



Behavioral Health Initiative

Agenda

BHI background

Research

Grants

Behavioral health workforce

Working together

BHI Background

- Strategic Investment from UND; beginning in 2022
- Focus areas: Research, Service delivery, Workforce development
- To improve the quality of life for all North Dakotans and to serve as a national leader in addressing rural behavioral health workforce needs, research, training, outreach, and service.

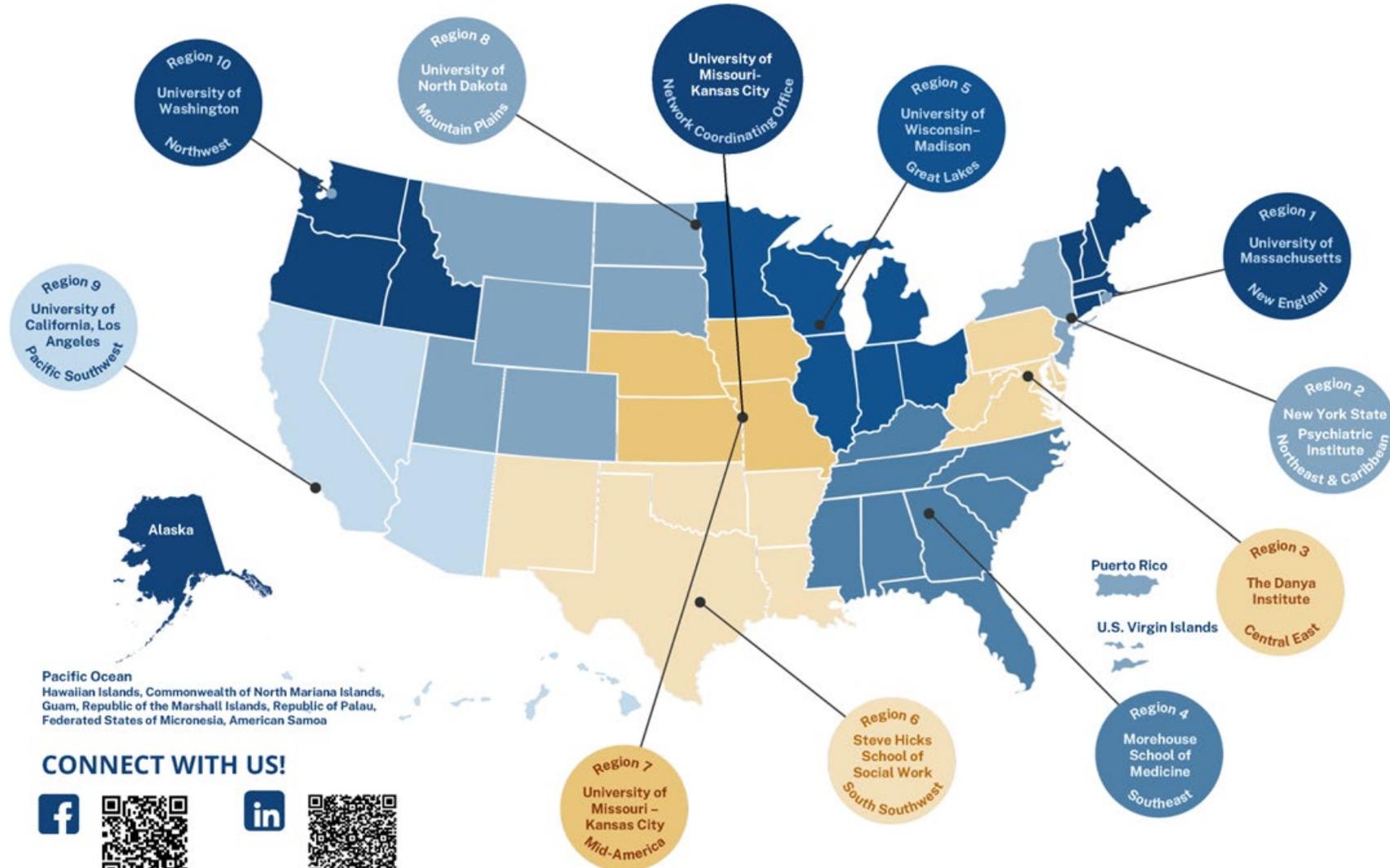
Grants

- Mental Health Technology Transfer Center
- Addiction Technology Transfer Center
- Opioid Response Network
- ND HOPES
- ND THRIVES
- WIC Substance Use Prevention
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training



ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



CONNECT WITH US!



WIC Grant

- National effort to train WIC staff on best practices in addressing substance use prevention and providing referrals for WIC participants.
- Revising the “Substance Use Prevention Screening, Education and Referral Resource Guide” for local WIC agencies.

ND HOPES

Project Goals

Reducing suicide morbidity and mortality by 10% over 5 years

Prevent incidents of suicide statewide with a focus on western North Dakota through increased awareness and targeted community efforts

Implementing a multi-tiered approach to suicide prevention—individual, community, schools, healthcare





ND THRIVES

Rural & Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention

THRIVING TOGETHER A SUICIDE PREVENTION LEARNING SERIES

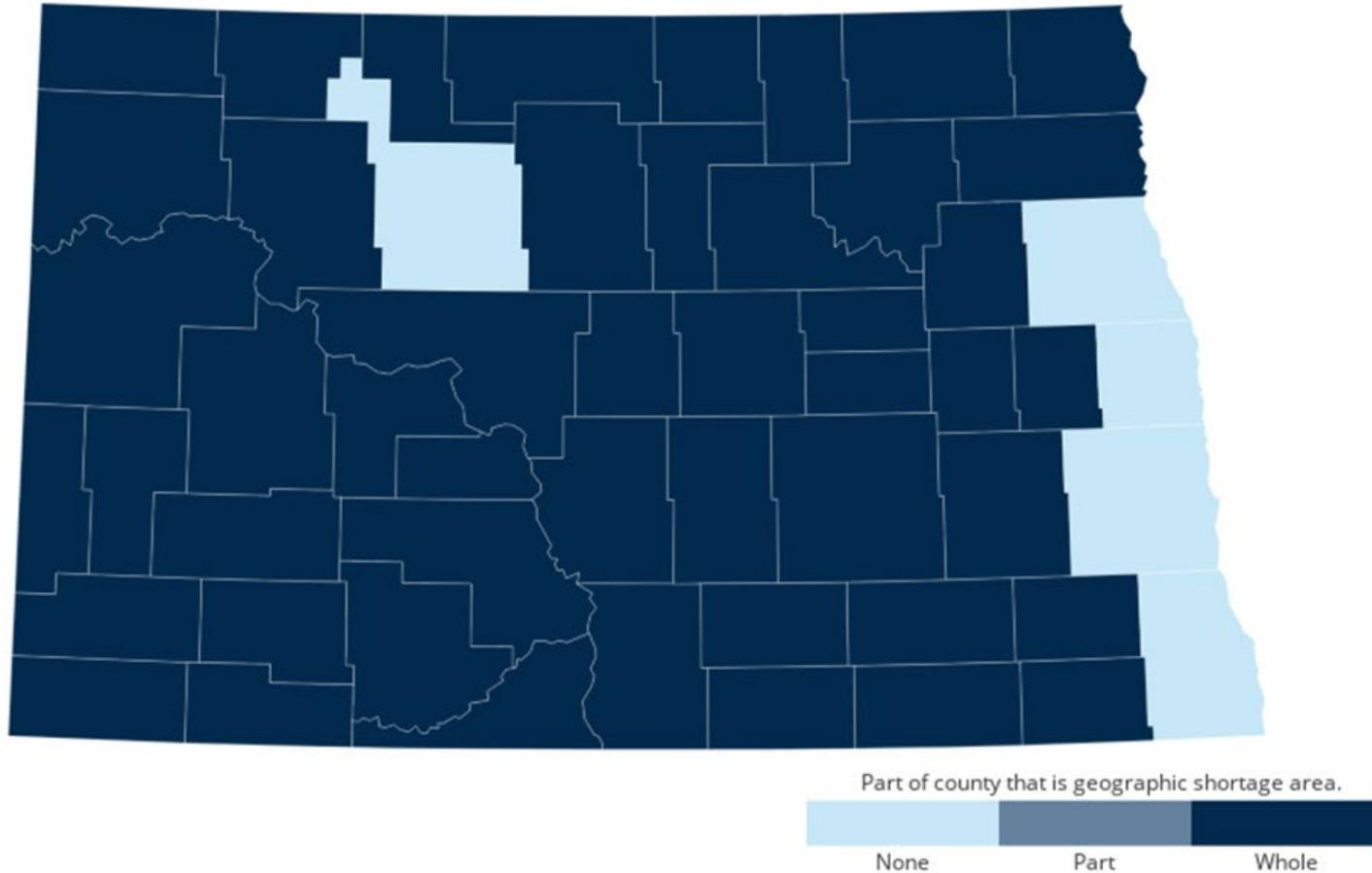
Date	Session Topic
9/17/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro to ND THRIVES and Lethal Means Safety Counseling
11/19/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety Planning Intervention
1/21/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 988 and FirstLink's Care and Support Program
3/18/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider Resilience
5/20/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suicide Postvention
7/15/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)

FREE CEUs

Pre-registration
required
[CLICK HERE](#)

Behavioral Health Workforce

Health Professional Shortage Areas: Mental Health, Geographic, by County, October 2025 - North Dakota



Behavioral Health Degree Programs

- Psychiatry
- Counseling
 - Addiction, School-based, Mental Health
- Counseling Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Nursing
- Social Work
 - New Clinical Social Work degree
 - Fall 2026



UND BHWET

- **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training**
 - Held for past 8 years; recently funded for 4 more years
 - Types of students: Counseling Psychology (PhD), Counseling (MA), Clinical Psychology (PhD), Psychiatry (Resident), Psychiatric Nursing (MA), Social Work (MA)
 - 57 student placements in past 4 years
 - 14 students currently participating
 - Emphasis on rural placements

Lessons Learned From Other States

- **Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN)**
 - Nearly 50% increase in BH workforce over 15 years; 25% increase in rural areas
 - Framework for other states to follow
- **Behavioral Health Workforce Center Alliance**
 - 13 states and national associations
- **National Academy for State Health Policy**
 - Report on BH workforce centers

Working Together

- Workforce development
- Training and technical assistance
- Continuing education credits
- Research
- Evaluation





Questions?



Thank you!

UND Behavioral Health Initiative

und.edu/bh-research

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