

June 20, 2024

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Rodrigues:

As directed by line item [7066-1123](#) of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023, I am pleased to submit to you a report of the methodology used to distribute funds as appropriated by the Legislature through the Student Behavioral and Mental Health Services at state universities and community and municipally owned colleges. The Department of Higher Education is committed to increasing the retention and completion of underrepresented student populations, particularly students of color, those from low-income households, and/or first-generation students. These FY24 grant awards focus on student behavioral and mental health in the areas of crisis services, therapy, the assessment of learning disorders, responses to sexual assault, substance use disorder services and assistance to students struggling with stress, anxiety or other mental health, which students from our target populations are particularly vulnerable to experiencing.

The Department of Higher Education used a two-pronged approach to funding campuses. The DHE issued a request for proposals that all public state universities and community colleges were eligible to apply for in January 2024. The agency used a funding formula to determine the maximum budget each institution could request; colleges and universities with more part-time and full-time students were eligible to receive more funding. All fifteen community colleges and eight of nine state universities applied for funding. DHE staff reviewed the proposals to ensure funds will be used appropriately and in alignment with the intended purpose of this line item. Additionally, based on legislative language, DHE staff worked directly with Quincy College as the Commonwealth's only municipally owned college.

I believe that the grants made through this program will advance the work of the Commonwealth's public colleges and universities to promote success and completion for our state's neediest students. If you have any questions about the Higher Education Innovation Fund, please feel free to contact Alex Demou, Director of Constituent and Legislative Affairs for the Department of Higher Education, at ademou@dhe.mass.edu.

Sincerely,

Noe Ortega, PhD
Commissioner

FUNDED PROJECTS

The 24 awards represent the following higher education institution types and anticipated number of students to receive access to crisis services, therapy, the assessment of learning disorders, responses to sexual assault, substance use disorder services and assistance to students struggling with stress, anxiety, or other mental health needs.

- 15 Community Colleges were awarded a total of \$2.39 M to serve 34,254 students
- 8 of the 9 state universities were awarded a total of \$2.1 M to serve 26,563 students
- 1 municipally owned college was awarded \$28,000 to serve 1,000 students

All of the projects specifically focus on equitable outcomes and will intentionally support Black, Latinx, ALANA, LGBTQ+, low income, first generation, and other traditionally marginalized groups.

The table below provides an overview of the projects, including number of students served and the types of services the award is supporting:

Higher Education Institution	Amount Awarded	Number Students Served	Types of Services Supported						
			Crisis Services	Therapy	Assessment of Learning Disorders	Responses to Sexual Assault	Substance Use Disorder Services	Assistance to students struggling with stress, anxiety, or other mental health needs.	Safe and Welcoming Spaces
Berkshire Community College	\$120,494.00	300	X	X			X	X	X
Bristol Community College	\$190,105.57	6,000		X					X
Bunker Hill Community College	\$238,347.41	1,890	X	X				X	
Cape Cod Community College	\$138,692.54	2,500	X			X	X	X	X
Greenfield Community College	\$121,344.92	1,200						X	X
Holyoke Community College	\$152,559.58	100	X	X				X	X
MassBay Community College	\$168,205.58	265		X		X		X	X
Massasoit Community College	\$181,840.59	5,029	X	X				X	X
Middlesex Community College	\$220,900.30	5,000				X	X	X	
Mt. Wachusett Community College	\$143,388.55	3,150						X	
North Shore Community College	\$179,067.18	500	X	X		X		X	X
Northern Essex Community College	\$107,140.00	150						X	X
Quinsigamond Community College	\$198,967.22	7,500			X	X		X	X

Roxbury Community College	\$123,200.00	370	X	X		X	X	X	X
Springfield Technical Community College	\$101,711.00	300	X		X	X		X	
Community College Total	\$2,385,964.44	34,254	8	8	2	7	4	14	11
Bridgewater State University	\$383,931.75	9,604	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Fitchburg State University	\$352,502.57	250	X	X		X		X	X
Framingham State University	\$285,977.48	500	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Massachusetts College of Art and Design	\$208,115.42	1,800	X	X		X		X	
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	\$190,500.00	209				X		X	
Salem State University	\$312,916.77	7,000		X	X	X	X	X	
Westfield State University	\$269,308.79	4,200	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Worcester State University	\$95,260.00	3,000	X	X		X		X	
State University Total	\$2,098,512.78	26,563	6	7	4	8	4	8	2
Quincy College	\$28,000.00	1,000	X				X	X	X
Municipally Owned Total	\$28,000.00	1,000	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Grand Total	\$4,512,476.74	61,817	15	15	6	15	9	23	14

Community Colleges

Berkshire Community College (BCC)

Target population: Berkshire Community College students with behavioral and mental health needs.

Total number of students served upon implementation: 300-400

Target number of faculty and students trained: 200

Project summary:

Improving Environments: With project funding, BCC will improve its Student Support Center to create a more welcoming environment. In addressing equity, BCC wants their students to know that they are valued, especially those who are struggling with mental health, disabilities or other significant stressors. Updated spaces including new ADA accessible furniture will support the creation of an environment that students can better access and allow for comfort and privacy while meeting with team members during their appointments. BCC will also improve the environment in the Students for Recovery Lounge with comfortable furniture and supplies. They also plan to purchase materials such as self-care journals, books, sensory items etc. to support students as they navigate their mental health and wellness.

Support Staff: As more students reach out for behavioral and mental health services, additional counseling support is needed to serve their students in a timely manner. BCC data has indicated that 77% of their students feel that the college makes mental health a priority. Given the importance of psychoeducational programming and wellness activities, funding will provide the opportunity to continue initiatives in promoting wellness, sexual assault and domestic violence awareness events and suicide prevention trainings. BCC will also use this funding to support their frontline personnel to engage in triage, helping with warm referrals and administrative tasks for the grant as well as the Student Support Center.

Trainings & Certifications: Funding will enable BCC's Students for Recovery Program Coordinator to engage in more professional development and training, most significantly, Association of Recovery in Higher Education's Annual Conference. BCC has continued to engage students and will purchase materials that support their own learning and recovery. BCC will also offer another Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training session for faculty and staff. In addition to the cost of the training, stipends will be provided to participants. Last year, BCC had 234 students, faculty and staff complete the programming.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Improving the surroundings in the Student Support Center and the Students for Recovery Program spaces will help to create a more welcoming environment for students who are accessing behavioral and mental health services on campus. Training opportunities will create avenues for additional students, faculty and staff to gain the knowledge and awareness of suicide prevention techniques and will help to create a campus culture that is continually focused on the health and well-being of the college community.

Bristol Community College (BCC)

Target population: All students

Total number of students served upon implementation: 6,000

Target number of faculty and students trained: N/A

Project summary:

Bristol Community College offers free and confidential mental health counseling services to students at all campus locations who are experiencing challenges in their lives that may impact their academic performance, daily functioning, relationships and personal growth. Licensed mental health counselors are available to provide short-term therapy for students. Mental health counseling staff engage in over 1,000 appointments annually with the most common issues for students being stress and relationship issues. Given the high number of student interactions with mental health counseling, this grant will be used to create welcoming and supportive environments that offer a sense of safety and security, which will essentially bolster the therapeutic relationship.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: As a result of this project, current mental health counseling spaces will be refurbished and refitted with appropriate furniture to create a more welcoming and supportive space for students engaging with counselors.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: Spaces will be inclusive and culturally responsive to serve as a welcoming and supportive environment for students holding historically marginalized identities.

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC)

Target population: All BHCC students in need of behavioral and mental health services

Total number of students served upon implementation: 1,890

Target number of faculty and students trained: 35

Project summary:

During recent years, BHCC created a Student Counseling, Prevention, and Wellness Center to serve students in need of emotional support and guidance during difficult times. It offers mental health assessment, crisis intervention, psychoeducation, wellness and prevention education and community resource referrals. The Center provides counselling sessions in-person and virtually, including limited walk-in appointments. Their funding request will support the equity agenda by providing formal and informal wellness and mental health resources and activities across campus. These will contribute to students' academic achievement that will, in turn, lead to economic and social mobility. The Counseling, Prevention, and Wellness Center will have an administrative assistant to welcome students and connect them to the mental health services that they need:

- Students and staff will have 24/7 access to mental health resources;
- The consultant will help the mental health advisory council develop goals that will support student mental health;
- Students, faculty, and staff will learn from and engage with dynamic speakers at HOPE events focused on mental health issues for students of color;
- Students will have access to activities supporting mental health/wellness (yoga, gardening, art) during the period leading up to final exams;
- The end-of-year celebration will support students' accomplishments and provide a final "check-in" for them by faculty and staff before the academic year ends;

- The Student Counseling, Prevention, and Wellness Center will expand its library of mental health books and other resources for students. Fidget toys will help to calm students during counseling sessions;

Connection to the Equity Agenda: The equity agenda is focused on enhancing economic and social mobility for all citizens, and particularly those from groups that have been historically underserved and underrepresented throughout all levels of education. Bunker Hill Community College is deeply committed to the equity agenda, which is seen in the resources it has created to help students face basic needs challenges during the pursuit of a higher education credential, including mental health support.

Cape Cod Community College (CCCC)

Target population: All CCCC students in need of behavioral and mental health services

Total number of students served upon implementation: 2,500

Target number of faculty and students trained: 150

Project summary:

Funding will cover partial salary and fringe for 2 Clinicians and the Assistant Director of Wellness to assist students struggling with stress, anxiety and other mental health needs. Additionally, funding will cover training costs and materials for mental health related training such as de-escalation, crisis training, trauma training, sexual misconduct and wellness workshops. Travel funds for staff to attend the Suicide Prevention conference is requested. Funding for Maxient software and 24/7 Peer to Peer campus subscription is requested. The costs of exercise equipment to refurbish the campus gym, workstations for wellness staff, privacy/secure doors for the wellness area, and first aid kits will also be supported with these award funds.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Expansion of Mental and Behavioral Health training and staff will allow CCCC to better serve its population of 2,500 students. They anticipate training 150 faculty, staff and students will receive training.

Greenfield Community College (GCC)

Target population: Students facing anxiety, neurodivergence, and other mental health challenges

Total number student served upon implementation: 1,200

Target number of faculty and students trained: 46

Project summary:

This grant will enable Greenfield Community College to focus on providing calming, welcoming environmental space for students in need of privacy, decompression, and quiet space. GCC will purchase noise-dampening 1- and 2-person privacy pods for Wellness Center, Library, and other locations on campus disrupted by a major campus construction project beginning May 2024. Pods include light and sound sensory controls designed to provide a calming study and decompression atmosphere; a need requested by many students (including those who identify as neurodivergent). Additional funds will be used to support autism awareness on campus,

including books and other resources for library display during Autism Awareness month in April 2024, and a series of four virtual training presentations for faculty and staff on autism responsiveness on campus and in the classroom.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: An estimated number of 1,200 total students will benefit from privacy pod usage in FY25, the first full academic/fiscal year after spring '24 implementation. An estimated 40 faculty and staff will receive professional development training in Autism Cultural Responsiveness, and 5-6 staff will be trained on Behavioral Intervention through NABITA.

Holyoke Community College (HCC)

Target population: Holyoke Community College students facing mental health crises

Total number student served upon implementation: 100

Target number of faculty and students trained: 146

Project summary:

Funding will support crisis interventions for 100 students with a contract for a Clinical Coordinator through the Center for Human Development CHD Contract for Clinical Coordinator. Funds will also support trainings for HCC faculty and staff, upgrades to the counseling space, and improved signage directing students to the counseling office.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: 100 students will receive crisis interventions through CHD at HCC, 6 members of HCC's CARE team will attend a suicide prevention conference, and 40 HCC faculty and staff will attend on-campus self-harm and suicidal ideation trainings.

Mass Bay Community College (MBCC)

Target population: Students, faculty and staff

Total number student served upon implementation: 265

Target number of faculty and students trained: 532

Project summary:

This project will: (1) provide an opportunity for their students to develop skills on dealing with stress, (2) enhance faculty and staff resilience and resistance to burnout, (3) provide training on topics related to wellness, mental health and crisis management skills, and (4) provide furniture and therapeutic tools/sensory items that will create and enhance safe and welcoming space on campus. These objectives will directly support the mental health and holistic wellness of MBCC students to support their academic success as well as support the faculty and staff who will, in turn, be supporting students.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Faculty, staff, and students will attend training and workshops. Furniture and objects will be purchased and delivered.

Massasoit Community College (MCC)

Target population: All students

Total number student served upon implementation: 5,029
Target number of faculty and students trained: 0

Project summary:

Funding will support the creation of welcoming safe spaces on MCC's Brockton and Canton campuses to encourage students to engage in behavioral and mental health services. Other supports include peer-to-peer training with the NAN Project, crisis/stress management workshops, dog therapy, and yoga, meditation, dance, and kickboxing for mental and physical health.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Students will be better supported with increased awareness of and access to behavioral and mental health resources.

Middlesex Community College (MCC)

Target population: As of fall 2023, MCC had 6,545 students, with 19% identifying as Latinx, 15% as Asian American, 9% as Black/African American, and 10% as other; 40% of students are Pell Eligible

Total number student served upon implementation: 5,000
Target number of faculty and students trained: 357

Project summary:

Funds received will be used to expand the quantity and quality of Behavioral and Mental Health care provided to students. This will include outfitting spaces to create spaces more conducive to wellness and stress relief, and provide additional capacity for counselors, peer support staff space to meet and support students. Also, the funds will be used to continue to enhance teachers' capacity to support students struggling with mental health challenges through professional development. Lastly, the grant will afford the institution more opportunities to provide programming for students, faculty and staff that focuses on stress reduction and skill building.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Events will afford students with the opportunity to gain vital skills and resources that will assist them as they matriculate through college; funds used will build faculty and staff mental health toolkits to aid them with their work with students; to build community and create more welcoming spaces for students to develop relationships with each other.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: Equity is a guiding principle at MCC and a central tenet of the college's most recent strategic plan. At the state level, MCC's work to become an equity-minded institution aligns closely with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's (DHE) Equity Agenda, the DHE's road map for the state's public higher education system to infuse equity into the system's "policies, programs and initiatives." The funds used from this grant will allow the institution to remove barriers that prevent teachers from connecting with students and or understanding student struggles.

Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC)

Target population: Students who struggle with mental health challenges and/or have experienced trauma/adversity including Veterans, first generation students, and BIPOC individuals

Total number student served upon implementation: 3,150

Target number of faculty and students trained: 38

Project summary:

In a recent campus survey of students' basic needs, nearly one quarter of respondents indicated they currently sought mental and behavioral health services. Of those not seeking services, over 80% of students indicated wanting to seek services, but facing barriers, including stigma, costs, lack of information, limited time, and privacy concerns. Further, national reports have indicated an increase in mental health challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This project seeks to address these growing and prevalent challenges.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: With this funding, MWCC will enhance mental health support and cultural competency campus-wide. Initiatives include a DEI/mental health lecture series, revamped mindfulness rooms, and improved support for veteran student mental health. Additionally, MWCC will introduce fitness programs, therapy dog sessions, and staff training to ensure comprehensive mental health provisions.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: The desired impact of this project is multidimensional. Firstly, they aim to address the diverse mental health needs of the MWCC student body by providing varied and tailored support services, acknowledging and responding to the unique challenges faced by different demographic groups. Additionally, through comprehensive staff training on cultural competency and appropriate responses to mental health issues, MWCC will seek to ensure that all students receive respectful and equitable treatment. Furthermore, by providing tangible materials such as revamped spaces, therapy dog programs and enhanced resources, MWCC aims to create physical environments and access points that are inclusive and supportive for students from all backgrounds. Moreover, MWCC recognizes the importance of community events to promote engagement and positive social connections, fostering a sense of belonging and support for students of diverse identities. Ultimately, their goal is to promote equity by reducing disparities in access to mental health support and resources, fostering a campus culture of inclusivity, understanding and support for all students.

North Shore Community College (NSCC)

Target population: General population of students with concerns relating to mental health challenges

Total number student served upon implementation: Approximately 8% of the student body, which is about 500 students will receive services.

Target number of faculty and students trained: 100 faculty and 50 students

Project summary:

The NSCC office of Wellness and Accessibility Services is a resource for wellness education/promotion and services for students. NSCC is committed to supporting their students' mental well-being and strives to provide diverse and holistic student-centered programs,

resources and wellness education to support a healthy lifestyle. These services are designed to cultivate health and wellness so that each student can academically and personally thrive as students. NSCC will use this funding to cover the costs of technology based behavioral health services, training faculty and staff on issues such as mental health awareness, suicide prevention and sexual harassment. Funds will also be used for an intern in the Title IX office, a Wellness counselor, educational training materials, office supplies, and equipment to create a supportive environment.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: The projected outcomes will include significant expansion of faculty/staff training, increased awareness of college resources among faculty/staff/students and an expansion of supports available for the NSCC student population who are in need of services.

Northern Essex Community College (NECC)

Target population: Northern Essex Community College students

Total number student served upon implementation: 150

Target number of faculty and students trained: 150

Project summary:

To provide a welcoming and supportive environment for students. Students will be encouraged to use the space to help minimize any stigma about their mental health. The funds will be used to outfit the current space to be a quiet and welcoming environment for one suffering from anxiety, depression, stress and other mental health needs. It will allow the students to relax and recharge from the stressors in their lives. There will be space to provide information on mental health resources offered on campus and throughout the community.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Increased awareness and access to mental health resources, reduced occurrence of students struggling with stress, anxiety or other mental health needs, and increased attention to mental health needs.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: These funds will help advance a feeling of inclusion and will help ensure that all members of their college community have access to resources and spaces for participation and feel a strong sense of belonging.

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC)

Target population: QCC students, faculty, and staff

Total number student served upon implementation: 7,500

Target number of faculty and students trained: 100

Project summary:

Quinsigamond Community College has organized a FY24 program for students, faculty and staff. This includes renewing the Calm app for students, offering Art with Impact on campus, a second annual Fresh Check Day for students and a second annual Wellness Day for staff and

faculty. QCC has also included outfitting a designated meditation room in the Administration Building on the QCC Main Campus to be more warm and welcoming.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: QCC anticipates more evidence-based resources will help address student behavioral health and mental health needs and allow them to remain engaged in their higher education and pursuing their personal goals. QCC also anticipates offering resources to staff and faculty will allow them to prepare for more in-depth work with students.

Roxbury Community College (RCC)

Target population: RCC students and staff

Total number student served upon implementation: 370

Target number of faculty and students trained: 500

Project summary:

Roxbury Community College aims to support students' behavioral and mental health needs through free therapy sessions and on-campus support groups, including mindfulness and wellness workshops, training, and prevention/ awareness education on topics including but not limited to stress relief, sexual/dating violence, mental health first aid, bystander training, self-care and fitness/wellness.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: RCC hopes to serve at least 500 members of the RCC community (students, faculty and staff) through clinical behavioral health services, wellness-related initiatives, events, training and health services. They plan to continuously evaluate the efficacy of Wellness Center programming as the department continues to grow (surveys, focus groups, etc.). They will also collect data on the number of participants who attend each training and demographic data on those students seeking individual services. This information will be used to continue to streamline and tailor programming.

Springfield Technical Community College (STCC)

Target population: Students who are Pell-eligible or with Expected Family Contribution of up to \$15,000

Total number student served upon implementation: 300

Target number of faculty and students trained: 100

Project summary:

Springfield Technical Community College will use these funds to provide a wide scope of training to faculty and staff that will expand trauma informed services across the Campus. Through Admissions to Student Affairs, faculty and staff will be provided with training to better support students, their coworkers and themselves. Additionally, funds will be used for several on-campus events promoting access to behavioral health services on campus. Lastly, to support all students, adaptive equipment will be purchased to assist students with disabilities in their access to classes, services and campus activities.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Through a combination of on-campus and off-site trainings, STCC anticipates training up to 100 faculty and staff with these funds. Through expanded student services and on-campus events, STCC anticipates serving up to 300 students throughout the Spring and Summer 2024 semesters.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: As a Hispanic Serving Institution, STCC will focus trainings that promote the health and well-being of students, while providing equitable access to all services offered. Training provided through this grant will help further the College's strategic diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.

State Universities

Bridgewater State University (BSU)

Target population: BSU graduate and undergraduate students

Total number of students served upon implementation: 9,604

Target number of faculty and students trained: 300

Project summary:

BSU will use this FY24 funding to promote equity, inclusivity, and belonging in wellness and mental health through programming, a health equity resource fair, consulting and campus partner activities. BSU will hire additional mental health professionals and conduct staff trainings to further assist students struggling with stress, anxiety or other mental health needs. In addition, the funds will support staff wellness programming. These funds will also allow BSU to support survivors of sexual assault and provide harm-reduction vending machines.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: 1) Increased awareness of, and services for, mental and behavioral health; 2) increased resources and training for faculty, staff, students and police in the areas of mental health and wellness, suicide prevention and substance misuse; and 3) increased campus activities and resources to promote belonging and wellness and reduce stress, especially for minoritized populations who face disparities and inequities.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: BSU's plan continues to prioritize equity by funding trainings and programs led by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Counselor, including their second Health Equity Resource Event. In addition, these funds will support campus partners who serve students who face disparities and inequities, including BSU's Student Accessibility Services. Funds will help us engage a consultant to explore peer mentorship to increase a sense of belonging for students of color.

Fitchburg State University (FSU)

Target population: All students at Fitchburg

Total number student served upon implementation: 250

Target number of faculty and students trained: 25

Project summary:

This project seeks to build clinical capacity, make environmental alterations to support health and wellness, provide programming to the campus community, and offer important training to professional staff on campus.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: The training components will allow professionals on campus to have the tools they need to address and support high-risk students. Added clinical capacity will allow more students who are struggling to be provided with care. Environmental changes will serve a prevention role, encouraging students to develop skills to manage stress effectively.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: This connects to the Equity Agenda by supporting retention and student success and contributing to an environment where all students can thrive, regardless of identity. Specifically, under the Racial Equity principles, this consultation is designed to create and cultivate an inclusive environment to encourage the support and participation of relevant stakeholders. Under the Action Plan, this consultation is designed to align institutional efforts to create a student-ready campus as well as identify and support the implementation of equity-minded evidence-based solutions

Framingham State University (FSU)

Target population: Students, staff and faculty supporting student behavioral and mental health

Total number student served upon implementation: 500-2000

Target number of faculty and students trained: 20

Project summary:

These funds would be used to address student behavioral and mental health needs. More specifically, they will focus on direct student support staff (e.g. clinicians, yoga/exercise class instructors, student peer support) and behavioral and mental health training sessions for students, staff and faculty. In addition, they will be creating/updating additional spaces that directly support mental health needs (e.g. create additional spaces for counselors to meet with students and residence hall spaces for stress reduction and meditation). Finally, FSU will also propose to improve services to support student mental health and centralize staff information (e.g. student 24-hour self-scheduling and integrating information for clinicians and health and counseling center answering service).

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: As a result of these initiatives:

- The Counseling Center will have the capacity to schedule additional appointment sessions with students.
- Through training sessions, students, staff and faculty will be better equipped to identify and support student behavioral and mental health needs.
- Through classes and spaces, community members will have the opportunity to actively utilize spaces and services to reduce stress and anxiety.

- Through improved services, students can more conveniently schedule appointments and have calls answered live.
- Offices and staff providing programming to support student behavioral and mental health will have access to materials to improve student engagement.
- Response to suicide and suicide prevention will be enhanced through training.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt)

Target population: All students in need; faculty and staff for training purposes

Total number student served upon implementation: 1,800

Target number of faculty and students trained: 200

Project summary:

MassArt will use the allocated funding to support various mental health initiatives on campus, including NABITA training, mental health crisis training, supplies, overdose response training and supplies, and other tools to address student wellbeing.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: With this funding, MassArt will be able to train students and faculty/staff on mental health best practices, crisis response, overdose response and fill other critical needs on campus that otherwise wouldn't be fully funded.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: MassArt as an institution is fully committed to the Equity Agenda in Its academic and overall programming. Part of this funding is earmarked for the Steve Fund, which addresses the mental health and well-being of students of color.

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)

Target population: Low-income students; students of color LGBTQUIA+, first generation students

Total number student served upon implementation: 209

Target number of faculty and students trained: 331

Project summary:

The proposed program would dovetail with Health Promotion efforts, funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health administration. Where SAMHSA funds efforts, specifically focused on campus suicide prevention, this project would create opportunity to promote mental health more holistically. A multipronged effort will include professional development efforts for frontline staff, programming around topics of sexual health and assault, and the administration of the HOPE survey, intended to gain a data-driven picture of the basic needs prevalent on campus.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: MCLA will increase the mental and behavioral health programming on campus by funding programming including a campus-wide Wellness Fair, Sexual Assault Prevention activities, and Screening Days for cannabis, alcohol, and general mental health and well-being. Additionally, frontline staff will be provided with continuing

education and training to better support student mental health. The final goal of the grant is to create opportunities to improve the Counseling and Health Service's communication to the campus community. This will be done through the engagement of a consultant to create new messaging and promotion materials.

Salem State University (SSU)

Target population: Salem State undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, and faculty

Total number student served upon implementation: 7,000

Target number of faculty and students trained: 250

Project summary:

SSU will be increasing their direct clinical support to students by increasing per diem staff, providing large scale programming, trauma informed title ix investigations/support. SSU will aim to provide best practices to support the mental health and wellbeing of their student population and provide high level training to their staff/faculty.

Westfield State University (WSU)

Target population: Westfield State University students, faculty, and staff

Total number student served upon implementation: 4,200

Target number of faculty and students trained: 208

Project summary:

This grant project aims to bolster existing mental health and substance use services in multiple ways: mental health and substance use training, mental health support, peer to peer mental health support, safe and welcoming environment, substance use harm reduction.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: As a result of this project, WSU will be able to reduce opportunities for suicide by making the residence hall environment safer; increase psychopharmacology knowledge for prescribers, mental health knowledge for mental health practitioners; increase peer to peer support; create welcoming environment at mental health spaces, increase skills training for students; increase harm reduction with opioids.

Worcester State University (WSU)

Target population: Worcester State students who identify as BIPOC/ALANA or LGTBQ+

Total number student served upon implementation: 3,000

Target number of faculty and students trained: 100

Project summary:

This project is designed to provide students with the additional support and encouragement they need through special events, workshops and programming.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Students, through resolving psychosocial issues, enhance their personal growth, and strengthen their academic skills and performance. University-wide commitment to mental health issues is supported and the community is better able to respond to these issues.

Connection to the Equity Agenda: All programming is based in cultural competence and is inclusive in design.

Municipal College

Quincy College

Target population: High need students currently enrolled at Quincy College

Total number student served upon implementation: 1,000

Target number of faculty and students trained: 100

Project summary:

These funds will be used to provide current students and faculty with trainings focused on mental health and sexual assault. Additionally, this funding will help to create a more welcoming and supportive student lounge for all Quincy College students. These funds will also provide current high need students with additional support related to their academics and mental health and wellness.

Brief Summary of Project Outcomes: Quincy College intends to provide opportunities for training and collaboration among students and faculty, while also encouraging more dialogue surrounding mental health and wellness at the College. Updates to the College's Student Lounge will improve the student experience and hopes to make this space more welcoming and inclusive for all students. Quincy College will also be able to provide students with additional support and will help to hold them accountable as a student in good academic standing through the Academic Coach position.