

Governor Phil Murphy

Murphy Administration Announces \$16 Million in Grants to Support Mental Health Needs of Higher Education Students

11/22/2022

TRENTON – The Murphy Administration today announced the availability of \$16 million in grants to address the mental health needs of New Jersey students in higher education settings...

Today's announcement is part of Governor Phil Murphy's \$55 million multiagency ARP investment in the FY23 budget, including additional programs from the Departments of Education, Children and Families, and Human Services.

Of the \$16 million available for these grants, \$15 million will be distributed to eligible institutions of higher education for the creation of community partnerships that will allow the institutions to increase capacity to meet the mental health needs of students.

The remaining \$1 million will be directed towards professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to build multicultural competencies and increase engagement with their diverse student bodies.

"With sharp increases in the rates of depression, anxiety, and stress among youth in New Jersey and around the nation, it is clear many young people are struggling right now," said Governor Murphy.

"Addressing mental health is critical to our students' overall health, wellness, and success," said Dr. Brian K. Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education.

In a fall 2021 OSHE questionnaire focused on the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on New Jersey students' mental and physical health, over 70 percent of surveyed students rated their level of stress and anxiety as higher than in 2020, when the pandemic first hit.

"We made this funding available through the state budget because we recognize the importance of providing mental health services to students on our college campuses," said Senate President Nick Scutari.

"Mental health matters. With leadership that understands that, our investments into mental health care and services this year far outpaced any other year in our state's recent history," said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin.

OSHE will also use an additional \$10 million in ARP funds to establish a statewide telehealth program. This program, which is estimated to launch early next year, will increase the accessibility of mental health services for all New Jersey higher education students through virtual services available on and off campus.

Applications will be due by 5:00 pm on January 31, 2023, with an anticipated release of grant dollars early next year. Questions regarding the mental health grants can be directed to OSHE@OSHE.nj.gov

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