

## Who Are We?

**Mental Health First Aid Colorado** is the local chapter of the national program, Mental Health First Aid USA. Introduced in Colorado in 2008, the program has grown to include 136 Instructors reaching a variety of audiences statewide. We are an organization driven by community and state agencies across Colorado with leadership from the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council in partnership with the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health.

Colorado has a unique and valuable approach to implementing the program that brings together consumer advocates, providers, state agencies, criminal justice professionals, and statewide provider associations to serve as a formal MHFA Advisory Committee. Organizations include:

- Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
- > Colorado Division of Behavioral Health
- Colorado Sheriff's Association
- Community mental health and substance abuse providers
- Colorado Providers Association (substance abuse)
- Colorado Department of Public Safety
- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Colorado (Family Advocates)
- Mental Health America of Colorado (Consumer Advocates)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Colorado (Consumer Advocates)
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Mental Health First Aid Colorado is committed to realizing the program's goals to improve participants' knowledge of behavioral health disorders, to reduce stigma, and to increase the amount of help provided to those who may need it. In accomplishing these goals, MHFA helps to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of mental health and substance use disorders while promoting acceptance, dignity and social inclusion of people experiencing behavioral health problems.

