



WEST VIRGINIA

**Higher Education  
Policy Commission**

**Maternal Mental Health Grant  
Request for Applications  
2025**

## **Funding Opportunity Description**

### **Purpose**

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission was awarded funds from the West Virginia Perinatal Partnership to develop and execute grant opportunities for behavioral health training programs to integrate training to prepare graduates to provide mental health care to pregnant and postpartum persons. This opportunity is made available through those funds.

This funding opportunity will support maternal mental health by providing behavioral health training programs with funds to provide students curriculum, training, and internship experiences that focus on maternal/perinatal mental health. This helps to support the behavioral health workforce and perinatal mental health by increasing knowledge, training, and certification among current behavioral health students and new behavioral health professionals across the state.

This support is made available as a one-year pilot program with the goal of evaluating effectiveness and return on investment on behalf of the participating institutions.

### **Program and Opportunity Goals**

**Applications and agreements submitted under this opportunity will meet at least one of the following goals:**

- Create and expand curriculum to increase student skills in delivery of behavioral health services to the pregnant and postpartum population.
- Provide internship stipends to incentivize student placements in maternal mental health field experiences.
- Expand relationships with the existing workforce in maternal mental health careers through the provision of continuing education and incentives for supervising students for their advanced field experiences, with the goal of increasing availability of internship placement sites focused on behavioral health for pregnant and postpartum people.
- Offer training required for students to qualify for the Perinatal Mental Health Certification available through Postpartum Support International (or an equivalent nationally recognized certification) to increase marketability of graduates and help fill critical shortages in West Virginia.
- Offer guest lectures from Postpartum Support International-West Virginia Chapter within current courses. Guest lectures have already been developed, and behavioral health programs can identify specific lectures to include in academic programming. The Commission will provide information and connect with the PSI- WV Chapter.

### **Deadline for submission**

Applications must be submitted no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, April 18, 2025**. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

## **Eligibility and Funding Requirements**

- A behavioral health training/academic program at a public or private 4-year higher education institution in West Virginia in the fields of psychology, counseling, or social work.
- The behavioral health training/academic program can be bachelor's, master's or doctoral level.

If you have a question about whether your institution is eligible, please contact [behavioralhealth@wvhepc.edu](mailto:behavioralhealth@wvhepc.edu).

## **II. Award Information**

### **Summary of Funding**

The application and grant information webinars will be posted for interested public or private 4-year higher education institutions in West Virginia. Funding will be provided upon execution of an agreement for funds. A total of \$80,000 dollars is currently available for this program. Applicants can request grant funds in the amounts of \$5,000-\$20,000. Funding amounts depend on the number and quality of applications and amount requested. The Commission will work with the awardee to match awards to the funding available and revise budgets as needed. The Commission will notify awardees within 3 weeks of submission. The award period will be detailed in the agreement for funds.

**Grantees must invoice for all funds prior to September 28, 2025. Grant project end dates will be 5/1/26. Final budget and narrative reports will be required 45 days after the project end date.**

## **III. Submission Information**

### **Materials to be submitted:**

Materials must consist of the following documents:

- A. Exhibit A- Activity Overview/Statement of Work -Template on page 5 of this document
- B. Exhibit B- Budget Template available at link under small grants heading:  
<https://www.wvhepc.edu/inside-the-commission/offices-and-affiliates/health-sciences/>

### **Submission**

Application materials must be submitted via the Health Sciences Grant Portal:  
<https://hsgrants.force.com/>

## **IV. Application Review Information**

### **Review Process**

Applications will be reviewed by Commission awards management staff (business review) and program staff (technical review and analysis of proposal).

The following criteria will be considered in the review process:

- Meeting the application eligibility requirements.
- Development of grant programming that fits the goals of the grant opportunity.
- Grammar and punctuation.

### **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 Candace Layne, Behavioral Health Program Specialist, at [candace.layne@wvhepc.edu](mailto:candace.layne@wvhepc.edu)

# EXHIBIT A

## STATEMENT OF WORK

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1. Provide a one to two sentence synopsis of the project that can be used to describe the project in social media, web announcements and press releases.
2. Include the following information:
  - A brief description of the need for this opportunity in your training program, on your campus, in the community and across the state.
  - A brief description of which project goal(s) your project will focus on.
  - A detailed description of the goal(s) and project(s) you plan to implement in your behavioral health training program that focuses on maternal/perinatal mental health.
  - Evaluation methods- how will you measure if this service is effective for your students
  - Project SMART goals\*\* (must include process and outcome goals) See below for the template for goals/activities/outcomes and time to complete table.

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