

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Connecticut Campus Mental Health Program (CCAMHP)

Overview Document

Application Due: January 24, 2021



An initiative of:

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Overview

Governor Lamont has announced that he will allocate \$2.7 million of the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund, a component of federal CARES funding, to institutions of higher education (IHEs) to support the mental health of their students.

The presence of mental health issues among college students is at an all-time high. Fueled by COVID-19, its economic impacts, and mounting awareness of systemic racism and inequality, in Fall 2020 [39% and 34%](#) of college students reported symptoms of depression and anxiety, respectively. Furthermore, [83%](#) said that their mental health had recently negatively impacted their academic performance.

This unique moment represents an opportunity to strengthen ecosystems of support to reach the [85%](#) of students who do not engage in college-offered counseling. The [Task Force to Study the Policies and Procedures Adopted by Each Institution of Higher Education Regarding the Prevention and Treatment of Mental Illness in Students](#) recommended investment in “[Communities of Support](#)” that engage leadership, faculty, staff, and students in creating holistic, supportive ecosystems that go beyond individual counseling.

In recognition of unique needs on each campus, the funds will be used for “mini-grants” to eligible institutions. These grants can be used to increase access to care, provide education and improve awareness of resources, conduct training for faculty, staff, and students, or for other related uses. Grants will be administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE), in partnership with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Office of the Governor (OTG).

Eligibility and Awards

Applications are open to non-profit undergraduate institutions with an endowment per student of less than \$100,000.¹ Eligible IHEs are assigned a predetermined maximum grant award based on their undergraduate student population and share of students receiving a Pell grant. There are four tiers of per-student funding: if less than 20% of students receive a Pell grant, an IHE will receive \$6 per student; 20-29%, \$12 per student; 30-39%, \$20 per student; and 40% and greater, \$30 per student.

School Name	Enrollment*	% Pell*	Maximum Grant Award
Albertus Magnus College	1,116	50	\$33,480
Asnuntuck Community College	1,658	38	\$33,160
Capital Community College	3,290	55	\$98,700
Central Connecticut State University	9,546	38	\$190,920
Charter Oak State College	1,549	33	\$30,980
Eastern Connecticut State University	5,011	33	\$100,220
Fairfield University	4,177	11	\$25,062
Gateway Community College	7,016	47	\$210,480
Goodwin College	3,346	78	\$100,380
Housatonic Community College	5,012	53	\$150,360
Manchester Community College	6,003	41	\$180,090
Middlesex Community College	2,547	37	\$50,940

¹ [2019 Connecticut Higher Education System Data and Trends Report](#)

Mitchell College	665	41	\$19,950
Naugatuck Valley Community College	6,237	74	\$187,110
Norwalk Community College	5,504	38	\$110,080
NW Connecticut Community College	1,299	62	\$38,970
Quinebaug Valley Community College	1,335	50	\$40,050
Quinnipiac University	7,425	15	\$44,550
Sacred Heart University	5,974	19	\$35,844
Southern Connecticut State University	8,122	39	\$162,440
Three Rivers Community College	3,997	46	\$119,910
Tunxis Community College	3,902	42	\$117,060
University of Bridgeport	3,415	42	\$102,450
University of Connecticut	23,978	27	\$287,736
University of Hartford	5,000	29	\$60,000
University of New Haven	5,092	27	\$61,104
University of Saint Joseph	904	40	\$27,120
Western Connecticut State University	5,028	34	\$100,560

*Source: IPEDS, 2018-2019

Eligible Award Uses

Awards must be used to fund eligible uses, including:

1. *Access to and availability of care:* To supply sufficient capacity and technical resources to meet student demand for mental health services. IHEs may consider collaborations or formal contracting relationships with existing community providers to leverage existing resources.
2. *Education and Awareness:* To make students, staff, faculty, and any campus mental health coalitions aware of existing mental health services and programs that are available on campus, online, or through a community provider.
3. *Training:* To equip faculty, staff, campus mental health coalitions, and students with the skills and knowledge required to identify, support, and respond to students with mental illnesses, developed with consideration given to the students' race, cultural background, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, socio-economic status or status as a veteran or service member of the armed forces of the United States.
4. *Other:* Other uses will be accepted provided that the funding is used to meet the stated evaluation criteria, including activities outlined in [Section 3 of PA 21-132](#).

Selection

The selection committee will evaluate applications using the following criteria:

1. *Evidence-Based Practice:* Applications have a base of evidence-based practice and/or research to support the program's effectiveness
2. *Collaborative Partnerships:* Applications are jointly developed across multiple campuses and with other partners (on- & off-campus) to ensure the maximum number of students are reached
3. *Sustainable Outcomes:* Applications lead to sustainable student outcomes beyond the grant term

4. *Centralized Coordination:* Applications show how college is intentional about using funds to link students to services in a coordinated manner. This could include using funding to enhance existing programs or establishing centralized coordination to oversee new programs
5. *Immediate Impact:* Applications show how the funding will be put to immediate use
6. *Demonstrated Need:* Applications demonstrate why, in the absence of grant funding, demand for mental health services will not be met by existing or planned services
7. *Equitable Implementation:* Applications demonstrate how program implementation and use of funds will be equitably distributed among students, especially among minority, underrepresented, and/or disadvantaged student populations

A committee of individuals from OTG, OHE, and DMHAS will review applications and grant awards up to the levels described above.

Application Logistics

Activity	Date
Call for applications	December 8, 2021
Application deadline	January 24, 2022
Award notification	No later than February 7, 2022
Deadline for obligating awarded funds	December 31, 2022
Final report submission*	March 31, 2023

*All IHEs receiving GEER funding through the Connecticut Campus Mental Health Program will be expected to submit a final report documenting the impact of the grant program, including but not limited to how the funding was used to address gaps in services, reduce barriers to connecting students to services, and foster connections between students and providers.

For questions, please email John Scianimanico (john.scianimanico@ct.gov), Snigdha Rao (snigdha.rao@ct.gov), or Sophie Kainen (sophie.kainen@ct.gov). Answers to FAQs will also be posted on the program website for all applicants.

Application

All eligible schools wishing to apply for grants must complete all components of the application [here](#). Please keep each response limited to 300 words max (2,000 characters).

Applicant Information

1. IHE name:
2. Submitter name:
3. Submitter title:
4. Submitter email address:
5. Submitter phone number:

Application questions

Please keep each response limited to 300 words max (2,000 characters).

1. **Need:** Describe the landscape for student mental health on your campus, including reference to evidence, either quantitative or qualitative, of students' current needs. Why does your school need funds to support them?
2. **Strategy:** Describe how your school will use the funds, within the four eligible use categories. Why have you chosen this specific approach? Explain your rationale and the supporting evidence behind your plans.
3. **Implementation:** Describe your implementation plan to obligate funds for new or expanded programs by December 31, 2022. Additionally, please list any community or vendor partners you will engage in this work. How will you ensure that resources reach students in a coordinated fashion?
4. **Tracking:** How will you know if programs are working? What outcomes will you measure and track?
5. **Equity:** Describe how your plan will yield equitable outcomes through its design and implementation. Explain any efforts to serve specific groups that may have been marginalized or underserved in the past.
6. **Budget.** Please use the space provided in the application to describe how you would use your grant award to support the programs and strategies you listed in the previous questions. Schools should use the following codes when building their budgets in the template.
 - 100 Personal Services – Employee Salary
 - 200 Personal Services – Employee Benefits
 - 300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services
 - 400 Purchased Property Services
 - 500 Other Purchased Services
 - 600 Supplies
 - 800 Miscellaneous
 - Total

Scoring Rubric

An application must receive at least 14 points, based on the rubric below, to receive a grant. All successful applications will receive the full grant amount. Applicants may be asked to resubmit an application should it not receive the minimum required score.

Criteria	Score		
	1	2	3
Evidence-Based Practice	Application includes no references to evidence-based practices and/or research that supports the effectiveness of the proposed mental health programs	Application includes few references to evidence-based practices and/or research that supports the effectiveness of the proposed mental health programs	Application includes multiple references to evidence-based practices and/or research that supports the effectiveness of the proposed mental health programs
Collaborative Partnerships	Application does not reference collaboration with any partners (third-party university partner, on campus, off campus, or online)	Application references some potential collaboration with partners (third-party university partner, on campus, off campus, or online) or ideas for partnerships that are not fully developed	Application references multiple collaborations with partners (third-party university partner, on campus, off campus, or online) or mentions already existing partnerships that will be enhanced
Sustainable Outcomes	Application does not state sustainable outcomes for students that will occur beyond the grant term and/or does not reference long-term mental health strategy	Application mentions some high-level sustainable outcomes for students that will occur beyond the grant term and/or mentions a long-term mental health strategy	Application describes in-depth the sustainable outcomes for students that will occur beyond the grant term and/or mentions a well-planned long-term mental health strategy
Centralized Coordination	Application does not provide any detail on how grant will use funds to link students to services. Application also does not discuss using funding to enhance existing programs and/or to establish coordination to oversee new programs	Application provides some detail on how funds will be used to link students to services in a coordinated manner; or some detail is provided on existing programs and/or on establishing coordination for new programs	Application provides significant detail on how grant funds will be used to link students to necessary services; and/or specific uses of funds are outlined , including using funds to enhance existing programs or to establish coordination of new programs
Immediate Impact	Application does not outline the immediate use for funding , i.e. there is no sense of urgency	Application outlines a program idea that shows funding will be put to immediate use but there is little to no sense of urgency	Application outlines a clear and relevant program idea that shows funding will be put to immediate use and conveys a sense of urgency
Demonstrated Need	Application minimally demonstrates that the IHE cannot meet the demand for mental health services with existing or planned services;	Application moderately demonstrates that the IHE cannot meet the demand for mental health services with existing or planned services;	Application substantially demonstrates that the IHE cannot meet the demand for mental health services with existing or planned services;

	there is little to no evidence shown that the IHE would benefit from funding	there is some evidence shown that the IHE would benefit from funding	there is significant evidence shown that the IHE would benefit from funding
Equitable Implementation	Application does not reference equity in the program idea and/or minimally demonstrates that implementation will be targeting populations of greater need	Application makes reference to some equity in the program idea and/or somewhat demonstrates that implementation will be targeting populations of greater need	Application incorporates equity into all aspects of the program idea and/or substantially demonstrates that implementation will be targeting populations of greater need

Compliance and Assurances

Any institution of higher education (IHE) accepting funds through the Connecticut Campus Mental Health Program agrees to abide by the following assurances:

1. Each IHE that receives GEER funds will, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19 in compliance with Section 18006 of Division B of the CARES Act.
2. Each IHE that receives GEER funds will cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals available for interview and examination, upon the request of (i) the U.S. Department of Education and/or its Inspector General; or (ii) any other federal agency, commission, or department in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction and authority.
3. With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program
4. All IHEs received GEER funding through the Connecticut Campus Mental Health Program will be expected to submit a final report documenting the impact of the grant program, including but not limited to how the funding was used to address gaps in services, reduce barriers to connecting students to services, and foster connections between students and providers.

Supplemental Information

OHE Reserves the Right: OHE reserves the right to withdraw this Request For Proposals after the proposals are received if OHE, in its sole discretion, determines that no applicant has met the requirements. OHE also reserves the right to accept a proposal subject to conditions that OHE imposes.

Request For Proposals Grant Awards: Applicants are required to submit narratives to OHE electronically. OHE reserves the right to make changes to the RFP grant awards without discussion with the applicants. Therefore, proposals should represent the applicant’s best effort to ensure a quality proposal from both a technical and cost standpoint. All awards are subject to the availability of state and federal funds. The grant award is not final until the award letter is executed. OHE will issue notification of the RFP award. The effective dates of the project will be set forth in the notification of the RFP award.

Freedom of Information Act: All the information contained in a proposal submitted in response to this RFP is subject to the Freedom of Information Act Sections 1-200 et seq. The FOIA provides that, except as provided by federal law or state statute, records maintained or kept on file by any public agency (as defined in the statute) are public records, and every person has the right to inspect such records and receive a copy of such records.

Budget Code Descriptions

100 Personal Services – Employee Salary

Amounts paid to employees of the grantee. Include all salaries for these individuals while they are on the grantee payroll including overtime salaries or salaries of temporary employees. A general rule of thumb is that a person for whom the grantee is paying employee benefits and who is on the grantee payroll is included; a person who is paid a fee with no grantee obligation for benefits is not.

200 Personal Services – Employee Benefits

Amounts paid by the grantee on behalf of employees; these amounts are not included in the gross salary, but are in addition to that amount. Such payments are fringe benefit payments and, while not paid directly to employees, nevertheless are part of the cost of personal services.

300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services

Services which, by their nature, can be performed only by persons or firms with specialized skills and knowledge. While a product may or may not result from the transaction, the primary reason for the purchase is the service provided. Included are the services of medical professionals, architects, engineers, auditors, lawyers, consultants, teachers, accountants, etc.

400 Purchased Property Services

Services purchased to operate, repair, maintain, and rent property owned or used by the grantee. These services are performed by persons other than grantee employees. While a product may or may not result from the transaction, the primary reason for the purchase is the service provided.

500 Other Purchased Services

Amounts paid for services rendered by organizations or personnel not on the payroll of the grantee (separate from Professional and Technical Services or Property Services). While a product may or may not result from the transaction, the primary reason for the purchase is the service provided.

600 Supplies

Amounts paid for items that are consumed, worn out, or deteriorated through use, or items that lose their identity through fabrication or incorporation into different or more complex units or substances.

800 Miscellaneous

Amounts paid for goods and services not otherwise classified above.