



WEST VIRGINIA

**Higher Education
Policy Commission**

**Campus Mental Health:
Strategies with Promising
Evidence
Request for Applications
2026-2027**

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose

This grant opportunity is to provide funding for public and private two-year and four-year institutions, campus or community-based organizations that directly serve college students with a focus on mental health and wellness. Projects will impact students' mental health and wellness through one of the following strategies:

- Peer support programming
- Programs or environments that foster student belonging
- Integration of mental health content and training into courses and providing content and training to various campus groups.
- Increase mentoring opportunities
- Campus-wide mental health programming (Ex. Suicide prevention, Mental Health Week, etc.)
- Mental health and wellness programming that impacts specific population groups (first generation students, student athletes, etc.)
- Implement prevention and postvention programming and training
- Student internship stipends for behavioral health students to gain hours and experience at a campus counseling center and assist with counseling center utilization.

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 and evaluating one or more strategies with ***promising evidence*** for impacting student mental health in higher education populations.

For further information on strategies with ***promising evidence***, 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 organizations, and other 2- and 4-year colleges or universities as applicable.

II. Award Information

Opportunity Eligibility

West Virginia public and private 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 Candace D. Layne, Director of Behavioral Health Programs at candace.layne@wvhepc.edu or 304.558.0530.

Summary of Funding

Funding will be provided upon the execution of an agreement for funds. The amount of \$56,000 has been allotted for the Strategies with Promising Evidence Grant. Requests of up to \$7,000 will be accepted for review. The Commission will notify awardees by August 10, 2026. The award period will be detailed in the agreement for funds, and the grant award will end on 06/30/27.

Requirements

Awardees will be required to adhere to the following:

1. Awardees must complete and execute an agreement for funds prior to the release of any funds. Award agreements will be sent to the authorized signatory via SignNow. Only agreements signed and returned via SignNow will be accepted.
2. Awardees will then invoice for grant funds. Invoicing will occur within the portal.
3. Awardees must complete a final report. Final reports will require a narrative and budget update on program activities. Reporting will occur within the portal and is due 45 days after the final grant date.

4. All program data and evaluation data must be included in the report, as well as student attendance data at events and programming.
5. Awardees must return any unused funds from this award at the end of the specified performance period, and a sworn statement must be completed within one year of the grant closing for institutions that do not have research corporations.
6. 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 the narrative in the beginning or on a cover sheet. 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 **Friday, July 31, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.**

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 that 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 D. Layne, Director of Behavioral Health Programs at candace.layne@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.