

Career Pathways Annual Report – HB 15-1274

Behavioral Health Career Pathways 2019-2020

HB 15-1274

Colorado State legislation [HB15-1274](#) calls for the creation of industry-driven career pathways to ensure that education, training, and workforce systems stay deeply attuned and responsive to the needs of industry and the labor market.

Career Pathway Building

The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and a coalition of partners, from industry, education, training, and state agencies, including the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), have worked to develop [career pathways](#) for key Colorado industries. These industry career pathways include Advanced Manufacturing (Via HB13-1165), IT, Healthcare, Construction, Cybersecurity, Business Operations, Education, Retail, and Behavioral Health. The career pathways resulting from this collaboration are shared on the free online resource for students and job seekers on [Careers in Colorado](#).

Behavioral Health Industry

The behavioral health industry has a significant need for talent and provides careers that are in demand with estimated employment (2019) of 89,838. Occupations on the Behavioral Health Career Pathway have an average growth rate of 16.6% over ten years (2019-2029). These occupations have an average annual (2019-2029) openings of 471 (projected yearly over the next ten years). These occupations provide median hourly of \$23.88/hr (\$49,667 annual). For more information see the [LMI Gateway](#).

The 2017 creation of the Healthcare pathway included only a few advanced-level Behavioral Health jobs. Since that time, several additional Behavioral Health jobs have become [Top Jobs](#), presenting the opportunity to create a full Behavioral Health pathway, including entry and mid-level jobs. Additional activities added momentum for the work, with the [Colorado Behavioral Health Task Force](#) working to transform Behavioral Health and a [sector partnership](#) having completed a local Behavioral Health career pathway.

Behavioral Health Career Pathways

The [behavioral health](#) careers are presented in three pathways and include top jobs in each.

1. [Counseling, Therapy, and Social Work](#)
2. [Psychology and Psychiatry](#)
3. [Psychiatric Nursing](#)