WEST VIRGINIA
Higher Education
Policy Commission

Campus Mental Health:

Strategies with Proven Effectiveness

Request for Applications

2024-2025

I.   Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose

This grant opportunity is to provide funding for institutions or campus or community-based organizations that directly serve college students. Projects will impact student mental health through one of the following strategies:
o   Implementing skill-training interventions
o   Implementing routine mental health screenings
o   Suicide prevention through campus environment (means restriction)

The opportunity is managed by the Division of Health Sciences at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and is a project of the Behavioral Health Programs Campus Mental Health initiatives designed to address mental health needs of students on West Virginia's public institutions of higher education.

Program and Grant Opportunity Goals

Grant funds under this opportunity must be directed at improving student mental health, wellness, and safety through implementing one or more strategies with *proven effectiveness* for impacting student mental health in higher education populations.

For further information on strategies with *proven effectiveness*, please review this report published by the American Council on Education:

What Works for Improving Mental Health in Higher Education?
https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/What-Works-Mental-Health.pdf
Ableson, Lipson, & Eisenberg, American Council on Education, June 2023

Additional resources for applicants:

- Mental Health in College Populations: A Multidisciplinary Review of What Works, Evidence Gaps, and Paths Forward
  https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-030-76660-3_6

- Identifying Effective—and Ineffective—Mental Health Supports
  https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/health-wellness/2023/06/14/report-campus-mental-health-services-and-their

- How universities can enhance student mental wellbeing: the student perspective
  https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07294360.2019.1576596?journalCode=cher20

- Healthy Minds Network: Return on Investment, Data and Action Toolkit for College Mental Health https://healthymindsnetwork.org/

Applicants are encouraged to partner with existing resources on campus and in the community, including health centers, counseling centers, counseling, psychology, social work or other human services academic departments, regional prevention lead organizations, recovery support and community mental health agencies, and other 2- and 4-year colleges or universities as applicable.

II.   Award Information

Opportunity Eligibility

West Virginia public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education and campus and community-based organizations that directly serve college students are eligible to apply. If you have a question about whether your institution is eligible or need assistance in identifying potential partners, please contact Carolyn Canini, Director of Behavioral Health Programs at carolyn.canini@wvhepc.edu or 304.558.0530.

Summary of Funding

Funding will be provided upon execution of an agreement for funds. The Commission will work with the awardee to match awards to the funding available and revise budgets as needed. Requests of up to $10,000 will be accepted for review. Three projects will be funded through this opportunity. The Commission will notify awardees within 6 weeks of submission. The award period will be detailed in the agreement for funds. **Funding is contingent on agency budget approval.**

Requirements

Awardee will be required to adhere to the following:

1. Awardee must complete and execute an agreement for funds prior to release of any funds. Award agreements will be sent to the signatory authority via SignNow. Only agreements signed and returned via SignNow will be accepted.

2. Awardee must invoice for grant funds. Invoicing will occur within the portal.

3. Awardee must complete a final report. Final reports will require a narrative and budget update on program activities. Reporting will occur within the portal.

4. Awardee must return any unused funds from this award at the end of the specified performance period.

5. Indirect costs are not a chargeable expense.

III.   Application and Submission Information

Content and Form of Application

All applications for funding will be received via the WV HEPC Health Sciences Grants portal. Directions for applications via the portal are available at https://hsgrants.force.com/

A. Exhibit A- Activity Overview/Statement of Work

B. Exhibit B- Project Budget & Budget Justification

Application Submission

Applications must be submitted via the portal.

If multiple programs at one institution are applying for Campus Mental Health Grants in any of the categories, please include the institution's ranking of the applications in narrative. Multiple Campus Mental Health applications from the same program within an institution will not be awarded.

The deadline for all Campus Mental Health Grant applications is June 28, 2024 at 5:00pm.

IV.   Application Review Information

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by Commission grants management staff (business and financial review) and program staff (technical review and analysis of proposal), as well as by a team of external content area experts.

The following criteria will be considered in the review process:

- The appropriateness of the project objectives and time frames for initiation through completion of the project.

- The reasonableness and justification for the itemized costs noted in the budget.

- The adequacy and completeness of the description of scope of services and activities to be provided with the grant funding.

- The rigor of the plan for evaluation of the project objectives.

- The potential for scalability and sustainability.

See the Program and Grant Opportunity Goals section of this document for more information on review criteria.

Proposal Revisions

The Commission reserves the right to request revisions to the submitted proposal if, upon review, it is determined the proposed work plan does not meet the goals and requirements of this funding opportunity.

V.   Additional Information

All questions related to this opportunity should be directed to Carolyn Canini, Director of Behavioral Health Programs at carolyn.canini@wvhepc.edu or 304.558.0530.

EXHIBIT A

Statement of Work

1.   Provide a one to two sentence synopsis of the project that can be used to describe the project if funded in social media, web announcements and press releases.

2.   Provide a two to three page overview of the proposal which includes the following information:

•   Background and significance of the project and relationship to the grant opportunity goals.

•   Project SMART goals*

•   Project personnel and how they are qualified to guide the proposed project

•   Evaluation methods

•   Potential scalability of a successful project to the region or state

•   Sustainability plans once funding is exhausted

3.   Complete the table to describe the project goals, activities, and outcomes:

Project SMART Goals	Activities to meet goals	Anticipated outcome	Time for completion of goal

*See https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/nc-smart-goals-fact-sheet.pdf for a helpful review of SMART goals.

EXHIBIT B

Budget Detail

Please enter the project budget in the table below. A detailed description of the expense categories is included in Exhibit C.

Expense Categories	Initial Budget
Salaries and Benefits	
Contractual	
Hospitality	
Supplies	
Rent	
Travel	
Stipends	
Miscellaneous	
Total Budget	

Grantee must request prior approval and a change order when:

1) transferring more than 10 percent of the total approved budget between either functional categories or expense categories;

2) a change in the scope of work has occurred; or

3) a new purchase of equipment that is $1,000 or more.

Budget Justification

Provide a written description of each line item entered in the budget detail (table on previous page). The budget justification must clearly describe each cost element and explain how each cost contributes to meeting the proposal's goals and objectives. If any category is not included in this project, please mark as N/A.

Expense Categories:

Salaries and Benefits: **$X,XXX**

Salaries and benefits should be established within the personnel system of the grantee institution. Break out by individual positions and include each individual's salary and benefit amount and the percentage of the person's time paid under the grant. Include a brief description of the person's duties under the grant. *These grants are not intended to supplement salaries of faculty or staff. Grant funds can be used to "buy" a percentage of time for specific grant related activities which should be delineated in the justification. Stipend support during non-contract time (for instance summer) can be supported. Salaries and benefits should not in general encompass the majority of the budget.*

Contractual: **$X,XXX**

List all contractors to which payments are made from this funding source, describe the purpose of the contract, the anticipated number of hours to be contributed, and the amount paid to each.

Hospitality: **$X,XXX**

Breakdown costs such as food, nonalcoholic beverages, facility rental, entertainment and other expenses relating to hosting events. In addition to costs, provide the purpose of the hospitality and the number of individuals receiving hospitality. ***In general, hospitality charges are discouraged.***

Supplies: **$X,XXX**

Include materials needed to execute the project.

Travel: **$X,XXX**

Travel costs should be paid according to reimbursement guidelines used by the institution.

Stipends: **$X,XXX**

List the amount of any stipends paid to students as part of their participation in grant activities. Include a brief description of the duties for which the student(s) received the stipend.

Miscellaneous: **$X,XXX**

Include any costs that do not meet the descriptions of other expense categories.