



**Maternal Mental Health Grant
Round 2
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 and has been expanded to health science academic programs for a second round. Round 2 of funding is open to the following academic programs: nursing, physician assistant, public health, pharmacy, peer support specialists, physical therapy, and dietetics.**

West Virginia currently has numerous Health Professional Shortage Areas designed by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. Almost all of West Virginia's counties are designated mental health professional shortage areas. Meeting the critical need for health and mental health providers is a significant workforce challenge for our state, especially in more rural areas. Providing new curriculum and training for health science students and other health professionals about perinatal/maternal mental health is key to decreasing gaps across the state and increasing knowledge and resources about perinatal/maternal mental health.

This funding opportunity will support perinatal/maternal mental health by providing health science and medical academic training programs with funds to provide students curriculum, training, and internship experiences that focus on maternal/perinatal mental health and overall wellness. This helps to support the physical health, behavioral health and perinatal mental health of perinatal patients/clients by increasing knowledge, training, and certification among current health science and medical students as well as behavioral health professionals across the state.

Three \$7,000.00 awards will be available through the second round of funding.

Program and Opportunity Goals

Applications and agreements submitted under this opportunity will meet the following goals:

- Increase knowledge of health science and medical students on the topic of perinatal/maternal mental health.
- Create and expand curriculum to increase student skills in the delivery of health services to the pregnant and postpartum population and better understand the behavioral health of the pregnant, postpartum, perinatal population.
- Provide internship stipends to incentivize student placements in maternal health, wellness, and mental health field experiences.
- 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 health science health programs can identify specific lectures to include in academic programming. The Commission will provide information and connect with the PSI- WV Chapter.

This program is being offered as a pilot. Grantee participation in evaluation of effectiveness and return on investment measures is crucial to support continuing funding.

Deadline for submission

Application must be submitted by no later than **5:00 pm on Monday, July 28, 2025**. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

Eligibility and Funding Requirements

- A health science/medical 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 health science/medical 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.

II. Award Information

Summary of Funding

The application and grant information webinars will be held for interested public or private 4-year higher education institutions in West Virginia. Grant information webinars will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. and Monday, July 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Funding will be provided upon execution of an agreement for funds. A total of \$21,000 dollars is currently available for this program. Three \$7,000.00 awards will be available through the second round of funding. 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 at the end 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

EXHIBIT A

STATEMENT OF WORK

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:

- Background of the project and relationship to the maternal mental health grant initiative goals. How will this program provide new curriculum, training, new learning opportunities, etc.?
- A brief description of the program(s) to be developed or expanded, including (as applicable) timeline to completion, recruitment activities, personnel needs, cohort follow-up activities, and the plan to expend funds prior to the deadline.
- Project SMART goals** (must include process and outcome goals) See below for the template for goals/activities/outcomes and time to complete table.
- Briefly describe project personnel and how they are qualified to guide the proposed project
- Evaluation methods
- Sustainability plans once initial funding is exhausted
- 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

Use the following template to include budget detail. The Excel worksheet can be found at the following link: <https://www.wvhepc.edu/inside-the-commission/offices-and-affiliates/health-sciences/>