



February 2024

E-UPDATE FROM THE COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY ~ You are receiving this email as a subscriber of the Office of School Safety listserv. E-Updates from the OSS contain the most current information about the Office's activities and resources, as well as other school safety efforts throughout the state of Colorado and relevant national resources. Please forward this to others on your email list who have an interest in supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado. They may register for this listserv on our website oss.colorado.gov.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Colleagues:

- The **School Safety Working Group (SSWG)** was a collaborative effort of all the state agencies that provide safety resources to schools in Colorado. The SSWG's legislatively mandated work took place from December 2022 through November 2023.
 - [View the final report](#) of the group.
 - The recommendations and the collaborations will continue and be facilitated by CDE and the Office of School Safety.
 - Watch for more information in the coming months.
- Margaret Ochoa, Manager of the School Safety Resource Center, has submitted the [2023 Legislative Report](#) to the Colorado General Assembly. It gives a snapshot of the work of the OSS/CSSRC last year.
- The School Safety Resource Center, in the Office of School Safety, has **two positions open**:
 - [School Outreach Consultant](#) - this position operates from metro Denver focusing on psychological safety. For more information, please see the posting.
 - [Southwest Regional Training Consultant](#) - this position operates from your home in the SW region of the state. **You MUST live in the SW region of the state.** Please see the posting.

I don't put much credence in the ground hog's predictions, but I am hoping for six more weeks of winter as I think we need more snow.

kindest regards,

Chris Harms

Christine R. Harms MS, Director
Office of School Safety
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[303-912-6915](tel:303-912-6915)



UPDATES FROM THE GRANTS UNIT

SSD Grant - I have applied. What's Next?

- Thanks to all the applicants that applied. We received 125 applications totaling over \$42,962,000.00 of request.

School Security Disbursement Grant

Period of Performance: March 9, 2024- June 30, 2026



- January 29, 2024, 5PM - SSD applications due
- March 2, 2024 - Notification of funding recommendation posted on website
- March 9, 2024 - Period of performance begins
- March 22, 2024 - Grant agreements emailed to recipients
- May 24, 2024 - Disbursement of grant funds

Exciting News - SAFER Grant **Coming Soon!**

- To Be Announced (TBA): Be on the lookout for our School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) grant this spring. We're gearing up to provide support for initiatives that enhance school emergency response capabilities. Stay tuned for more details as we work together to make our schools safer and more secure.

Share Your Success - Be Featured in The Grants E-Update!

- We want to celebrate your achievements! If you've had success with any of our grants, share your story with us. Submit a paragraph detailing your project's impact, and you could be featured in our upcoming E-update. Your success inspires others—let's showcase the incredible work happening in our schools!

We're Here for You!

- Remember, our team is here to support you. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to our dedicated grant support team.
 - General Grant Inquiries: cdps_oss_grants@state.co.us
 - The School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER): cdps_oss_safer@state.co.us
 - The School Security Disbursement Grant Program (SSD): cdps_oss_ssd@state.co.us
 - Youth Violence Prevention Grant Program (YVP): cdps_oss_yvp@state.co.us
 - Stay Connected: oss.colorado.gov/grants-overview

Thank you,

OSS Grants Unit

cdps_oss_grants@state.co.us

COLORADO SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORKING & TRAINING

NEW Overview of the Crisis Response Unit Webinar

- This overview will be hosted by Kati Garner, Manager of the Crisis Response Unit
- When:
 - Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 1PM
- [Register online](#)

NEW Colorado Threat Assessment Symposium Register Now

- The Office of School Safety is excited to present a two-day, in-person symposium on threat assessment.
- Presenters:
 - **Day One: Workshops on threat assessment interviewing, utilizing your TA data and considerations when conducting assessments with students in special education.**
 - **Day Two: Peter Langman, Ph.D., Researcher and author of a number of books on students that commit violence in schools including *Why Kids Kill: Inside the Minds of School Shooters*.**
- **When: Monday and Tuesday, May 6 - 7, 2024**
- **Where: Embassy Suites, 4705 Clydesdale Pkwy, Loveland, CO 80538**
- **Cost: \$25 for one day or \$40 for both days (non-refundable)**
- **Registration fees cannot be refunded if you decide you cannot attend but you can transfer your registration to a colleague by calling Melissa Rubeo at [303-253-0621](tel:303-253-0621).**
- [Register for the Symposium](#)
- [See the Agenda](#)

Networking Groups for Threat Assessment and Suicide Prevention Professionals

- For the last few years, the CSSRC has facilitated informal meetings for any school staff who oversee either suicide prevention and intervention or threat assessments in their buildings. We have separated the meetings into two groups: Suicide Prevention Professionals and Threat Assessment Professionals.
- The Suicide Prevention Professionals group will only be for staff who have attended our Suicide Risk Assessment (SRA) Toolkit training and are using the CSSRC Toolkit. Meetings will occasionally be opened to the mental health community at large. Those meetings will be announced in the Update.
- The Threat Assessment Professionals group will only be for staff who have attended our Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP) training and those trained under the STOP Grant - We have set these professional meetings for the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings will be virtual to allow more of our rural colleagues to join us. The calendar is below.
- Others are welcome to join these groups based on the criteria described above. To join, contact Margaret Ochoa at Margaret.Ochoa@state.co.us if you have not already been contacted. Please specify which group you are interested in attending although you are welcome to join both.

February 20, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM	Suicide Prevention Professionals Discussion/CSSRC SRA Toolkit Users
March 12, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM	CTAMP Professionals Discussion
April 9, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM	Suicide Prevention Professionals Discussion/CSSRC SRA Toolkit Users
May 14, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM	CTAMP Professionals Discussion

- The larger Threat Assessment Advisory Group will begin in January. This group is for *all* professionals working in schools that are involved with Threat Assessments. The first meeting, we would like you to come with ideas, speakers and topics you would like to see covered in future

events and we will do our best to resource these. Invites will be sent out for all three dates to those that may have already attended a TA meeting with us to include the CTAMP/STOP team leads. If you are interested in joining, please email Brad Stiles at brad.stiles@state.co.us.

March 6, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM	Threat Assessment Advisory Group
April 17, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM	Threat Assessment Advisory Group

Networking Group for Managing Problematic Sexual Behaviors (PSB)

- The working group for professionals managing problematic sexual behaviors (PSB) in students will be meeting on the following **first Tuesdays of the month which started in November 2023**. The meetings will be virtual. Please contact Margaret Ochoa at Margaret.Ochoa@state.co.us if you are interested and have not already been contacted. The calendar is below.

March 5, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM

May 7, 2024, from 2PM - 3PM

Safer Schools Together: VIRTUAL DIGITAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TRAINING HURRY

- **When: Thursday, February 29, 2024, 8AM - 3PM**
 - BASIC DTA Training
 - [Register for BASIC DTA Training](#)
 - **This workshop is almost full!**
- **When: Thursday, March 7, 2024, 8AM - 3PM**
 - ADVANCED DTA Training (You must have taken BASIC DTA to qualify for this workshop)
 - [Register for ADVANCED DTA Training](#)
- These workshops are being offered with funding provided by the Colorado legislature to the new Office of School Safety. Therefore, these workshops are being offered at no charge.
- Registration is limited so please sign up as soon as possible.
- [Check out the event flyer](#)

Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium

- Although designed for Institutions of Higher Education, the workshops are applicable to K-12 school personnel as well. Feel free to join us!
- **When: Friday, May 31, 2024**
- **Location: Regis University, Mountain View Conference Room**
- **Cost: \$50**
- [Register online](#)

SRO Supervisors' Training

- The Office of School Safety will hold a **NASRO Supervisors' Training** in collaboration with the annual CASRO Summer Conference on **June 10, 11, and 12 in Keystone**.
- This opportunity is provided by a Bureau of Justice grant secured by the OSS. This means that the grant funds will cover the cost of the NASRO training fee, hotels, per diems and mileage for SRO Supervisors.
- It is a contract with NASRO and not open to anyone outside of Colorado so it will NOT be listed on NASRO's website.
- Space is limited so please [register early](#).
- [See the event flyer](#)

- If you have any questions, please reach out to Christine.harms@state.co.us.

2024 NASRO Advanced SRO Training

- The Office of School Safety will hold two Advanced SRO trainings this summer:
 - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - July 24, 25 and 26 at the Lowry Conference Center in Denver
 - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - August 5, 6 and 7 at Mesa State University in Grand Junction
- The class sizes will be limited so you must register early.
- The OSS has grant funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to pay NASRO fees and travel expenses for those officers coming from a distance.
- Please note: We will need to charge for cancellations done within a week of the workshops or no shows.
- Use the [online registration form](#) to register for one of the following:
 - Denver training - July 24 - 26, 2024, Lowry Conference Center
 - Grand Junction training - August 5 - 7, 2024, Mesa State University

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention & Intervention Symposium

- This has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

CSSRC ONLINE

E-COURSE OFFERINGS & ARCHIVED PRESENTATIONS

CSSRC online course links:

- Online courses are listed on [the OSS website](#).

CURRENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Overview of Emergency Drills for Parents/Guardians

- When an emergency happens in a school, we want students and staff to be prepared by having practiced what to do before an incident occurs.
- Schools in Colorado practice drills routinely to create muscle memory NOT because there is a known threat to the community.
- [View the full resource on the OSS website](#).
- [Emergency Drills for Parents/Guardians - PDF - English](#)
- [Emergency Drills for Parents/Guardians - PDF - Spanish](#)

Resource Available for Migrants Newly Arrived in Colorado

- This [Welcome Packet](#) created by the [Colorado Department of Labor and Employment \(CDLE\)](#) is intended to assist asylum seekers and migrants who do not yet have an immigration legal status but are intending to call Colorado home.
- This guide is not legal advice and it does not include all of the information that migrants need to know. It is only a guide to help them get started.
- [Consult the Welcome Packet in English](#)
- [Consult the Welcome Packet in Spanish](#)

NATIONAL TRAININGS and EVENTS

NEW It's That Time! Youth Preparedness Council Application Promotional Toolkit

- The application period for [FEMA](#)'s National Youth Preparedness Council kicked off on Monday, January 22, 2023!
- Students in grades 8 through 11 are eligible to apply.
- Important dates:
 - Monday, January 22, 2024: application opened
 - Thursday, January 25, 2024: applicant information session #1

- (5PM ET)
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024: applicant information session #2 (8PM ET)
- Monday, March 4, 2024: application closes (11:59PM PT)
- March - April 2024: application review period
- May - June 2024: selection and notification
- July 2024: national YPC kick-off (virtual event)
- See the promotional materials:
 - [2024 YPC Application Promotional Toolkit \(English\)](#)
 - [2024 YPC Application Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)
 - [2024 YPC Application Promotional Toolkit \(Spanish\)](#)
 - [2024 YPC Application Flyer \(English\)](#)
- For more information and to get application materials, visit [the FEMA YPC web page](#)
- If you have any questions or need support with recruitment efforts, reach out to kirsten.maltese@fema.dhs.gov

Series: Live Virtual Presentations on Targeted Violence Prevention

- The [U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center \(NTAC\)](#) is pleased to announce a new monthly series of live virtual events. In these presentations, expert researchers will share findings and implications from decades of research on targeted violence and offer strategies for preventing acts of violence impacting the places where we work, learn, worship, and otherwise live our daily lives.
- The list of available virtual training events will be regularly updated, and presentation topics may change from month to month.
- [Learn more about this series of live virtual presentations, or to register for one or more of these events](#)
- **Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities Webinar**
 - Join the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center for a virtual training event and hear from researchers as they discuss important findings from their research on mass attacks perpetrated in public spaces.
 - This training will provide guidance on how communities may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model.
 - [Learn more and register](#) for your choice of webinar dates:
 - Monday, February 5, 2024, 10AM - Noon MT
 - Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10AM - Noon MT
 - Wednesday, June 5, 2024, Noon - 2:00PM EST
- [The U.S. Department of Education \(ED\)](#) and the [Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response](#), a division within the U.S. [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#), announced a partnership to [distribute free COVID-19 tests](#) to schools across the country.
- In a [letter](#) sent to local education agencies by ED, school districts are being encouraged to order tests directly from the federal government. Districts can then distribute these tests for free to students, staff, parents, and school communities, with the expectation that millions of tests will be sent out in the coming months allowing schools to stock nurses' offices, distribute at events, send tests home with students or parents, and more.

OTHER COLORADO TRAININGS and EVENTS

NEW Training Series: Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Behavioral Health Field Response

- The Disaster Behavioral Health team at the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\)](#) is excited to share that they are offering a series of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Behavioral Health Field Response (FR) in various regions throughout Colorado in February 2024.
- These trainings may fulfill certain prerequisites for the March 2024

Train the Trainer event hosted by [CDPHE](#) for those attending.

- For the below schedule, you can also attend one or the other, or both training days. Please share this opportunity widely with anyone you think may be interested!
 - Bent County, Bent County Community Center - [See the flyer](#)
 - **February 7, 2024, 12PM - 5PM, PFA**
 - **February 8, 2024, 8AM - 5PM, FR**
 - Greeley, TBD, Hosted by Kelly Slade and Shawna Cranmer from North Range Behavioral Health
 - **February 22, 2024, 9AM - 5PM, PFA**
 - Denver, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 - **February 23, 2024, 8AM - 5PM, FR**
- Register online through CO.Train. You must already have or create an account at co.train.org
- There are other PFA and FR trainings hosted by other organizations, please check Co.TRAIN for the desired training to see other dates and locations.
- After you successfully create an account, you should search for the course in the search bar under the tab 'Course Catalog'. You can find the PFA course under "Psychological First Aid- Long Version" or from the course ID **1020568**, and the Field Response Training under "Field Response Training Behavioral Health" or from the course ID **1019466**. **From there, you can find the location specific sessions under the sessions tab.**
- If people need help with account creation, here are some [tutorials](#) that may be useful.
- Below you may find information about each of the trainings.
 - **Psychological First Aid (PFA)** is an early, short-term disaster intervention and one of Colorado's core trainings for disaster behavioral health responders. The course focuses on a set of skills and principles that non-expert and expert disaster behavioral health responders can apply to help people reduce stress and increase functioning after a disruption. This training is helpful to many teams and people involved in disaster response because there are many people experiencing stress in disasters we may interact with, including ourselves.
 - **Behavioral Health Field Response (BHFR)** is an in-depth training to learn about how to engage in the field: from becoming familiar with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to learning the basics of behavioral health triage. BHFR builds on the skills taught in Psychological First Aid by teaching responders how their role fits into the larger disaster response, and how to work alongside medical and other emergency responders in the wake of a crisis, emergency, or disaster. Prerequisite: attend PFA as a learner in the last 3 years.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to CDPHE_DCPHR_DBHTeam@state.co.us.

NEW The 2024 SRTS National Conference is coming to Fort Collins, Colorado!

- The [Colorado Department of Transportation](#) is pleased to be the presenting sponsor for the 2024 Safe Routes to School National Conference! Hosted by [Safe Routes Partnership](#), this makes Colorado the chosen location for the first in-person Safe Routes to School National Conference since 2019.
- The 2024 Safe Routes to School National Conference will be held at the Fort Collins Hilton from **October 22 - 24, 2024**.
- Save the date and prepare to connect with fellow active transportation, public health, and Safe Routes champions from across the country.
- [The Safe Routes Partnership is now accepting session proposals for the event](#), which will bring together hundreds of Safe Routes to School and active transportation professionals to exchange ideas and share

knowledge. The Conference and the wider Safe Routes to School movement benefit from the innovative contributions, creative solutions, practical know-how, and community insights from people of different backgrounds.

- Contact Colorado Safe Routes to School Program Manager Melissa Trecoske Houghton at melissa.houghton@state.co.us.
- [Submit an application for a session proposal](#); those whose submissions are selected will receive \$100 toward registration.
- Submissions are due **Monday, March 4, 2024**. Learn more information as it becomes available at saferoutespartnership.org.

Champion Change: What Can We Do To Thwart Violent Extremism?

- The [Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab \(CELL\)](#) in partnership with the [Colorado Department of Public Safety \(CDPS\)](#) is hosting the following presentations:
 - Lesson Title: [Protecting Communities Against Extremism](#), featuring Dr. Gina Ligon
 - Program Date & Time: **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 11:30AM - 12:30PM MT**
 - [See the event flyer](#)
 - [Register for the event](#)
 - Lesson Title: Threats to Colorado, featuring CO Attorney General Phil Weiser
 - Program Date & Time: **Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 11:30AM - 12:30PM MT**

The Colorado Safer Schools Initiative (CSSI) is Seeking Youth Involvement

- [CSSI](#) is seeking recommendations for youth aged 13-20 to participate in the coalition in a variety of ways.
- Please see [this flyer](#) for more information, and to nominate a youth to participate, use [this form](#).

Colorado School Mental Health Community of Practice (CoP) - New School Year Program

- The [Colorado School Mental Health Community of Practice](#) released their 2023-2024 program aimed at advancing school mental health.
- The CoP will host a Virtual CoP Sessions series with featured presenters, Q&A, and discussions on the **3rd Wednesday of the month in February and May**.
- Open Community Events on selected topics will be open to all interested parties on the **3rd Wednesday of the month in April**.
- [Use this form to register for upcoming events](#).

WEBINARS and OTHER ONLINE LEARNING COURSES for K-12 & IHE

Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence (CO-PTV) Threat Evaluation and Reporting Training

- The Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence (CO-PTV) Program will be offering quarterly virtual training in 2024. Through this training, CO-PTV aims to build the knowledge and awareness necessary to prevent targeted violence within Colorado communities, and improve the prevention capabilities and resources available throughout the state.
- Please see [the attached flyer for more information](#).
- Share this training flyer with anyone in your professional networks who may be interested in attending.
- Upcoming trainings (click on desired date to register):
 - [Thursday, April 25, 2024](#)
 - [Monday, July 15, 2024](#)
 - [Tuesday, October 8, 2024](#)

CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NEW 2024-25 School Counselor Corps Grant applications open

- From the [CO Department of Education \(CDE\)](#): Applications for the 2024-25 School Counselor Corps Grant are open until **Thursday, March 7, 2024**. [Learn more and register for an application webinar](#) at 9AM on **Thursday, February 1, 2024**, on the SCCG webpage.
- For more information contact Brooke Morgan at morgan_b@cde.state.co.us or [303-923-0966](tel:303-923-0966).

NEW Offered by the CO Restorative Justice Coordinating Council: RJ

Micro-Grant Funding Opportunity!

- The [Restorative Justice Coordinating Council \(RJ Council\)](#) is currently accepting micro-grant applications for Fiscal Year 2025 (**July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**)
- Background: In 2018, the [State RJ Council](#) began issuing micro-grant opportunities for entities in Colorado wanting to further restorative justice (RJ). These grants are typically used for training, implementation, and/or for the expansion of RJ related practices and services. In Fiscal Year 2024, nine organizations were awarded micro-grants totaling over \$415,000. Total funds available for the upcoming FY 25 grant cycle is \$400,000.00.
- **Micro-Grant Opportunity Description:** There are two grant types available to applicants; [Community Engagement](#) grants (\$1,000-\$10,000) and [Capacity Building grants](#) (\$10,001-\$65,000).
- **Community Engagement (\$1,000-10,000):** These smaller grants are designed to support immediate community needs for critical conversations, networking, and basic operations for emerging or smaller-scale restorative initiatives.
- **Capacity/Innovation Grants (\$10,001 - \$65,000):** These mid-size grants are designed to strengthen best practices in RJ across communities, regions, and the state.
- [FY 25 Micro-Grant Guidelines, Priorities and Eligibility information](#)
- **Micro-Grant Application Due Date: February 2, 2024, by 11:59PM**
- [Applications for both micro-grant opportunities](#)
- Applications must be submitted within the grant application software system called AmpliFund. Submissions will not be accepted after 11:59PM on **February 2, 2024**. *Important note* No late applications or applications submitted outside of AmpliFund will be accepted.
- Please direct questions to rjcolorado@judicial.state.co.us

NEW New Grant Opportunity Available on [SchoolSafety.gov](#)'s Grants

Finder Tool

- **Grant Funding to Address Indoor Air Pollution at Schools (Deadline: March 19)**
- This solicitation provides funding for grants and other activities to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants at schools in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities through the development and adoption of comprehensive indoor air quality (IAQ) management plans.
- States, local governments and educational agencies, U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, and nonprofit organizations with experience conducting national, regional, or multi-state IAQ management capacity-building programs, providing IAQ training, executing IAQ research in school settings, or disseminating IAQ standards/policies that have achieved positive outcomes - especially with schools and Tribal entities - are encouraged to apply.
- [Access additional information on this grant and find a full list of funding opportunities](#) with upcoming application deadlines. You can also navigate the [Grants Finder Tool](#)'s various features to search for additional grants related to school safety.
- Please contact SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov with any questions

NEW Community Policing Development (CPD) - Implementation of De-Escalation Training Act

- From the [U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services](#): CPD is a competitive grant program designed to advance the practice of community policing by providing guidance on promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies; building knowledge about effective practices and outcomes; and supporting new, creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities.
- The goal of the CPD - Implementation of De-Escalation Training Act solicitation is to develop and support a training approval program as specified in the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022.
- The project must focus on the development and pilot implementation of a standards-based approval process and promotion of its use and benefits to the law enforcement field.
- This solicitation is open to all for-profit (commercial) and nonprofit institutions, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations. Funding for one award up to \$750,000 is available for this program.
- Applications are due by **Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 4:59PM ET.**
- [Please click here for more information on the 2024 CPD - Implementation of De-Escalation Training Act program.](#)

NEW FY24 Colorado Preventing Identity-Based Violence Grant Program Application Released

- The [Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence \(CO-PTV\) Program](#) within the [Colorado Information Analysis Center \(CIAC\)](#) is excited to announce the release of the fiscal year 2024 Colorado Preventing Identity-based Violence Grant Program application!
- The grant program provides just under \$1 million in funding for projects run by county, municipality, city and county, American Indian Tribe, law enforcement agency, District Attorney's office, educational entity, or nonprofit.
- Completed application packets should be emailed to cdps_ptv_grants@state.co.us by **Friday, May 3, 2024, at 5PM**. Late applications cannot be accepted.
- CO-PTV is hosting three 30-minute webinars to provide an overview of the requirements, deadline, and application process, as well as answer any questions regarding the grant program. Please register for the virtual informational webinars below:
 - [February 13, 2024, 12PM](#)
 - [February 22, 2024, 10AM](#)
 - [March 4, 2024, 2PM](#)
- For more information on the Colorado Preventing Identity-based Violence Grant Program and to download the application packet, please visit our [Grant Program Webpage](#). All questions can be directed to cdps_ptv_grants@state.co.us

HHS Announces Funding Opportunities to Improve Behavioral Health

- HHS, through the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#), announced [notices of funding opportunities for grant programs](#) that address behavioral health challenges in local communities by helping organizations implement comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to prevent substance misuse and promote mental health.
- These grant opportunities include the [Children's Mental Health Initiative](#), which provides resources to improve the mental health outcomes for children and youth at risk for or who have serious emotional disturbances, and their families:
 - [Grants for Expansion and Sustainability of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious](#)

Emotional Disturbance

- Application Due Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024
- Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for States
 - Application Due Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024
- Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges, and Tribes/Tribal Organizations
 - Application Due Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024
- Tribal Behavioral Health
 - Application Due Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for Pre K-12 SCHOOLS

NEW Employment of School Mental Health Professionals in School Guidance Document

- The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) released the Employment of School Mental Health Professionals in School Guidance Document (SB23-004), designed to assist Administrative Units in implementing **Eligible School-Based Therapists**.
- This document aims to support Eligible School-Based Therapists to work in coordination with CDE Licensed Special Service Providers and other CDE Licensed Professionals to provide supplemental support to students' social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health (Employment of School Mental Health Professionals, 2023).
- This guidance document is available on the CDE Mental Health website. For more information or questions, please contact Krista Klabo at klabo_k@cde.state.co.us.

2023-2024 Colorado State of Education Report - Colorado Education Association

- This report was conducted by the Colorado Education Association, which stands as the largest union in the state, proudly representing nearly 40,000 teachers, counselors, school nurses, and other special service providers (SSPs), as well as education support professionals (ESPs), higher education staff, retired educators, and aspiring education professionals.
- The report touches on various topics including the state of investment, the state of educator respect, and the state of educators' safety.

Students Experimenting with Fire: A Message from the CO Division of Fire Prevention and Control

- The Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) wants to support you, your staff, and your students. Did you know that a student usually starts multiple fires before getting caught? Experimenting with fire without adult supervision requires professional intervention, as these fires could stem from curiosity, crisis, thrill-seeking, willful destruction/delinquency, or mental health needs.
- To maximize public safety, please remember the following:
- Reporting fire-related incidents is a requirement and the responsibility of principals/administrators;
- Reporting an unwanted fire on school grounds or under school control is required by law; and
- In addition to the local fire jurisdiction, ALL fire incidents on school property (regardless of intent, magnitude of fire, or age of the person(s) involved) need to be reported to the Division of Fire Prevention and Control using this Fire Reporting Form.
- DFPC can refer youth who demonstrate firesetting behaviors to Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialists (YFIS), who are specially

trained members of the Fire Service. They do not use scare tactics, and youth who have gone through a YFIS program have very low recidivism rates.

- [DFPC](#) is happy to serve you to keep your community safe!

CISA Releases Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic

- The [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) released [this guide](#) on December 14, 2023.
- [The Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic](#) is a new CISA product. It highlights social media threats affecting school districts in the United States, provides mitigation and response measures for social media threats directed at school districts, and connects school safety stakeholders to the suite of tools and resources provided by [CISA](#) and its partners to promote a culture of readiness and preparedness.

Colorado Educator Support Resources from the University of Colorado

- The [Department of Psychiatry at Colorado University \(CU\), Anschutz Medical Campus](#), is offering a [website](#) dedicated to helping Colorado's educational workforce.
- It provides free mental health resources to help the workforce make it through the school year.
- New learning modules include:
 - Secondary Trauma Module: Learn how to nurture your emotional health as you try to support others. This module will help you recognize and manage the emotions that come with your role, ensuring you can continue to make a positive impact.
 - Work/Life Balance Module: Discover ways to find harmony between your professional and personal life. We're here to support you in reducing stress, improving focus, and ensuring your overall well-being.
- Visit [ColoradoEducatorSupport.com](#) to access the resources

Mental Health Resource for Rural Communities

- The Office of School Safety has posted a new resource targeted at rural communities. It includes the [988 Hotline](#), the [Colorado Crisis Services](#), [iMatter](#), [Second Wind](#), and [Children and Youth MH Tx Act- BHA](#), among others.
- Consult the full resource on the [OSS website](#).
- As we become aware of more resources or the resources on this page change, we will update this list accordingly. If you are aware of additional resources that are available state-wide, please let us know so we can include these.

Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Schools: An Action Guide for School and District Leaders

- Schools are prioritizing students' mental health, and there are many tools and resources to choose from. [CDC](#) created this [action guide](#) as a place to start. It can help school and district leaders build on what they are already doing to promote students' mental health and find new strategies to fill in gaps.
- The [action guide](#) describes six in-school strategies that are proven to promote and support mental health and well-being. For each strategy, [the guide](#) also describes approaches, or specific ways to put the strategy into action, and examples of evidence-based policies, programs, and practices.

Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities

- [This infographic](#) from the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) highlights social media threats affecting school districts

in the United States, provides mitigation and response measures for social media threats directed at school districts, and connects school safety stakeholders to a suite of tools and resources available to promote a culture of readiness and preparedness.

How to Talk About Mental Health: For Parents and Caregivers of Children

- [This webpage](#) from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) includes information for parents and guardians on how to talk about mental health with children, potential warning signs that a child may be struggling, and what to do if there are concerns about a child's behavior.

Review Online Safety Resources During Winter Break

- School closures during winter break can lead to children and teenagers spending more time online, which can expose them to a range of potential online safety threats and risks.
- To educate children on the possible dangers of online environments and how they can stay safe in the digital world, [access the SchoolSafety.gov Online Safety Resources infographic](#), which outlines tips and resources for parents, guardians, and school communities to help prevent and protect against these threats.
- Other resources to check out: [2023 SchoolSafety.gov Resource Package](#), featuring a collection of [SchoolSafety.gov](#) infographics and one-pagers released in 2023. It provides high-level strategies, guidance, and resources on a range of school safety topics, including emergency planning, bullying prevention, targeted violence, and mental health. Families and Caregivers as Partners in School Emergency Management: this fact sheet provides strategies for forming partnerships and communicating with families and guardians, and for including them in efforts to develop, enhance, and maintain high-quality school emergency operations plans.

FCC Proposes Creation of Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

- The [Federal Communications Commission](#) proposed the creation of a [Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program](#) that would allow the Commission to obtain valuable data concerning the cybersecurity and advanced firewall services that would best help K-12 schools and libraries address the growing cyber threats and attacks against their broadband networks.
- The proposed pilot program, which calls for an investment of up to \$200 million over three years, would be established within the Universal Service Fund, but separate from the Commission's E-Rate program.
- In addition, the program would provide funding to eligible K-12 schools and libraries to defray the qualifying costs of receiving the cybersecurity and advanced firewall services needed to protect their E-Rate-funded broadband networks and data from the growing number of school and library-focused cyber events.

Resources Related to the situation in Israel from SchoolSafety.gov

- In the wake of the October 7 Hamas attacks in Israel and subsequent conflict, many Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian students report that they feel unsafe at school.
- SchoolSafety.gov hosts a range of resources to support schools and help ensure students are free to learn in a safe, inclusive environment. These include [Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in Our Nation's Classrooms](#), [Preventing and Responding to Bias and Hate Incidents in K-12 Educational Settings: A Toolkit for School and Community Leaders](#), and [Resources Related to Combating Antisemitism and Islamophobia While Promoting Religious Inclusion in Schools](#).

- The White House has also issued a [fact sheet](#) on actions being taken to address the rise of reported Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents at schools.
- Visit [SchoolSafety.gov](#) to access additional school climate and violence prevention resources.

Key Considerations for Bullying Prevention Guide

- [This new guide](#) from the [National Center for School Safety](#) presents key information that schools may wish to consider as they develop and maintain bullying prevention programs.
- Included in this resource: an overview of bullying, bullying prevention, context-specific considerations, information on youth engagement and empowerment, and resources related to the intersection of social media and bullying.

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW Community Policing Development (CPD) - Implementation of De-Escalation Training Act

- From the [U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services](#): CPD is a competitive grant program designed to advance the practice of community policing by providing guidance on promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies; building knowledge about effective practices and outcomes; and supporting new, creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities.
- The goal of the CPD - Implementation of De-Escalation Training Act solicitation is to develop and support a training approval program as specified in the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022.
- The project must focus on the development and pilot implementation of a standards-based approval process and promotion of its use and benefits to the law enforcement field.
- This solicitation is open to all for-profit (commercial) and nonprofit institutions, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations. Funding for one award up to \$750,000 is available for this program.
- Applications are due by **Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 4:59PM ET.**
- [Please click here for more information on the 2024 CPD - Implementation of De-Escalation Training Act program.](#)

NEW Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium

- Although designed for Institutions of Higher Education, the workshops are applicable to K-12 school personnel as well. Feel free to join us!
- **When: Friday, May 31, 2024**
- Location: Regis University, Mountain View Conference Room
- Cost: \$50
- [Register online](#)

NEW Resources for Schools Amidst Recent Threats

- Early January, hundreds of schools across the country reported receiving bomb threats.
- The safety and security of students, teachers, and staff are of utmost importance, and it is disheartening to witness the disruption and fear caused by these threats. The [National Center for School Safety](#) understands that such incidents not only pose immediate concerns for physical safety but can also have a lasting emotional effect on the communities involved and beyond.
- To support our communities and schools, the [Center](#) has compiled a list of resources that may be helpful. Please stay informed, follow guidance from local authorities, and reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

- [Crisis Navigation Resources](#)
- [Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic](#)
- [Bombing Prevention Assistance for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Bomb Threat Guide](#)
- [How to Cope With Traumatic Events](#)

NEW Resilience Strategies for Institutions of Higher Education Hybrid Training

- The **REMS TA Center** has developed a **NEW resilience strategies training for institution of higher education (IHE)** administrators, faculty, staff, students, and their community partners.
- This synchronous training is available through the **Live Trainings by Request** and **Virtual Trainings by Request** programs and presents approaches to resilience for college and university personnel who work directly with students, faculty, and staff during times of personal and community crises. It provides a comprehensive framework to support practitioners within the IHE community and is designed to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to work with peers, students, faculty, and staff impacted by stress, loss, and trauma brought on by emergency events, including, but not limited to, community or family violence and economic hardship.
- **Intended Audience:** this training is intended for the IHE community – including administrators, faculty, and staff; counselors, clinical staff, and mental/behavioral staff; and students – and their community partners, such as local mental/behavioral health practitioners.
- **Applying to Request and Schedule This Training: interested in hosting this training? Check the requirements below to review your agency’s eligibility:**
 - Be a public or nonpublic IHE, state education agency, or partner with an education agency that will serve as the lead requestor.
 - Designate a local point of contact who will coordinate with REMS TA Center staff members and trainers regarding the logistics of the event.
 - Advertise the training to the targeted audience(s) and ensure that for in-person trainings attendance is at least 25 people and at most 40 people or for virtual trainings attendance is at least 25 people and at most 475 people.
 - Complete and submit the [TBR Host Site Application Form](#) or [VTBR Host Site Application Form](#) to info@remstacenter.org. REMS TA Center staff will confirm the receipt of your application within 1 day. A REMS TA Center team member will contact you to discuss your training needs and to answer any questions you may have. Training dates will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

UNLV Shooting Misinformation Highlights Need for Effective Campus Emergency Notification Strategies

- The December 6 mass shooting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) led to a flood of social media posts filled with inaccuracies that led to the widespread dissemination of misinformation on the tragedy.
- One post on X (formerly Twitter) that said “FBI coverup incoming” in response to news coverage was reposted by more than 600 users and was liked more than 1,500 times, reports the Las Vegas Sun. This one post pushed down in the tags legitimate updates from the campus, law enforcement, and real news organizations, making it more difficult for people to get accurate information on the unfolding situation.
- Check a full article on the topic on the [Campus Magazine](#) website.

Resources from the OSS

- Please remember that the OSS staff can provide services to any institution of higher education in the state.

- These might include:
 - Threat assessment training
 - Site assessments
 - Emergency planning for schools
 - Planning and conducting tabletop drills
 - Secondary traumatic stress
 - Adult Sexual Misconduct
 - Others by request

Please reach out to Brad.stiles@state.co.us for more information or use [this form](#).

Follow the Office of School Safety on X (formerly Twitter)

- For the latest school safety information between monthly E-Updates, follow [@CoSSRC](#) on Twitter.
- Featuring daily updates on new research, resources, upcoming trainings, and Center activities.

[Follow us on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)

THE OSS IS AVAILABLE to any pre-K through higher education school to assist in your school safety planning. Our mission is to provide *no-cost consultation, resources, training, and technical assistance* that can help you create a safe, positive, and successful school. We can customize a variety of trainings for your school safety and crisis planning teams or your school staff as you plan and train this school year. We invite you to continue monitoring our website (cssrc.colorado.gov) for the latest school safety information and upcoming trainings. Call us at: [303-550-2737](tel:303-550-2737).



COLORADO
Office of School Safety
Department of Public Safety

Thank you for supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado!

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