

Colorado Project AWARE Grant

Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education

Health and Wellness Unit



COLORADO
Department of Education

Overview

Colorado's Project AWARE aims to build a comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated school behavioral health services system. To support communities and schools to increase access to school- and-community-based mental health services, Project AWARE increases collaboration between state, local and building-level stakeholders to increase coordination of state and local policy, improve systems integration, strengthen cross-organizational resources and ensure sustainability of programs and funding.

The model is based on an MTSS behavioral health framework. Behavioral health promotion is a significant component of the project, therefore, CDE has partnered with Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) to promote and strengthen behavioral health and prevention systems. The Health and Wellness Unit also manages the School Health Professional Grant (SHPG) which includes 68 LEAs grantees working to increase the presence of school health professional who address youth behavioral health need. Project AWARE will capitalize on collaborations and align efforts with behavioral health stakeholders across the state to improve mental health awareness and response. In addition to broader, statewide activities, Project AWARE has partnered with four local education agencies (LEAs) to build district infrastructure and capacity and support best practices to inform Colorado schools and communities interested in accomplishing similar goals.

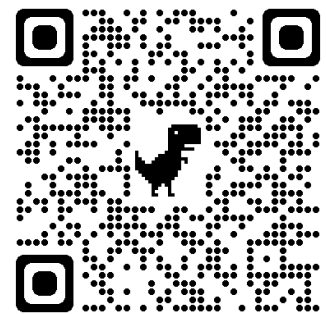
Funding/Context

As a former grantee of project AWARE (2014 - 2019) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) continues to award funding to state and local education agencies to expand the capacity for mental and behavioral supports nationwide.

Current Goals:

- Enhance the current state infrastructure for a coordinated, culturally responsive approach to meet the behavioral health needs to students, families, and communities.
- Increase the implementation of efforts within selected LEAs to improve or expand upon evidence-based behavioral health programs, services, and interventions for school-aged youth and families.
- Increase capacity of LEAs through building behavioral health awareness and literacy of those who support school-aged youth and families to recognize behavioral health needs and connect them to appropriate services.

To learn more about ProjectAWARE, use the QR code:



For Questions, contact:

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