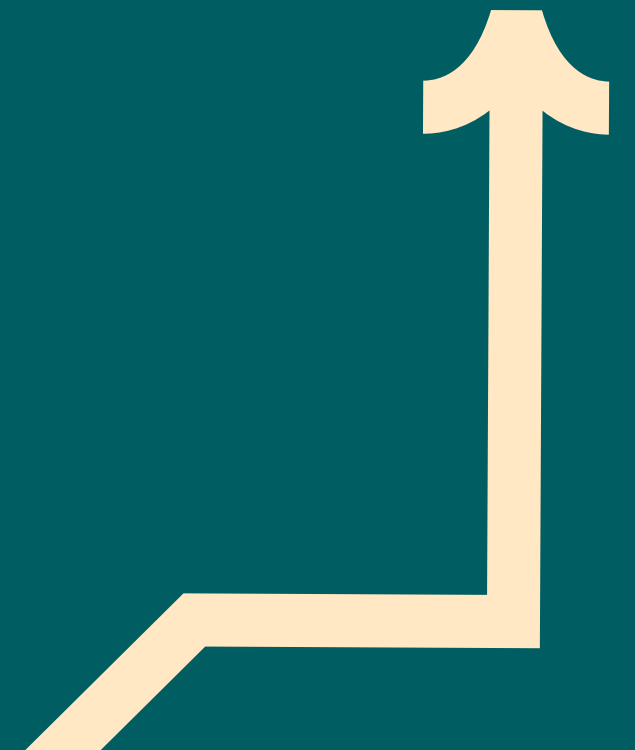




BHECN ARPA Awards Program Updates





The BHECN ARPA Awards Program launched in 2022 with \$25.5 million in SLFRF funds dedicated to strengthening the behavioral health workforce in Nebraska

- Supported 105 projects across the state
- Half are in rural areas

Program Overview





Funding Distribution

Project Category	Number of Projects	Percent Awarded in Rural Areas of Nebraska	Amount Awarded	Amount Spent as of June 1, 2025
Training and Education Opportunities	38	47%	\$12.2 million	\$7.4 million
Telebehavioral Health in Rural Areas	19	58%	\$7.2 million	\$4.8 million
Workforce Projects to Address the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic	31	42%	\$2.5 million	\$1.6 million
Funding for Supervision of Provisionally Licensed Providers	22	59%	\$1.8 million	\$1.7 million



BHECN ARPA Awards Program Evaluation

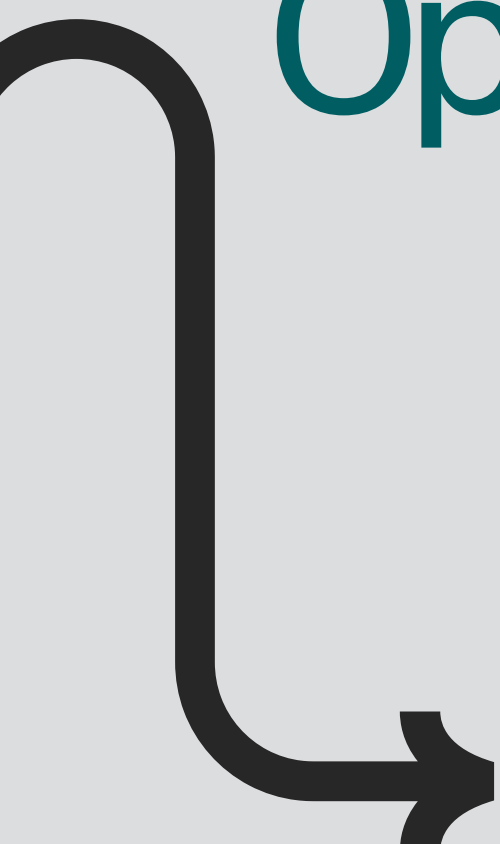


- Evaluate BHECN ARPA Programs every summer
 - By category
 - Surveys
 - 1-hour interviews
- Current data
 - Baseline = before BHECN ARPA funding
 - Year 1 = 2023 impact



Year 1 Outcomes: Training and Education Opportunities



- 
- ➔ 126% increase in behavioral health trainees
 - ➔ All trainees and preceptors received competitive compensation
 - ➔ 84% of trainees stayed in Nebraska post-training
 - ➔ 71% now work in rural or underserved areas



Telebehavioral health in rural areas



All projects expanded telebehavioral health



Telebehavioral health infrastructure rose from 53% to 100% among awardees



Clinics are now actively offering remote care

Workforce Projects to Address the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic



- ➔ \$424,000 in recruitment and retention bonuses offered to behavioral health providers and support staff
- ➔ Provider retention rose from 64% to 75%
- ➔ Support staff retention rose from 53% to 70%
- ➔ Improved community awareness and behavioral health support post- COVID-19





Funding for Supervision of Provisionally Licensed Providers

➔ 79 supervisors supported in Year 1

➔ Supervisees increased by 79% overall

- 206% increase among mental health counselors
- 100% increase in social workers
- 50% alcohol and drug counselors

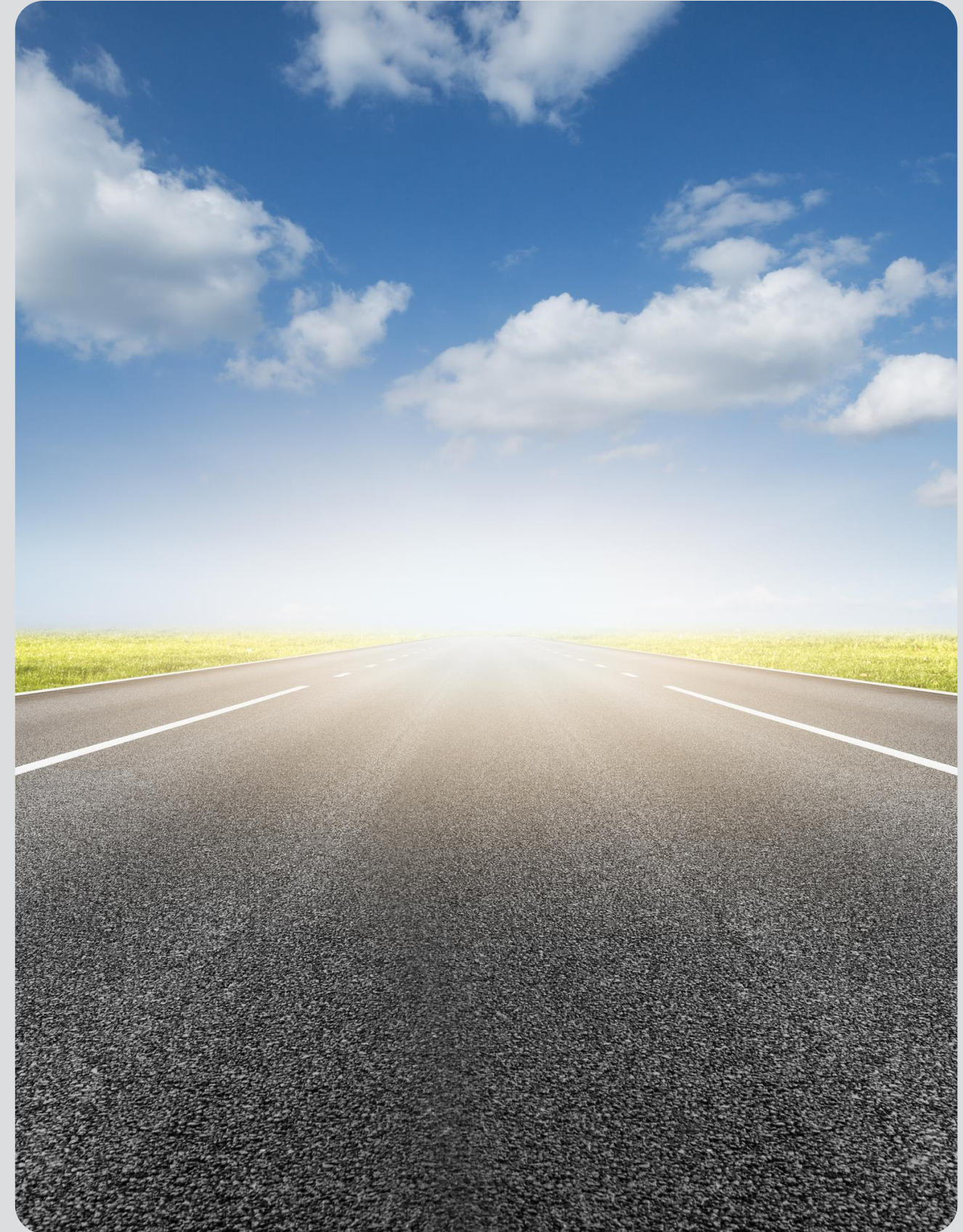
➔ Barrier reductions after Year 1

- Supervisor funding: 79% to 42%
- Supervisee support: 68% to 37%
- Program costs: 63% to 37%
- Time burden: 61% to 11%



- Most projects funded through 2025
- Projects operating on the academic calendar are funded through Spring/Summer 2026
- Expect program impact to grow each year
 - 2025 evaluation begins soon!
 - Final evaluation in 2026
- Long-term benefits for Nebraska's behavioral health workforce
- Publishing our evaluation findings

Looking Ahead



Thank you!

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