



Behavioral Health Incentives Program

- The purpose of the program is to support individuals, including youth, with severe behavioral health disorders by increasing the behavioral healthcare workforce.
 - The program provides financial incentives to **rural and low-income students** to obtain a credential in certain behavioral health programs.
 - Students are eligible if they are low-income and/or attend a school in a rural area, graduate from a high school in a rural area, or are current residents of a rural area.
 - Beginning January 2022, and available for a set period, the program covers an eligible student's in-state tuition only (not books, supplies and other fees) in approved programs at Colorado institutions of higher education.
 - The program provides for an outreach campaign to inform prospective students and institutions of this incentive initiative.
- Included in [SB21-137](#), *Behavioral Health Recovery Act of 2021*, the program allocates \$9 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Program and Institution Eligibility & Requirements

- Eligible programs are credential programs more than one year long, including associate, bachelor, or master's degrees in behavioral or mental health as approved by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE). CDHS will maintain the list of qualifying programs and implement a review process for updates.
- Institutions may be public or private and must be approved to operate in the State of Colorado.
- CDHE will create a process for institutions to participate in the program which will include more details.
- Institutions may award a Behavioral Health Incentive Grants as part of a student's total aid package. Awards shall not exceed a student's actual tuition costs.
- Participating institutions provide annual reporting to CDHE on the number of qualifying students and their demographics, including race/ethnicity, credits completed, credentials awarded, and amount of disbursed funding.
- CDHE will partner with qualifying institutions on marketing and outreach to ensure students are aware of the incentive and to encourage them to pursue certifications in this field of study.

Student Eligibility & Additional Details

- Students must enroll in an eligible program at a participating institution.
- Students must graduate from a rural high school or reside or work in a rural area as defined by the National Center for Educational Statistics.
- Qualify for the Pell Grant.

For More Information

Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

Behavioral Health Incentives: <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/students/preparing-for-college/behavioral-health-incentive>

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