



A STUDENT-CENTERED VISION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Last updated: November 22, 2022

**Notice of Grant Opportunity
Mental Health in Higher Education: Community Provider Partnerships and
Professional Development Grant**

The application deadline for the Community Provider Partnerships and Professional Development Grant is 5:00 p.m., January 31, 2023

Governor Murphy has committed \$55 million from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) to address the youth mental health crisis throughout New Jersey. This coordinated interagency approach will be led by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE). Nearly 2.5 years after OSHE launched the State Plan for Higher Education: *Where Opportunity Meets Innovation*, the State remains committed to improving the lived experiences of postsecondary education students by promoting safe and inclusive learning environments.

OSHE is excited to announce the availability of \$16 million in grants to address the mental health needs of postsecondary students, exacerbated by the prolonged toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. Leveraging funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, as allocated in the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act, these grants will fund mental health initiatives at New Jersey public and public-mission independent institutions of higher education that receive State operating aid.

The grants will be divided into two categories: \$15 million will be distributed to eligible institutions of higher education for the creation of community partnerships that will allow the institutions to increase capacity to meet the mental health needs of students.¹ Institutions are encouraged to partner with organizations to deliver services tailored to the unique needs of their student populations. The remaining \$1 million will be directed towards professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to build multicultural competencies and increase engagement with their diverse student populations. Eligible institutions are encouraged to apply for both categories.

The SLFRF is provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. More information regarding the SLFRF and/or the ARP can be found [here](#).

¹ While Grant Category #1 will be referred to as “Community Provider Partnerships” throughout this Notice of Grant Opportunity, institutions may create partnerships with entities that are located beyond the literal community surrounding the campus, such as national or international organizations.

Purpose:

In Fall 2021, OSHE surveyed thousands of students enrolled in institutions of higher education throughout the State on the economic, financial, and mental tolls of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not surprisingly, the results were troubling: over 70% of students rated their current stress and anxiety levels as either higher or much higher than the previous year and 40% of students indicated that they were concerned about their mental health in light of the pandemic.²

While most institutions of higher education provided some level of mental health support for students prior to the pandemic, the levels of need have now greatly exceeded the capacities of campuses to meet those needs.

Through this unique federal funding stream, New Jersey has the opportunity to revitalize the mental health system of care in higher education by targeting specific areas of need and improving access to critical services. This grant program is designed to encourage institutions of higher education and community providers to develop partnerships and expand professional capacity to meet the direct and unique needs of students, with a distinct focus on traditionally underrepresented student populations as they were disproportionately impacted by the effects of the pandemic. The grants will require institutions to focus on systemic reforms that will be sustainable over time despite the limited nature of the SLFRF funding.

Eligibility:

This grant opportunity will be open to all public and independent public-mission institutions that receive State operating aid. OSHE will seek to award grants in two (2) categories.

While this will be a formula grant, applications must meet a minimum threshold score to be eligible for funding. Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act, grant funds must be encumbered by December 31, 2024 and fully expended by December 31, 2026.

Grant Categories:

OSHE recognizes that addressing student mental health requires a comprehensive approach, from ensuring that students have immediate, crisis intervention support, to providing multiple access points to services both on and off campus, to ensuring that the services available are appropriately tailored to the unique needs of the student population. In addition, competent and effective mental health services and support require that appropriate individuals on campus have access to training and professional development opportunities that allow them to maintain a high degree of knowledge in providing care to students with mental health needs.

Grant Category #1: Leveraging Community Provider Partnerships

OSHE seeks to award \$15 million to eligible institutions of higher education for the creation of community partnerships that will allow the institutions to increase capacity to meet the mental health needs of students. Institutions are encouraged to partner with local, state, national, or international organizations to deliver evidence-based services tailored to the unique needs of their student populations. Evidence-based interventions must comply with the definitions of same as

² https://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/documents/pdf/OSHE-COVID-19_Student_Impact_Survey_Results_Report.pdf

described in Appendix 2 of the [SLFRF Reporting and Compliance Guidance](#). The grant funds shall be used to assist eligible institutions in filling the service and capacity gaps that currently exist in the response to student mental health needs.

Grant recipients will have the discretion, within the parameters of the SLFRF Compliance Guidelines, to utilize these dollars to procure the services most appropriate and responsive to the needs of their respective student populations. Services can both directly and indirectly support student mental health and may include: 1:1 counseling, group therapies, crisis hotlines, support groups, transportation to off-campus mental health services, seminars, mindfulness activities, and peer training programs. Services may be provided in person or through electronic means. However, grant funding cannot be used by institutions to simply supplant the funding source of existing mental health efforts. Institutions must propose new or expanded mental health services which would not otherwise be available to the student population.

Grant amounts in this category were determined based on a formula composed of two parts: 1) a flat dollar amount awarded to all institutions in the sector based on the sector’s percentage share of the State’s overall student enrollment, as determined using Fall 2021 IPEDS data; and 2) the institution’s Fall 2021 IPEDS total student enrollment figure. The table below details the maximum grant amounts available to each eligible institution. Please note that eligible institutions may apply for grant awards that are less than the amounts listed below.

Senior Public Institutions

Kean University	\$555,843
Montclair State University	\$828,610
New Jersey City University	\$356,314
New Jersey Institute of Technology	\$526,533
Ramapo College of New Jersey	\$315,800
Rowan University	\$770,812
Rutgers University-Camden	\$344,392
Rutgers University-New Brunswick	\$1,855,460
Rutgers University-Newark	\$535,654
Stockton University	\$439,460
The College of New Jersey	\$379,236
Thomas Edison State University	\$452,065
William Paterson University of New Jersey	\$440,040

County Colleges

Atlantic Cape Community College	\$202,713
Bergen Community College	\$421,038
Brookdale Community College	\$379,119
Camden County College	\$314,305

County College of Morris	\$265,422
Essex County College	\$258,967
Hudson County Community College	\$284,343
Mercer County Community College	\$264,946
Middlesex College	\$376,096
Ocean County College	\$302,857
Passaic County Community College	\$226,594
Raritan Valley Community College	\$281,354
Rowan College at Burlington County	\$267,256
Rowan College of South Jersey	\$330,406
Salem Community College	\$84,362
Sussex County Community College	\$127,605
Union College of Union County, NJ	\$323,544
Warren County Community College	\$163,885

Public-Mission Independent Institutions that Receive State Operating Aid³

Bloomfield College	\$75,091
Caldwell University	\$102,159
Centenary University	\$83,605
Drew University	\$107,112
Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham Campus	\$135,401
Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metropolitan Campus	\$284,276
Felician University	\$112,776
Georgian Court University	\$103,109
Monmouth University	\$215,384
Pillar College	\$49,516
Rider University	\$173,595
Saint Elizabeth University	\$71,631
Saint Peter's University	\$133,061
Seton Hall University	\$366,159
Stevens Institute of Technology	\$312,090

Grant Category #2: Professional Development

OSHE seeks to award \$1 million to eligible institutions for the provision of professional development designed to build multicultural competencies and increase engagement with students.

³ While eligible to receive approximately \$300,000 in grant funding, Princeton University has chosen to decline these funds in order to facilitate larger allocations for all other institutions. The University will nonetheless participate in State convenings on this topic to discuss best practices in overcoming mental health challenges on college and university campuses.

Institutions are encouraged to contract with organizations with established records of delivering high-quality professional development to higher education faculty and staff that is culturally inclusive and focuses on diverse student populations. Mental health challenges can manifest differently across student populations and require unique treatment approaches. For these reasons, this funding shall be used by institutions to equip those individuals on campus tasked with addressing student mental health with the multicultural sensitivities and expertise necessary for effective interactions.

For this grant category, each eligible institution can apply for up to a maximum award of \$22,222. As with Grant Category #2, these grant dollars must be utilized to provide evidence-based services as contemplated by the [SLFRF Reporting and Compliance Guidance](#).

Application:

Applications must include two documents: 1) Grant Narrative (inclusive of both grant categories if applicable); and 2) Budget Justification Template. No more than one complete application may be submitted per institution.

Narrative

The grant narrative portion of the application must be submitted as a single PDF. Please use the headings listed below to craft the narrative. Applicants must abide by the word limit indicated per section. Any information provided beyond the word limit will not be reviewed.

- *Application Cover Sheet:*
See Appendix A for details.

- *Letter of Support:*
The Institution President/Chancellor must submit a one-page letter of support indicating the institution's commitment and capacity to carry out the grant proposal.
 - Word limit: 500 words

- *Statement of Need:*
Provide an explanation of the need for this grant and describe the population that will be served under the grant, with a focus on those student populations most adversely affected by the pandemic. Note that this grant should not supplant funding for existing efforts but demonstrate a bold and innovative approach to expanding access to mental health supports in higher education.
 - Word limit: 500 words
 - One statement of need must be submitted per each grant category for which an applicant applies.

- *Commitment to Equity:*
How will this project take an equitable approach to serving campus communities with the greatest needs, particularly in addressing traditionally underrepresented student populations?

- Word limit: 250 words
 - One commitment to equity statement must be included per grant category for which the applicant applies.
- *Goals Statement*
List the goals of the project and describe how they align with the State’s goal to improve student mental health in higher education. Detail how this project will meet the needs identified.
 - Word limit: 250 words
 - One goals statement must be submitted per each category for which an applicant applies.
- *Evaluation:*
Include how the institution plans to evaluate the impact and awareness of the community partnerships with baseline data, appropriate milestones, and measurable impacts. Also, include the number of students anticipated to be impacted by the partnership.
 - Word limit: 250 words
 - One evaluation per partnership description.

Include how the institution plans to evaluate the impact of the professional development delivered with baseline data, appropriate milestones, and measurable impacts. Also, include the number of faculty and staff involved in the professional development.

 - Word limit: 250 words
 - One evaluation must be submitted for each proposed form of professional development.
- *Innovation and Sustainability (for the Community Partnerships Grant Category only):*
Describe the supports and services that the partnerships will introduce to campus and how it will innovate pre-existing initiatives to generate stronger results. Detail how the institution will endeavor to continue delivering services to students after the end of the grant cycle to avoid service cliffs.
 - Word limit: 250 words each.
 - One innovation and sustainability statement must be submitted per each proposed partnership.
- *Partnership Plan (for Community Partnerships Grant Category only):*
Provide a brief description of each of the institution’s proposed partnerships, including the anticipated duration of each partnership. Indicate how the partnership will serve currently unmet student mental health needs, with a focus on those student populations most adversely affected by the pandemic. Describe the partnering entity’s professional experience in delivering mental health services including, but not limited to, the evidence-based services that will be available to students as a result of the partnership. Institutions should be mindful of the capability of partnering entities to adhere to applicable state and state laws.
 - Word limit: 250 words per partnership description.

- *Budget Activity Plan*

Provide a brief description of your institution’s proposed use of funding. Specific line items will be provided via the required budget template. This section should include additional narrative regarding goals for funding use and suggested project activities with clear ties to the budget proposed. Your budget activity plan should take into account that all funds must be encumbered by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.

- Word limit: 500 words per grant category

Budget Justification

The budget portion of the application must be submitted as an Excel spreadsheet utilizing the template provided. Institutions should have one budget tab for each of the grant categories.

A key component of the budget template is the field designated for the “Narrative Budget Description.” For each category of budgeted expenses, institutions must provide a “Narrative Description” which consists of a detailed list of, and justification for, each expense. While the menu of options provides examples of how applicants can utilize funding, institutions may need to provide a further breakdown within the categories in the budget template. The funding should be clearly tied to grant deliverables and any items charged must be grant-specific. Specific guidance for what should be provided for the content of the ‘Narrative Budget Description’ are outlined in the “Directions to Complete” tab within the budget template provided. If the “Narrative Budget Description” cannot be provided within the space allowed within the template, institutions may submit a secondary spreadsheet tab with this detail, but all submissions must be in an Excel spreadsheet format.

Use of funding must abide by state and federal guidelines. The U.S. Department of Treasury’s website provides additional information on how SLFRF funds can be used under the American Rescue Plan Act. Institutions must bear in mind that these funds are non-recurring federal COVID-19 relief dollars that will not be available to institutions past the deadlines specified above.

Link to budget template:

www.state.nj.us/highereducation/documents/excel/Institution_Name_FY23_Youth_Mental_Health_and_Professional_Development_Budget.xlsx

Deadline for Submission:

The above requested information should be submitted as two files (one PDF of the narrative and one Excel spreadsheet of the proposed budget) to OSHE **no later than January 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** Submissions may be emailed to OSHE@oshe.nj.gov with the subject line “MH CP & PD Grant– (Name of Institution)”. OSHE will confirm receipt of application. *Late applications will not be accepted.*

Reporting and Assurance Requirements

OSHE is responsible for overseeing the application process, selecting Grant recipients, disbursing funding to the selected institutions, and convening the grantees to share best practices and

outcomes. It is OSHE's obligation to ensure that the grant funds are utilized in accordance with federal requirements accompanying the American Rescue Plan Act and therefore, it is possible that reporting requirements for grantees may be updated over time.

Grant awardees will be required to submit semi-annual progress reports detailing budgetary information, work progress, project status in terms of percent towards completion, service delivery outcomes, and emergence of challenges or impediments to the success of the grant. OSHE will provide grantees with template(s) for these reports in advance of the first report submission deadline, estimated to be six months following the execution of grant agreements.

Grant awardees should also anticipate reporting on the communications strategies employed to ensure that students were aware of the services available as a result of the community partnership(s) forged with this grant funding.

Grantees will be expected to participate in statewide gatherings to share best practices and strategies from participation in this grant. Grant agreements will be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in [Circular 07-05-OMB: Grant Agreements – Agency Contracts](#).

Technical questions regarding the Notice of Grant Opportunity Mental Health in Higher Education: Community Provider Partnerships and Professional Development Grant should be submitted to OSHE@oshe.nj.gov by 4:00pm December 16, 2022.

Appendix A
Community Provider Partnerships and Professional Development Grant
Application Cover Sheet

Name of Institution:

Contact(s) Information for Application: Please include name(s), title(s), email address(es), & phone number(s)

Institution seeks to apply for the following grant categories:

Please check all that apply.

- Community Provider Partnerships Grant
- Professional Development Grant

Components of Application for the Community Provider Partnerships and Professional Development Grant

Note: Before submitting, please review and check that the following components are included in the application. Only completed applications will be reviewed. Late submissions will not be considered.

- Signed Application Cover Sheet
- Narrative Application:
 - Cover Sheet
 - Letter of Support
 - Statement of Need
 - Commitment to Equity
 - Goals Statement
 - Evaluation
 - Innovation and Sustainability (for the Community Partnerships Grant Category only)
 - Partnership Plan (for Community Partnerships Grant Category only):
 - Budget Activity Plan

- Budget: Excel spreadsheet using template provided

By signing below, the institution certifies that all statements provided in the grant application are true and correct and that the institution will comply with all applicable requirements set forth by the State and Federal Government if awarded the one-time grant funding.

Signature of President or Point of Contact Identified Above:

Date:
