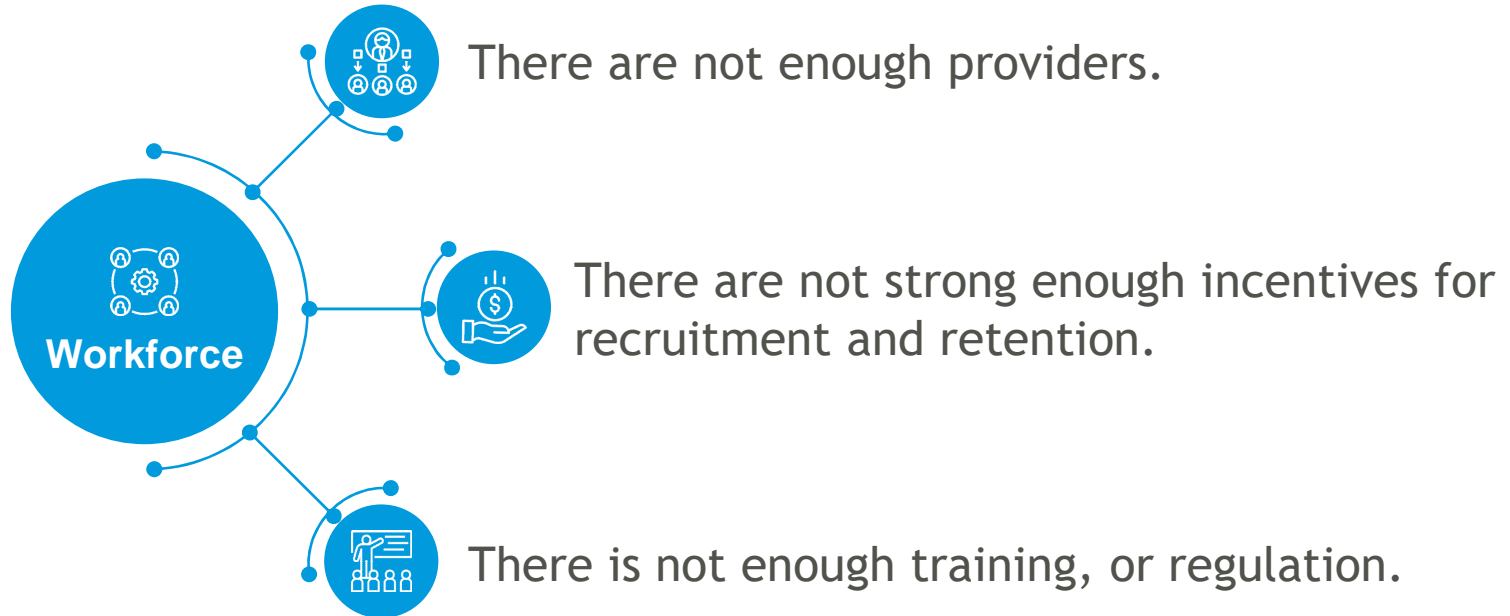


COLORADO
Behavioral Health
Administration

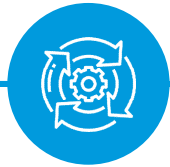
The Governor's Behavioral Health Task Force identified the six pillars needed for a strong behavioral health system in Colorado.



What We Heard About Workforce



SB22-181 is a significant investment in behavioral health workforce development.



Promote the profession



Create opportunities to grow in the field



Build a coalition of peer support specialists



Keep it local



Offer loan forgiveness and scholarships

Workforce Initiatives

- Grant-making
- Education & Training
- Diversifying the Workforce





Stabilizing Current Workforce

\$19.5M Retention & Recruitment grants for SUD Providers and BH employers

Diversifying Future Workforce

\$9M+ combined to strengthen career pipeline opportunities

Behavioral Health Workforce Grant Funding



September 2023

\$5M for Peer
Workforce
Expansion



Fall 2023

Award \$4.9M
in Career
Development
Grants



Q4 2023

\$8.9M for
Work-based
Learning
Incentives



Education & Training

Develop robust learning community (LMS project) across behavioral health providers and other roles, including:

- o cultural competencies
- o mental health & substance use disorder
- o criminal justice provider endorsement
- o trauma-informed care
- o other topic areas prioritized by the workgroup and task force recommendations



Behavioral Health Workforce Initiatives

Diversifying the Workforce:

- Expand peer support workforce
- Pilot Behavioral Health Aide program (Alaska model)

Stay Connected with the BHA

