

Advancing Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities: National Impact of the COE-NF Initiative

Background

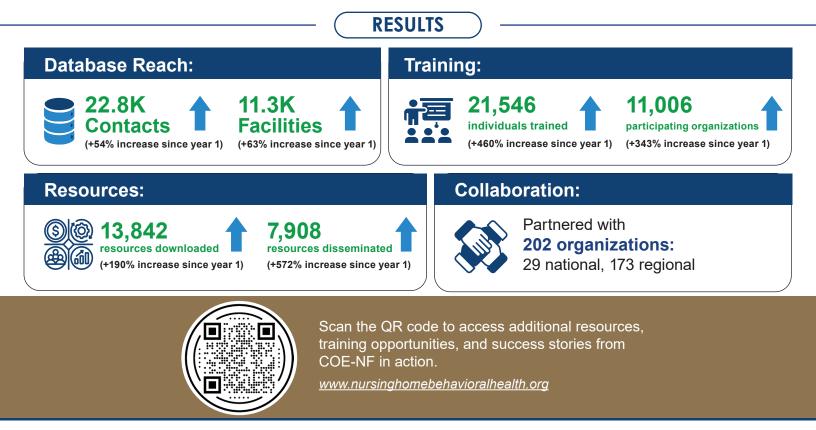
After recognizing a growing number of nursing facility residents with complex behavioral health needs and limited staff capacity to support them, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF) to improve the quality of life and care for residents with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), and co-occurring disorders (COD).

NATIONAL REACH - 2023 TO TODAY

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Since the program's establishment in 2023, the COE-NF has obtained national reach by:

- Creating a centralized hub of behavioral health resources, training and workforce development support for nursing facilities.
- Disseminating tailored materials to nursing facilities via social media, email, and text messaging to improve knowledge and understanding.
- Building strategic national, regional, and state partnerships to support a wide range of impactful initiatives.
- Providing live and on-demand training, allowing staff to learn at their convenience.





This material was created by the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities. This work is made possible by grant number 1H79SM087155 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 07/2025