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Health Care

Rapid-access mental health clinic expands to Denver neighborhoods

The company is just a few years old.



Image: Guidelight Health

Guidelight Health, a new mental health provider in Colorado, is opening four clinics in Denver this year.

GUIDELIGHT HEALTH



By **Analisa Romano** – Senior Reporter, Denver Business Journal
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A behavioral health startup will enter the Colorado market by opening four clinics in Denver neighborhoods this year.

Guidelight Health launched in 2023 with a clinic in Massachusetts and opened one Denver clinic in Central Park earlier this year, the organization said. The company offers partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs to adults and to adolescents ages 12 and older.

The company expects to open additional clinics near the Denver Tech Center and near Cherry Creek in March and April and another opening in downtown Denver in May, said Jordan Cox, Guidelight's co-founder and chief growth and strategy officer. He said a clinic in Colorado Springs is also slated to open this summer.

Cox said Colorado has high need for access to more mental health treatment. The company cites a 2022 behavioral health needs study done by the state that found about 4 in 10 people who sought behavioral health options were unable to receive them. Guidelight held a listening tour with mental health providers in Denver and Boston to learn what could be done better.

The result is a network of clinics that promises to clinically evaluate clients within 24 hours of referral and offer them the chance to begin a program the next business day if it is deemed clinically appropriate, Cox said.

Guidelight also developed specialized tracks for patient populations with shared experiences, such as those who are LGBTQIA+, college students, veterans or first responders. What comes to fruition in Denver will depend on

local demand and need, said Nima Jahanforouz, the enterprise medical director for Guidelight.

For example, he said a group could emerge that centers on Spanish speakers.

"Our goal is to not just copy/paste from one community to another, but to come in to the community and understand what the needs are," Jahanforouz said.

Cox said local payers and providers cite adolescent mental health as another unmet need. Guidelight clinics will likely see about two adult patients for every adolescent, he said.

Finally, a major complaint among mental health providers is a lack of communication or follow-through on their patients, Jahanforouz said. When a patient receives service at Guidelight, the clinic sends an encrypted email to that patient's regular mental health provider. The provider can then schedule a time to meet with Guidelight clinicians at the beginning, the middle and end of the patient's time there.

"The goal is [...] to make sure that this is a transition that's effective and thoughtful," Jahanforouz said.

T H E L I S T

Largest Nonprofits in Colorado

Revenue

Rank	Prior Rank	Organization name
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2	2	Young Life
3	3	University Corp. for Atmospheric Research
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