



FEDC  **WellSTART**

FEDC WellSTART is only one of the Fremont Economic Development Corporation "START" programs to encourage business development in specific areas:



Coming Soon:
FEDC TradeSTART
FEDC ArtSTART



WATCH
**Career Pathways
Video Series**
www.WellSTART.health



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FEDC  **WellSTART**

FEDC WellSTART is a Fremont Economic Development Corporation initiative to promote mental and physical wellness in the region through the development of career pathways, professional recruitment and retention activities, job creation, business support, and advocacy.

www.WellSTART.health

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

FEDC WellSTART advocates for behavioral health businesses and providers:

- Monthly career pathways/services planning meetings
- Provider advocacy/representation in area/ State planning meetings

Successfully supports startup businesses and services, such as:

A new billing/insurance credentialing business serving private practitioners

A therapist supervision business providing:

- Centralized student internship supervision
- Mentorship/support for therapists starting private practices

Private businesses offering shared services:

- Psychiatric services
- Groups
- Clothing/food support

FEDC WellSTART provides area representation:

- Merged with the Colorado Workforce Development Council Region 13 health sector partnership (Custer, Lake, Chaffee and Fremont counties)

Local community college and university behavioral health career pathway development:

Pueblo Community College (PCC) developed a Behavioral Health Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, that includes coursework for:

- Certified Addiction Technician (CAT)
- Peer Specialist Certificates

University of Colorado - Colorado Springs (UCCS) and Colorado State University - Pueblo (CSU-P) accept the PCC behavioral health AAS degree credits

DID YOU KNOW?

Colorado's behavioral health workforce shortage is especially acute in rural areas, like the FEDC WellSTART/Region 13 Health Sector Partnership.

Why Do We Need Behavioral Health Professionals in Region 13?

21% of all US adults experienced a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder in 2020

Young adults aged 18-25 years had the highest prevalence of any mental illness (30.6%)

"Over half of all Coloradans say the coronavirus has negatively impacted their mental health."

Impacts are worse for low incomes - Fremont County's poverty rate is 13.2% vs the state's 9.8% rate

Fremont county's drug overdose death rate (32.9) and Pueblo's (46.1) are substantially higher than the state average (28.3)

Fremont county's suicide mortality rate (32.95) is higher than the state average (20.68)