



Strengthening Colorado's Mental Health System A Plan to Safeguard all Coloradans

Expanding the State's Crisis Response System

Colorado currently has crisis response services, but not a comprehensive system in all communities statewide. To strengthen the existing crisis response system and expand it statewide, the Governor's proposal includes:

- **24-hour crisis hotline** – One number for all Coloradans to use. Skilled professionals will be available to assess individual needs and link callers to counseling services and crisis support.
- **Walk-in crisis stabilization facilities** – New 24/7 facilities for urgent mental health services and support including assessments, counseling, stabilization and referrals.
- **Statewide awareness campaign** – A hotline, services and support work if people know how to access them. Awareness and outreach materials will be developed to direct individuals how to get help. These materials will provide important messages for identifying those in crisis.

Strengthening the crisis response system will:

- Help ensure people get the right services, at the right location and at the right time;
- Improve access to mental health services and promote recovery;
- When possible, keep individuals in their homes and communities as opposed to institutional care;
- Reduce the utilization of emergency departments, jails, prisons and homeless programs for people experiencing a mental health emergency;
- Increase an individual's ability to recognize and deal with situations that may otherwise result in crises;
- Increase an individual's network of community and natural supports, as well as their use of these supports for crisis prevention; and
- Create a system that will help reduce the likelihood of future emergencies and produce better outcomes.

The Governor's budget request to expand and enhance the state's crisis response system is \$10,272,874.

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