



**NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

Fostering Student Success from Cradle to Career

PURPOSE OF HEARING:

Health Professional Loan Repayment Program and Higher Education Mental and Behavioral Health Initiatives

PRESENTATION TO:

Legislative Health & Human Services Committee

DATE:

Monday,
July 10, 2023

LOCATION:

Navajo Prep School
Farmington, NM

PREPARED BY:

Stephanie M. Rodriguez
Cabinet Secretary

Patricia Trujillo, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary



HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM



BACKGROUND

New Mexico's **Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)** provides repayment for outstanding student loans of practicing health professionals. As a condition of the program, a health professional must make a two-year service commitment to practice full time in a designated medical shortage area in New Mexico. However, because of the passage of House Bill 209 this past legislative session, the service commitment will be extended to three years, similar to other states across the nation.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the Legislature approved a record \$14.6 million for the program in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), a \$13 million increase from the previous year. With the significant increase in funding for the program this year, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) estimates the state can support approximately 600 working health professionals.

Eligible professional occupation fields include:

- Medical & Nursing
- Dental
- Allied Health
- Mental & Behavioral Health

In September 2023, NMHED received \$1.2 million in matching federal funds from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to be expended over a three-year period. Approximately 10 awardees benefit from these federal funds.

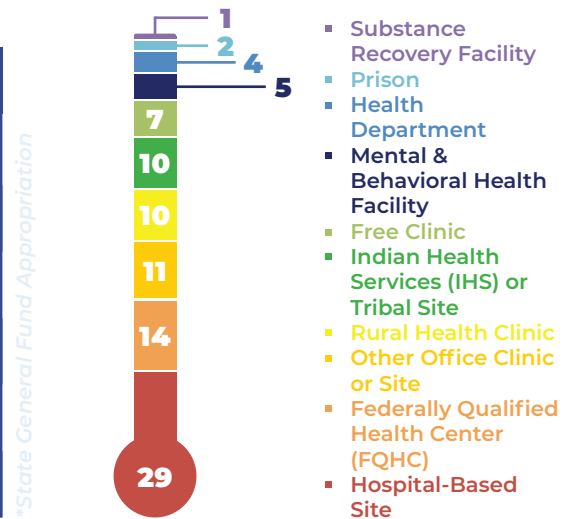
PROGRAM DATA			
	Applicants	Awardees	Funding*
FY2020	101	22	\$1M
FY2021	144	22	\$1M
FY2022	86	21	\$1.2M
FY2023	649	44	\$1.6M
FY2024	1,337	~600	\$14.6M

FY23 PROGRAM DATA

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE LOCATIONS



HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TYPES OF PRACTICE



FY23 AWARDEE PROFILE

AVERAGE AWARD:

\$25,000

MAXIMUM DEBT:

\$300,000

AVERAGE DEBT:

\$95,150



HIGHER EDUCATION MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE GRANTS

Last year, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) awarded \$1 million to establish and expand mental health services for students on college campuses across the state. NMHED awarded \$50,000 grants to 20 programs across 14 college and university campuses as part of its **Mental and Behavioral Health Initiative** grants. The funds expanded existing services, added new resources, conducted staff training, or engaged in outreach campaigns encouraging students to seek help. Providing targeted support to college students can go even further toward alleviating the challenges faced by college-going New Mexicans.

Public colleges and universities submitted proposals to NMHED describing how their mental and behavioral health proposals directly benefit students. Proposals that incorporated best practices, directed services to high-need student populations, or implemented innovative outreach strategies were awarded.

The following campuses and projects were funded in FY23 at \$50,000 each:

GRANT AWARDEES	
Institute of American Indian Arts <i>#ReclaimYourMedicineIAIA</i>	University of New Mexico <i>Manzanita Clinic Teletherapy Expansion</i>
New Mexico Highlands University <i>Wellness Initiative for Student Health (WISH)</i>	University of New Mexico <i>Lobo Balance: College Stress Management</i>
New Mexico Junior College <i>Expand Mental Health Resources & Training</i>	University of New Mexico <i>Women's Resource Center & El Centro</i>
New Mexico Military Institute <i>Leadership & Character Development Program</i>	UNM-Valencia <i>Mental & Behavioral Health Support Program</i>
New Mexico State University <i>Campus Suicide Prevention Program</i>	Luna Community College <i>Building Rough Rider Resilience</i>
Doña Ana Community College <i>Mental Health Program Expansion</i>	Central NM Community College <i>Wellness CNM</i>
Western New Mexico University <i>WNMU Mental Health Awareness Month</i>	Clovis Community College <i>Student Wellness Outreach & Education</i>
Navajo Technical University <i>Project Peace</i>	New Mexico State University <i>No Mind Unheard</i>
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Inst. <i>Addressing Tribal College Student Mental Health</i>	NMSU-Alamogordo <i>Cultivating Connection through Community</i>
San Juan College <i>SJC Aware</i>	NMSU-Grants <i>One-Stop to Well-Being</i>



NMCONNECT APP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

New Mexico's mental health app will be available to all college students in the state.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) is collaborating with the New Mexico Health & Human Services Department to **develop and roll out a higher education version of New Mexico's mental and behavioral health smartphone app, NMConnect.** This app offers New Mexicans access to a counselor or peer support, self-help digital wellness tools, and information on community resources.

In summary, the app:

- Connects you directly to a counselor or peer support worker via call or text
- Engages you in a full suite of integrated digital self-help wellness tools
- Links you to the online "New Mexico Five-Actions" self-guided addiction program
- Provides you with access to up-to-date community resources

ProtoCall, the application developer, is working with NMHED to build out the NMConnect app as a mental and behavioral health safety net for New Mexico college students. The higher education version of the app will have all resources available through the NMConnect app, as well as the specific student resources at each college and university.

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY Las Cruces, NM

NO MIND UNHEARD: Creating a Culture of Mental Health Awareness and Promotion

Launched in Fall 2022, **No Mind Unheard** is a pilot program that trained 50 first-year psychology students in mental health first aid, suicide prevention, and public health awareness. There are now 50 peer mental health ambassadors on a mission to destigmatize mental health across the New Mexico State University campus and build a peer-to-peer network of support for all students.



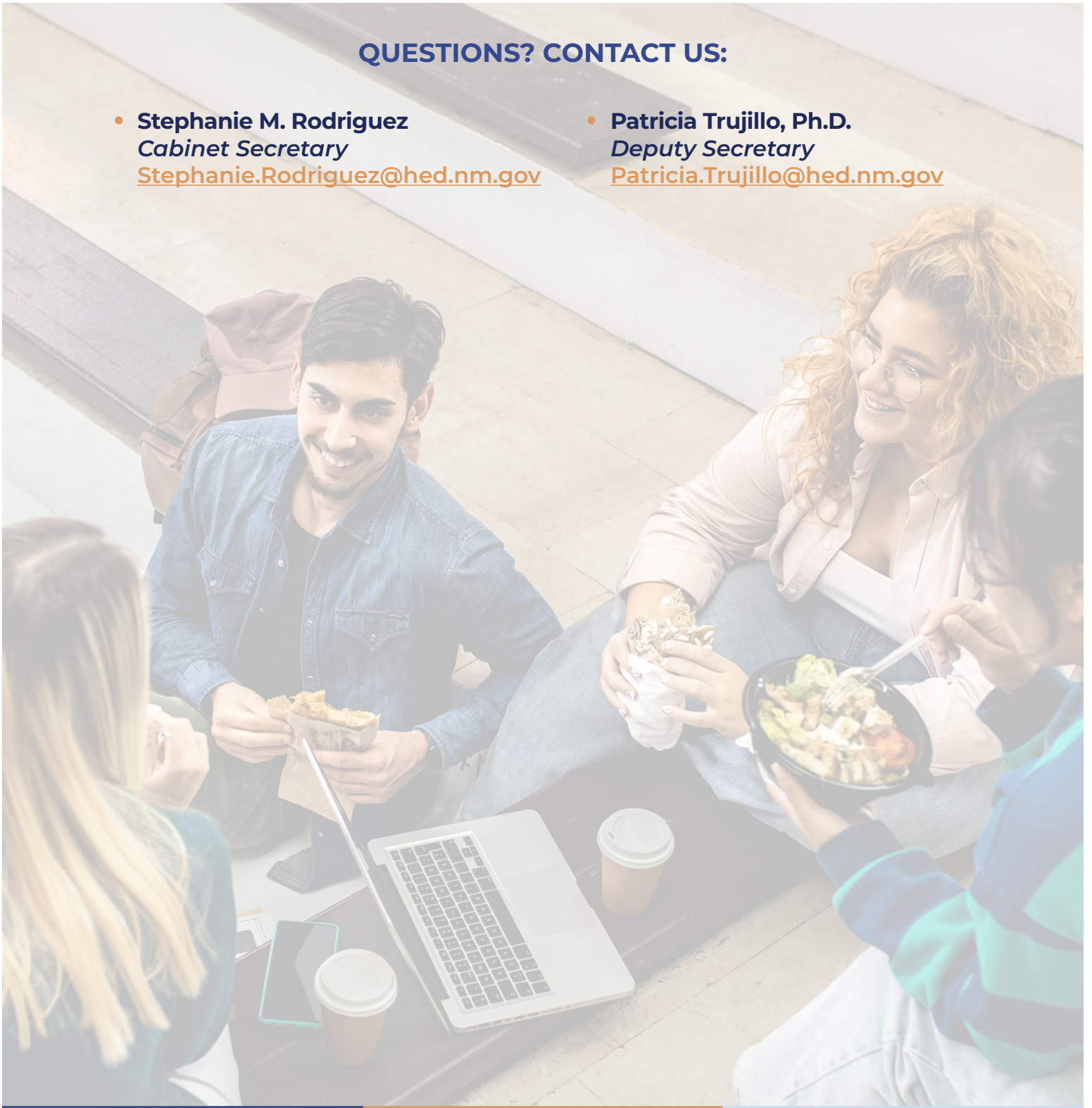
Request for Applications (RFA) Now Open:

Building off the last funding cycle, the FY24 cycle adds two new foci on expanding trauma informed initiatives for higher education institutions and supporting the mental and behavioral health of faculty and staff members. Awards will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:

- **Stephanie M. Rodriguez**
Cabinet Secretary
Stephanie.Rodriguez@hed.nm.gov
- **Patricia Trujillo, Ph.D.**
Deputy Secretary
Patricia.Trujillo@hed.nm.gov



**NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

Fostering Student Success from Cradle to Career