

Notice of Funding Announcement: Ohio Wellness Campus Collaborative Enhancing Mental Health on College Campuses

Letters of Intent due November 6, 2024, 5:00pm

Background and Intent

Mental health on college campuses is a growing concern, with many services overstretched and unable to fully meet student needs. Partnerships between higher education institutions and community organizations are key to enhancing support systems and integrating resources for a more comprehensive approach. This initiative, funded by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services through the American Rescue Plan Act, supports Ohio colleges in creating sustainable, impactful mental health programs in collaboration with community partners, benefiting student well-being and academic success.

Award and Timeframe

This funding initiative is designed to support vital campus-community partnerships by providing financial assistance of up to **\$15,000** per campus. A total of six campuses will be selected for this opportunity. The funding is intended to be utilized over a period of **eight months**, beginning in **November 2024** and concluding in **May 2025**.

The application period for this funding opportunity will commence on October 14, 2024, and conclude on November 6, 2024. All applications must be submitted by ****5:00 PM EST**** on the closing date. Awards will be announced by November 8, 2024, with the first mandatory meeting scheduled for November 13, 2024 from 2-3:30pm.

Eligible Applicants

Ohio higher education institutions are invited to apply for this opportunity to enhance campus mental health services through collaboration with community partners. To promote broad access and equity, priority will be given to campuses that have not previously received funding under the Rise and Thrive or Ohio Wellness Campus Collaborative initiatives. Institutions that have received prior funding are encouraged to explore other resources.

Required Project Personnel

To be eligible for funding, campuses must select a community partner and designate the following key personnel:

1. **Campus Director:** Responsible for overseeing project implementation and ensuring adherence to goals and timelines. This individual should have experience in collaborating with campus departments.
2. **Community Partner Director:** Manages the partnership with the campus, ensuring collaborative efforts align with project objectives. This individual should have a background in community outreach or mental health services.

Both directors must be committed to the project's success and demonstrate collaborative skills. Only Campus Directors are required to attend mandatory Learning Community Meetings, though Community Partner Directors are encouraged to participate.

Mentor Campus

Each funded campus will be paired with a **mentor campus**, a previously funded institution that has successfully implemented campus-community mental health initiatives. The mentor campus will provide **technical assistance and campus-specific guidance** to support the successful implementation of the funded initiatives.

Required Learning Community Meetings and Workshops

Participation in Learning Community Meetings is essential for grantees, providing a platform to share progress, challenges, and insights about mental health resources. All virtual Learning Community meetings will take place from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM EST.

All grantees are **required to attend an in-person Certified Peer Educator (CPE) training workshop provided by NASPA during the February 5, 2025, Learning Community Meeting**. This workshop will equip campus teams with essential skills to effectively support and implement mental health interventions on their campuses.

- November 13, 2024- virtual
- December 4, 2024- virtual
- January 8, 2025- virtual
- February 5, 2025- in person (Columbus, Ohio)
- March 5, 2025- virtual
- April 2, 2025- virtual
- Final May meeting TBD- in person (Columbus, Ohio)

Program Requirements

Each selected campus must incorporate the following **four pillars**, along with the associated minimum requirements, into their funded initiatives. Campuses will work with PreventionFIRST! and mentor campuses to develop an Implementation Plan.

1. **Student Involvement:** Engaging students in the planning and implementation of mental health initiatives, ensuring their voices and experiences shape the programs that support their well-being.
 - Minimum Requirement: A minimum of three students must serve on the campus-community partnership team responsible for implementing the initiatives funded by this grant.
2. **Campus Engagement:** Selecting and executing approved activities that foster campus-wide participation in mental health promotion, such as training programs and workshops, to build a supportive community.
 - Minimum Requirement: Campuses must select at least one approved activity that will allow for campus-wide involvement. Examples may include:
 - Programs/Trainings such as Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), Mental Health First Aid, or the Green Bandana Project.
 - Skill-building opportunities such as workshops, events or classes focused on mental health management.
3. **Collaborative Promotion of Mental Health Resources:** Working with campus departments and community partners to identify, promote, and enhance access to mental health resources and services for students.
 - Minimum Requirement: Campuses must engage other campus departments working on mental health initiatives and collaborate with their selected community partner to identify and promote both campus and community-based resources. A deliverable, such as a campus-wide promotion effort or a mental health fair, will be required.
4. **Education:** Providing ongoing educational opportunities for both students and staff to increase awareness of mental health issues, reduce stigma, and promote effective strategies for mental health management.
 - Minimum Requirement: Campuses must allocate funding to at least one of the following educational components:
 - Continuing education for mental health-focused staff and or students
 - Mental health education or awareness for new students
 - Membership for professional organizations supporting behavioral health and wellness

Proposal Submission

To be considered for this funding opportunity, a **Letter of Intent must be submitted by 5:00 PM EST on November 6, 2024**. The Letter of Intent should be emailed to Julie Cameron at julie@prevention-first.org.

The letter should include the following information:

- **Campus Partner Information:** Information about the higher education institution applying for funding, including the name and contact details of the designated Campus Director.
- **Community Partner Information:** Details about the community organization collaborating with the campus, including the name and contact details of the designated Community Director.
- **Length of Time of the Partnership:** An overview of how long the campus and community partners have been working together.
- **Purpose of the Funding:** A brief explanation of the campus's commitment to improving student mental health. Describe how the campus hopes the funding will be used to address identified gaps or needs in mental health services on campus based on the Program Requirements. Emphasize how the opportunity aligns with the campus's overall goals for student well-being and academic success.

Contact Information

For more details on this funding opportunity, including application guidelines and submission procedures, please contact:

Julie Cameron, PreventionFIRST!
julie@prevention-first.org

We look forward to receiving your applications and working together to enhance mental health support on Ohio's college campuses.