

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM (PARAPROFESSIONALS)

## HRSA: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Paraprofessionals

The BHWET Program for Paraprofessionals builds Montana's behavioral health workforce by training individuals to serve in high-need roles such as Community Health Workers (CHWs), Community Paramedics (CIHs), Peer Support Specialists (PSSs), and Behavioral Health Technicians (BH Techs). A special focus is placed on developing knowledge and understanding of youth who have experienced trauma and are at risk for behavioral health disorders, including anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder.

### PROGRAM GOAL

The Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program for Paraprofessionals works to develop and expand community-based experiential training such as field placements and internships to increase the skills, knowledge and capacity of students preparing to become mental health workers, peer support specialists, and other behavioral health paraprofessionals.

### PROGRAM TIMELINE

September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2025

### CORE TOPIC AREAS

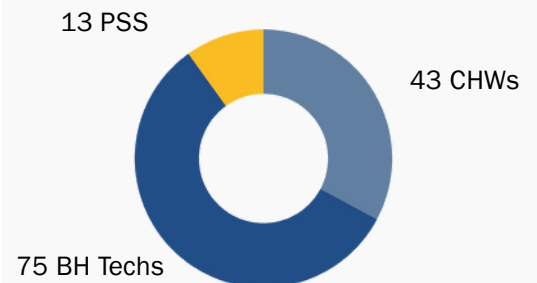
Through a six-month program, participants gain hands-on experience and complete targeted coursework in trauma-informed care, suicide prevention, and motivational interviewing. With a focus on supporting youth impacted by trauma and behavioral health challenges, the program equips graduates to provide vital care in underserved communities.



A Peer Support Specialist cohort is trained in Missoula, Montana.

*"This was a great program. I learned SO MUCH and feel that these trainings will continue to help me throughout my career. I can't recommend this program enough, and I hope that you continue to offer these incredible trainings to people in the health care field in the state of Montana. Thank you!!"*

-2024 BHWET Paraprofessional Participant



**131** Total paraprofessionals trained

### IMPACT & RETURN ON INVESTMENT

#### Why This Program Matters:

- Focuses on youth and young adults, meeting urgent needs through tailored services and community-based support.
- Supports workforce entry with a stipend and certificate, lowering financial barriers to behavioral health careers.
- Builds capacity for long-term community impact, strengthening local behavioral health systems from within.
- Expands the behavioral health workforce in underserved and rural communities across Montana.
- Prepares individuals for high-demand roles such as Community Health Worker, Peer Support Specialist, and Behavioral Health Technician.
- Provides hands-on experience through supervised fieldwork, increasing real-world competency and confidence.

