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Project Spotlight: Aurora Mental Health Center

Across the country, school districts are partnering with community mental health centers to offer holistic, integrated services to their students. One such community, Aurora, Colorado, is including Project Amp as one of the many opportunities provided for their students.

[Aurora Mental Health Center](#) works with the Aurora Public Schools (APS) to include school-based therapists in all schools. These therapists are a resource for students for a myriad of services, including substance use screening in middle and high schools and school-based clinics. As a pilot site for Project Amp for the 2016-2017 school year, the agency continues to advance its goal to provide high quality, accessible behavioral health care to the Aurora community. The Trojan Wellness Center, a health clinic located at Aurora Central High School, has been particularly successful in referring students to Project Amp. Following a CRAFFT substance use screen, the Trojan Wellness Center provides eligible students Project Amp as an optional opportunity. Enrollees meet four times with their mentors either during the school day on campus or after hours at the Aurora Mental Health offices.

The Trojan Wellness Center is a Rocky Mountain Youth Clinic, a health care provider in the state, located in the high school setting. Before it's creation, APS elementary schools successfully launched two similar school-based health clinics.



These clinics exist to provide the schools and surrounding communities with accessible health care. Based on an integrated care model, they have chosen to include mental health as part of their work.

According to the school-based therapist, Rachel Castillo, located at Aurora Central High School, having a school-based health clinic there provides a special opportunity for students to receive high-quality medical and mental health attention on campus. “This helps diminish the effects of barriers people in this neighborhood and surrounding community might experience when trying to meet their needs,” says Ms. Castillo. “We provide confidential, inclusive, and professional services to the teens of Aurora Central.” Ms. Castillo shares that Project Amp helps to broaden the ways in which the clinic staff can support the student body. “We are excited that by hosting Project Amp mentors, we can expand the support we provide to our youth.”

Interested in Bringing Project Amp to your Community?

Six project sites are currently testing Project Amp. While research results are not yet available, we have gathered early lessons learned about how settings can tailor and implement Project Amp. If you are interested in Project Amp, we may be able to help in the following ways:

- share early lessons learned
- adapt the model to address the needs of your community
- strategize an implementation plan designed for your setting
- assist in identifying ways to recruit and engage mentors
- provide training and technical support as needed

If you would like to learn more, [click here](#) or contact Laura Winn, lwinn@center4si.com.

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Do you know of a clinic, hospital, or school-based health center that might be interested in Project Amp? Contact projectamp4youth@center4si.com.

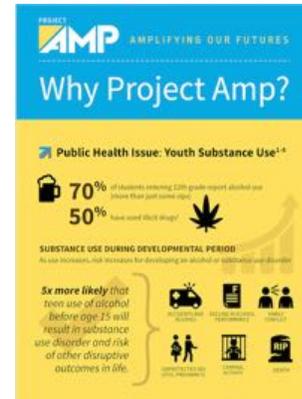
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