



## **Request for Applications**

### **Mental & Behavioral Health Initiatives at New Mexico's Higher Education Institutions**

#### *Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds*

**Federal Fiscal Year 2023**

### **Guidance & Template**

#### **Purpose of Grant and Problem It Solves**

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) is accepting applications for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) titled Mental and Behavior Health Initiatives at New Mexico's Higher Education Institutions. Poor mental health brings various consequences, as it can hinder a student's academic success and lead to high dropout rates among struggling students. Students struggling with mental health are twice as likely to leave a college or university without graduating, and the results hold even after controlling for students' prior academic records. Students suffering from symptoms of mental health disorders are at risk of a lower GPA, discontinuous enrollment, and possibly dropping out. Therefore, higher education institutions (HEIs) should aim to provide all students with access to mental health services that will in turn benefit the student population.

The purpose of this program is to support initiatives that prioritize students' mental and behavioral health at New Mexico's public and Tribal higher education institutions. The grant is designed to assist colleges and universities build essential capacity and infrastructure to create or support efforts to address mental and behavioral health, promote wellness, and cultivate a campus climate where mental and behavioral health resources are normalized as a critical component of student learning. This year, two additional areas will be funded for initiatives that include staff and faculty, along with student mental health initiatives and programming, that works to implement trauma-informed care and teaching models in the classroom and across campus.

#### **Available Funding**

To address the different needs of higher education institutions across the state, this year's awards will be scaled from \$50,000 to \$250,000. The \$50,000 awards can be utilized by schools, colleges, and universities that received a FY23 Mental and Behavioral Health Grant to build and expand upon a previously funded project. The awards up to \$150,000 to \$250,000 must demonstrate a higher education institution's ability to build significant capacity with the funding for mental and behavioral health services on their campus. These transformational projects should include an institutional plan to maintain the services implemented after the term of award.

Up to \$950,000 will be awarded to nine higher education institutions in the following manner:

- Two (2) awards up to \$250,000
- One (1) award up to \$150,000
- Six (6) awards of \$50,000



## Eligible Applicants

1. Public, post-secondary, higher education institutions, or Tribal colleges in New Mexico
2. Non-profit organizations that have a formalized relationship (MOU) with a public or Tribal higher education institutions to address mental and behavioral health issues

## Key Dates

<b>Application Open</b>	July 13, 2023
<b>Application Deadline</b>	August 17, 2023
<b>Review of Award</b>	August 18-31, 2023
<b>Announcement of Award</b>	September 1, 2023

## Evaluation Criteria

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) will select awardees based on the following:

1. Alignment of proposed activities with the purpose of the grant;
2. Cost of service relative to need and cost efficiency;
3. Track record of work with student populations; and
4. Demonstrated commitment to addressing one or more areas of the areas below:
  - Propose a campus-wide project that prioritizes mental health utilizing one or more of SAMHSA's 8 Dimensions of Wellness (see [APPENDIX](#)).
  - Partnering with other HEIs, public programs or non-profit organizations, and/or private entities to combine resources for supporting student mental health.
  - Leveraging technology to support students in various learning environments.
  - Designing and implementing a clear, comprehensive communication plan that addresses student, staff, and faculty mental health concerns.
    - Utilizing innovative methods such as podcasts, social media marketing, and/or highlighting the needs of vulnerable student groups.
    - Assessing the needs to diverse students to tailor mental health services and programs (Resource: "[Higher Ed Today College Student Mental Health and Well-being](#)" is an article with links to mental and behavior health initiatives at campuses across the country).
    - Developing and offering mental and behavioral health programming for faculty and staff; for more info read [Howard and Elue article in Faculty Focus \(2023\)](#).
    - Implementing trauma-informed care and teaching models in the classroom and across campus.

**Grant Period:** September 15, 2023 to December 31, 2024



## **Submissions**

When submitting your application, please combine all relevant items into one PDF and save the file as “*ACRONYMofyourschool/org.addressMHBH.July2023*”.

- Example: NMHED.addressMHBH.July2023

Please submit completed applications via email to Joel Zimmerer, Executive Administrative Coordinator, at [joel.zimmerer@hed.nm.gov](mailto:joel.zimmerer@hed.nm.gov).

## **Questions**

For any questions, please contact Nathan Moquino, Director, Indian Education Division, at [Nathan.moquino@hed.nm.gov](mailto:Nathan.moquino@hed.nm.gov) or 505-476-8400.

**Mental & Behavioral Health Initiatives at New Mexico’s Higher Education Institutions  
Cover Sheet**

Name of Higher Education Institution or Organization:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Tax Identification Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

SHARE Agency Code/Vendor ID: Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Address

Click or tap here to enter text.

City

Choose an item.

State

Insert Zip.

Zip Code

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Chief Executive Officer of Organization – Signature

Click or tap here to enter text.

Date

Click or tap here to enter text.

Chief Executive Officer of Organization – Printed Name

**Contact Information for Individual Requesting the Grant:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

Primary Contact

Click or tap here to enter text.

Primary Contact Title

Click or tap here to enter text.

Email Address of Primary Contact

Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone Number of Primary Contact

**Who is the person authorized to sign grant agreements at your institution? Please note: the greatest delays are caused by having inaccurate campus signatory information. Double check your contact information is current.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

Approved Campus Signatory

Click or tap here to enter text.

Campus Signatory Title

Click or tap here to enter text.

Email Address of Approved Campus Signatory

Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone Number of Campus Signatory

## Mental & Behavioral Health Initiative at New Mexico's Higher Education Institutions Funding Application Narrative Checklist

***Deadline: August 17, 2023***

In a separate document, please provide a response to each of the prompts below. Prior to submittal, please make sure to attach the cover sheet to your document.

1. **Title of Project:** Click or tap here to enter text.
2. **Which grant category are you applying for? Please check all that apply; lists are illustrative not exhaustive.**
  - Clinical/Direct Services:** Starting or funding a counseling services center, staffing, launching online counseling, etc.
  - Culture/Climate of Campus:** Campaigns to destigmatize seeking mental and behavioral health supports, resources to tell students where they can get help, student organizations, wrap around services, surveys, etc.
  - Student Ready Campus Initiatives/Campus Well-Being:** Belonging campaigns, destigmatizing food or housing insecurity, cultural humility, anti-racism policies, support of first-generation students, decreasing incidents of learner mistreatment, etc.
  - Convenings:** Statewide gathering for professionals and students addressing college mental and behavioral health, curriculum development, starting statewide college mental health organization, etc.
  - Other:** Please describe. Click or tap here to enter text.
3. **Project:** Outline the nature and scope of your proposed project. Describe the mental and behavioral health initiative that you are going to undertake. What is the specific problem you are addressing? Understanding that mental and behavior health initiatives impact different higher education institutions regionally, how would you measure successful outcomes from this project? This project may build and expand upon a previously funded project; please make a note in the proposal if this will build upon previous work. If you are applying for one of the \$150,000 or \$250,000 grants, describe how your campus plans to continue the work after the grant cycle is completed. (1200 words max)
4. **Organization:** The New Mexico Higher Education Department's goal is to address mental and behavioral health from a broad range of perspectives including clinical direct services, addressing psychological safety by improving campus cultural and climate, campus well-being initiatives, addressing BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ populations on campus, etc. Please review the questions below and report the status of each at your higher education institution. Whether yes or no, provide a brief description (one to three sentences each, continued on next page).
  - Does your campus have an established counseling center on-campus or partnership with a local mental health provide to provide regular referrals for student service?
  - Does your campus provide information to students regarding mental and behavioral health services available to them?
  - Does your campus hold or participate in at least one mental and behavioral health awareness event per academic year?

- Does your campus have an established emergency mental and behavioral health protocol for your campus?
- Does your campus have differentiated mental and behavioral health services available to students, staff, and faculty?
- Has your campus established a mental and behavioral health task force that meets a minimum of two times per academic year?

**5. Confirming Participation:** Describe the activities and strategies you will deploy to ensure the most impacted groups are participating in your proposed project. (500 words max)

**6. Networking:** Describe how your organization will coordinate with other partners to address mental and behavioral on your campus. (500 words max)

**7. Data:** Describe how you will gather and document the data necessary to demonstrate the impact of your work. (750 words max)

- In addition to common metrics, how do you recommend we measure success?
- Which data collection methods are most helpful to your project? (E.g., testimonials, feedback from impacted groups, etc.)

**8. Budget:** Provide a detailed budget in Excel, similar to the table below as an example. For grants up to \$60,000, no indirect costs can be applied. For grants \$61,000 to \$250,000, a rate of up to 5% indirect costs can be applied.

<b>A. Requested Amount of Funds from the Governor’s Education Emergency Relief (GEER) Funds for the Federal FY23 Appropriation Cycle:</b>	
<b>B. Budget detail (as applicable) by category ---</b>	
Expenses From (Date):	
To (Date):	
1.) Salary and Benefits:	
2.) Contractual Services:	
3.) Equipment:	
4.) Supplies:	
5.) Travel:	
6.) Administrative and Other Costs:	
<b>8.) TOTAL:</b>	

## APPENDIX

Image 1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).

