

# Colorado's Psilocybin Therapy Program

A Legal and Regulatory Framework for Psychedelic Care

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*November 2024*

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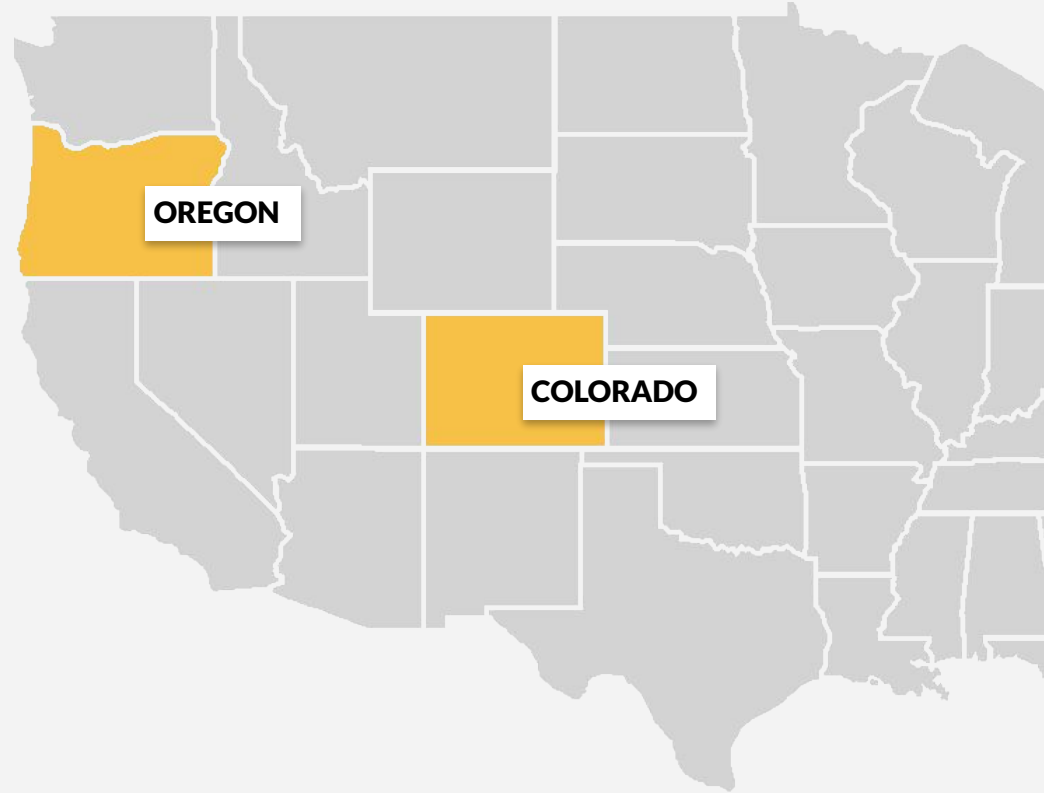
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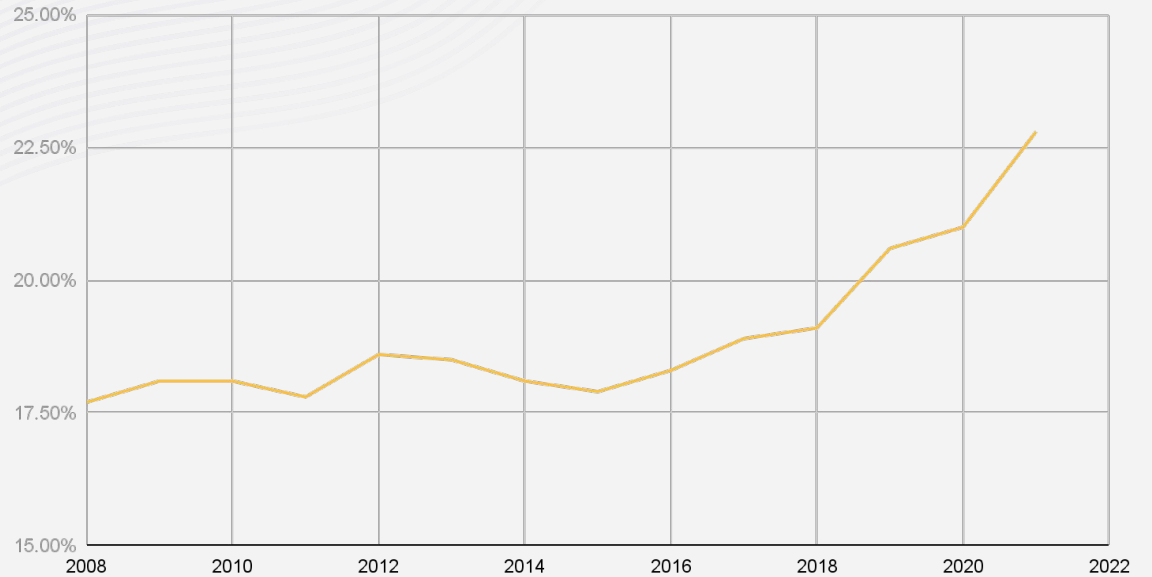
# HEALING ADVOCACY FUND

Founded in Oregon in 2020, we support the effectiveness, viability, and safety of state-legal psilocybin therapy programs



# WHY PSYCHEDELICS?

Nearly 23% of adults had a mental illness in 2021.



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



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# WHY PSYCHEDELICS? COLORADO IN 2024:

**More than ¼** of Coloradans experienced a mental illness—three points higher than the national average.

Over **a million people** in Colorado meet the diagnostic criteria for substance use disorder.

Colorado has one of the country's **highest rates** of adults experiencing suicidal ideation.



# PSILOCYBIN RESEARCH

Rigorous studies at leading medical research institutions such as Johns Hopkins, UCLA, University of Alabama and NYU show that psilocybin provides real promise for depression, end-of-life anxiety and addiction.

The FDA granted it “breakthrough therapy” status – meaning it may demonstrate substantial improvement over current options.

Lasting effects from just 1-3 sessions contrast with pharmaceuticals that require a daily pill, often with troubling side effects.

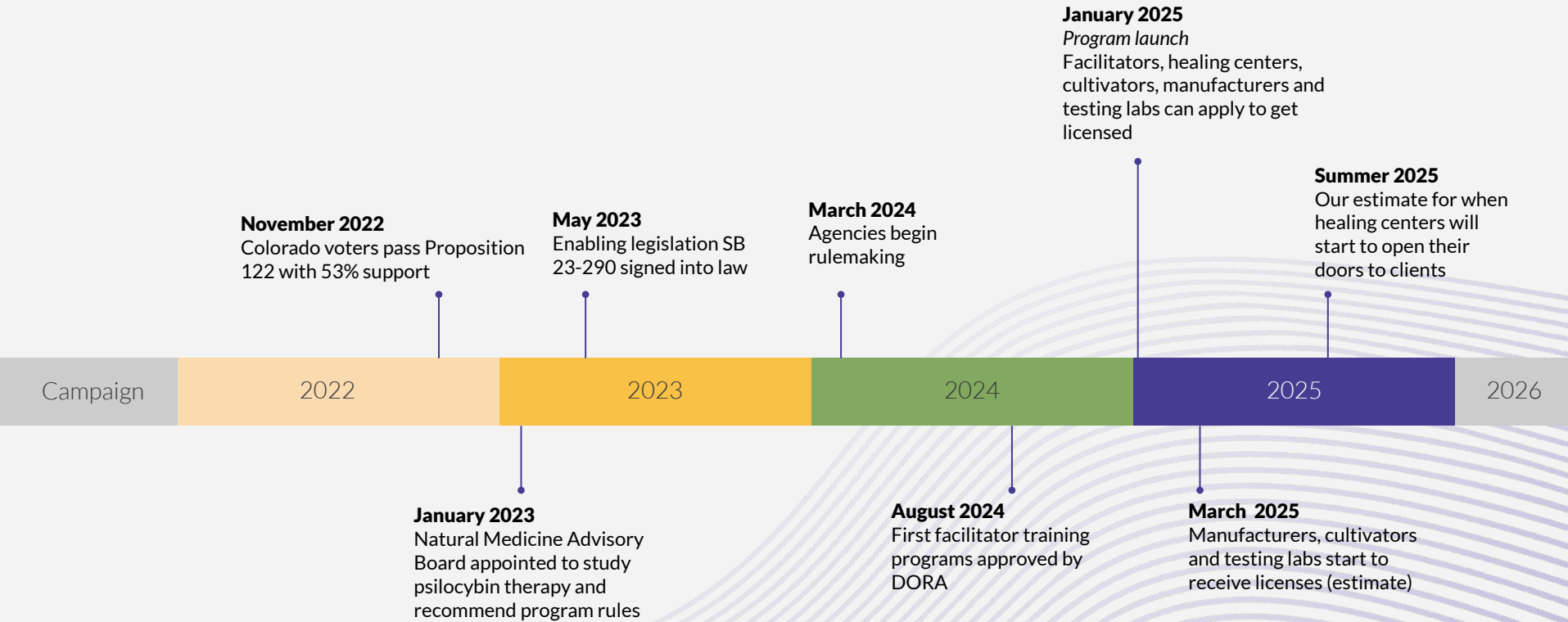


# A SAMPLING OF STUDIES

- Psilocybin treatment for major depression effective for up to a year in most patients (Hopkins)
- Psilocybin eases anxiety in people with life threatening cancer (Hopkins)
- Psilocybin in combination with psychotherapy decreases heavy drinking days in people with alcohol use disorder (NYU)
- Psilocybin compares favorably to SSRI in treating moderate to severe depression with additional long-term benefits (Imperial College)



# COLORADO TIMELINE





# CO Natural Medicine Health Act

Passed by Colorado voters in November 2022

## REGULATED ACCESS

State-regulated access to **psilocybin therapy** for adults 21+ at authorized locations with screening, preparation and integration

Launches 2025 for psilocybin mushrooms

## PERSONAL USE

Decriminalized personal use of 5 naturally occurring psychedelic substances for adults 21+

Took effect Dec 2022

## CIVIL PROTECTIONS

Protects licensed professionals from action against their license for conduct made legal

Additional civil protections (e.g., organ donations, child custody and more)

**\*No dispensaries or retail sales\***



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# REGULATED ACCESS

Two state agencies are tasked with regulating Colorado's psilocybin therapy program

## **DORA**

Regulates facilitator training programs and the practice of natural medicine facilitation

## **DOR**

Regulates natural medicine businesses: healing centers, cultivation, manufacture, and laboratory testing



# STATE PROGRAMS: FOUR-STEP MODEL OF PSILOCYBIN THERAPY



## 1: ASSESSMENT

Participants complete a screening process and match with a psilocybin facilitator based on individual needs and fit.

## 2: PREPARATION

Facilitator meets with participant for a preparation session to explain the process, incorporate participant goals and develop an individualized safety plan.

## 3: ADMINISTRATION

Psilocybin is administered at a licensed service center by a trained facilitator, who oversees the session and supports the participant throughout.

## 4: INTEGRATION

Participant meets with their facilitator to integrate insights and learnings from the psilocybin experience into daily life, and to plan for further support.



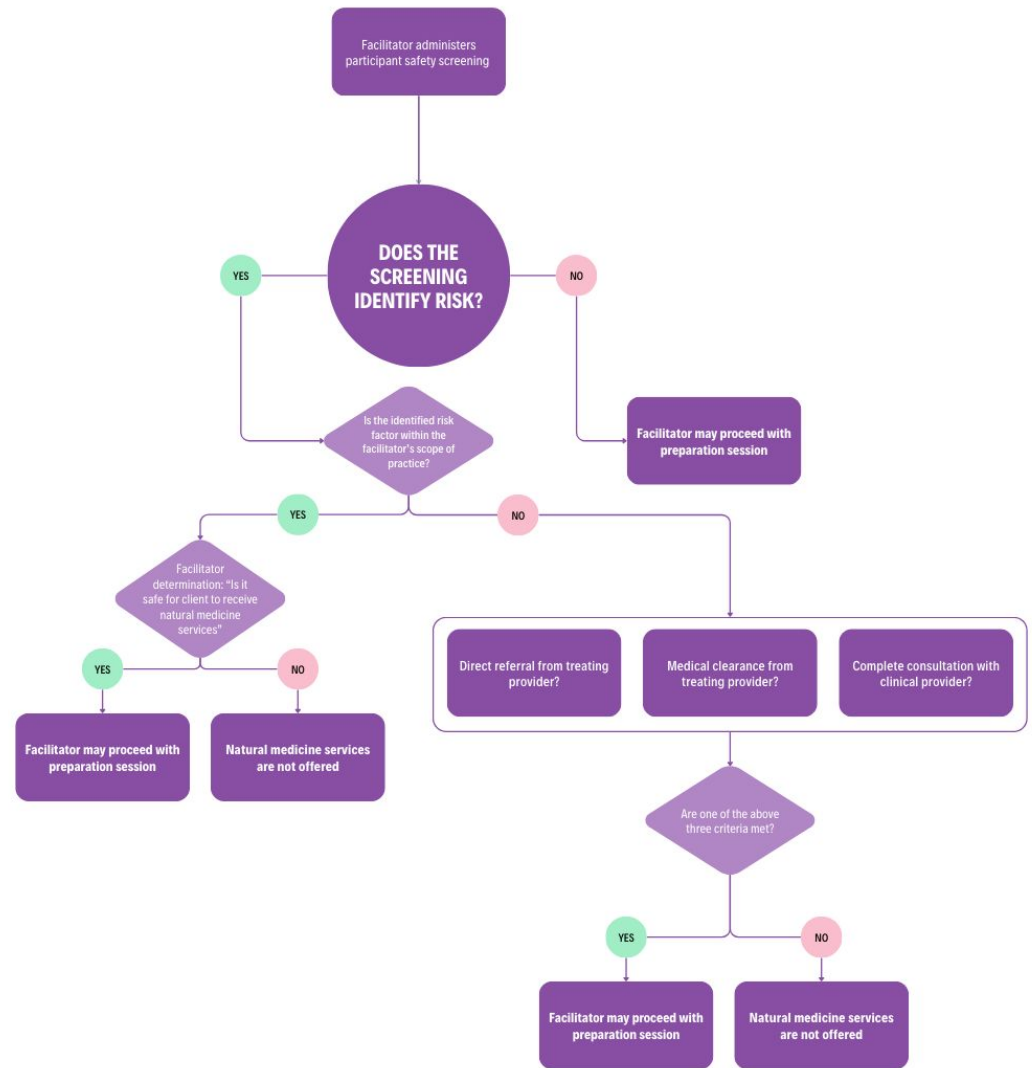
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# REQUIRED SAFETY SCREEN

- + Reason for seeking access
- + History of psychedelic use
- + General health history
- + Mental health history
- + Medical health history
- + Pharmacology
- + Additional considerations



# Medical Consult and Risk Review



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# GUARDRAILS

Psilocybin administration sessions include a number of requirements to support participant and public safety

## MINIMUM SESSION LENGTH

Participants must remain under supervision until the effects wear off (minimum 3-5 hours, depending on the dose)

## SAFE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Participants must have safe transport home after a session (may not be self-operated)

## SAFETY PLAN

Facilitators must work with participants during preparation to develop an individual safety plan to ensure support during and after the session

## AGE RESTRICTIONS & STORAGE OF MEDICINE

No person under 21 may be present

Psilocybin must be stored in a locked space monitored by camera



# OREGON BY THE NUMBERS

**30 +**

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*Licensed service centers across the state*

**380 +**

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*Licensed and trained facilitators*

**8000**

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*Clients served by the end of 2024*



Oregon's program has been active for over a year, and no major safety incidents have emerged. Across 7,000+ administration sessions, there have been 5 calls to emergency services (less than 0.07%)





Next year, Senate Bill 303 will go into effect in Oregon, requiring service centers to report quarterly on demographics, usage, motivations for accessing services and any adverse events.



# THOUSANDS OF VETERANS HAVE TRAVELED ABROAD FOR LEGAL ACCESS TO PSYCHEDELIC THERAPY

In Colorado and Oregon, veterans can now access these treatments safely and legally at home.



“

I struggled with combat-connected PTSD, depression and anxiety that progressed for over a decade before finding relief in the form of psychedelic medicine - psilocybin in particular. I have been able to manage my symptoms and find joy in the present, which I was never able to attain through more traditional pharmaceuticals or counseling sessions.

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**-Aaron D., Army Combat Veteran based in Colorado. Served in Iraq and Afghanistan**

“

It's pretty offensive that we have to send our veterans to other countries to get the right mental health treatments. [...] The work I had done [with psychedelics abroad] previously, although extremely impactful in unlocking a lot of doors for me in my own mental health struggles – those people are not here, and having that local community has been almost as important as the experience itself.

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**Tommy Wisdom, US Marine Corps Veteran in Bend, Oregon**  
**Participant in Oregon psilocybin therapy cohort with Heroic Hearts Project**

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This treatment was gentle, joyous, and transformative, and it brought light and healing to me that I hadn't experienced in 23 years of untreatable suicidal depression.

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Laura, Oregon psilocybin therapy client

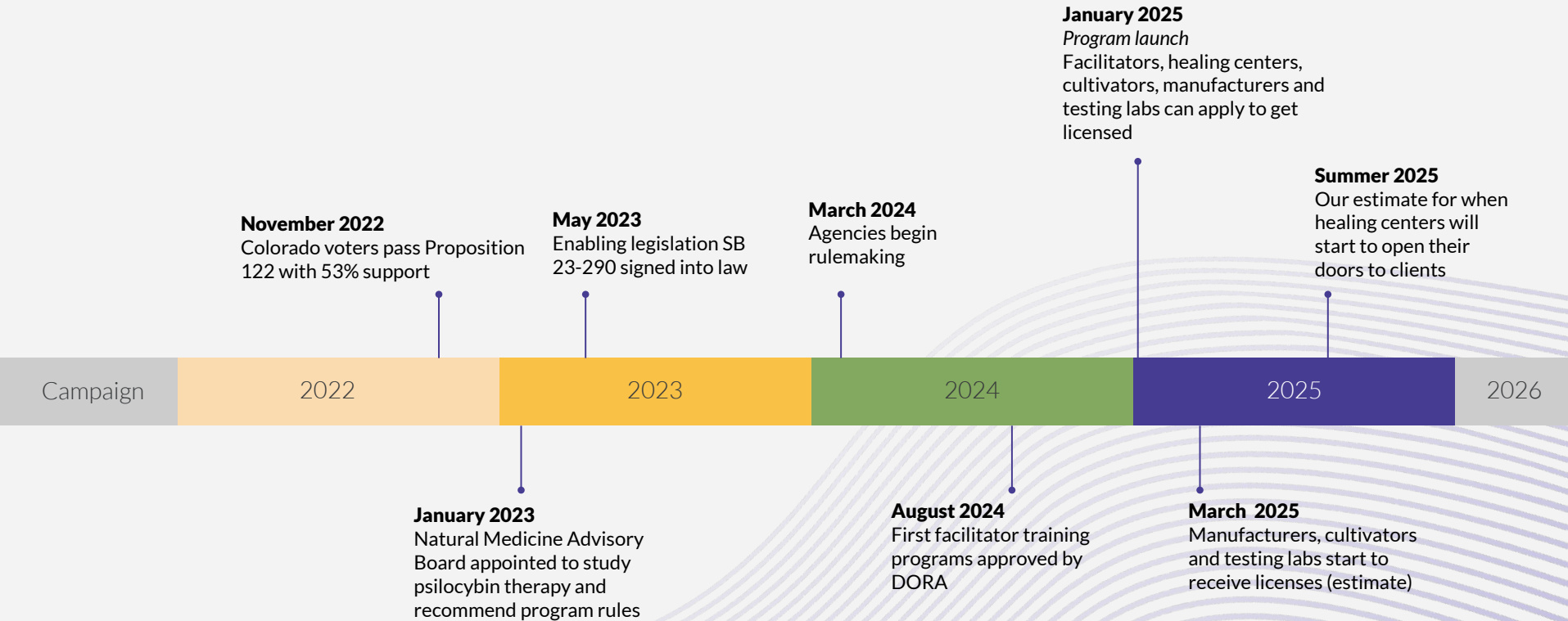
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As a person with no experience with such things and lot of fear around drugs in general, the trauma in my life and its daily after effects upon my life led me to investigate. The results were very healing, removing trauma and fear from driving my life and adding peace.

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**Jessie, Oregon psilocybin therapy client**

# COLORADO TIMELINE



# THANK YOU

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