Follow the six steps in the application process:

1. Review the Opportunity
2. Get Ready to Apply
3. Prepare Your Application
4. Learn About Review and Award
5. Submit Your Application
6. Learn About What Happens After Award

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

NOFO Name: GLS Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program

Short Title: GLS Campus

NOFO Number: SM-26-009

Step 1: Review the Opportunity

Basic Information

Key Facts

Opportunity Name: GLS Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program

Short Title: GLS Campus

Opportunity Number: SM-26-009

Announcement Version: Original

Federal Assistance Listing: 93.532

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of Higher Education. See **Eligibility** for complete eligibility information.

Key Dates

Application deadline: 07/27/2026

Expected Award Date: 09/01/2026

Expected Start Date: 09/30/2026

Response to Executive Order 12372: See **Intergovernmental Review** and ***Section J*** in the *Application Guide.*

Important Resources

You are expected to follow guidance provided in the ***FY 2026 NOFO Application Guide*** (the *Application Guide*). This document provides information about the application process, including registration, required attachments, budget, and federal policies and regulations. In addition, see the **SAMHSA Grants Glossary** for definitions of terms used in this NOFO.

Authorizing Statute

Section 520E-2 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-36b), as amended

Agency Contacts

Program and Eligibility Questions

Portland Ridley
Center for Mental Health Services
240-276-1848
Portland.Ridley@samhsa.hhs.gov

Financial and Budget Questions

Office of Financial Resources
Division of Grants Management
240-276-1940
NOFOBudget.CMHS@samhsa.hhs.gov

Review Process and Application Status Questions

Office of Financial Resources
Division of Grant Review
Hawa Kamara
240-276-1103
Hawa.Kamara@samhsa.hhs.gov

Summary

The purpose of this program is to support a comprehensive, public health, and evidence-based approach for colleges and universities that:

- Improves access to behavioral health services for all college students, including those at risk for suicide, depression, serious mental illness, and substance use disorders that can lead to school failure.
- Prevents and reduces suicide, mental health and substance use disorders.
- Promotes student help-seeking behaviors and reduces stigma.
- Improves the identification and treatment of at-risk college students.

With this program, SAMHSA aims to identify college students who are at risk for suicide and suicide attempts, increase protective factors that promote mental health, reduce risk factors for substance use disorders and suicide, and ultimately reduce suicides and suicide attempts. This program is designed to advance SAMHSA's Strategic Priorities and the Make America Healthy Again agenda.

Funding Details

Funding Type: Grant

Estimated Total Available Funding: $8,830,039

Estimated Number of Awards: 71 (At least six awards will be made to junior/community colleges[1] pending adequate application volume.)

Estimated Award Amount: Up to $125,000 per year per award

Length of Project Period: Up to four years

Your annual budget cannot be more than $125,000 in total costs (direct and indirect) in any year of the project. Annual continuation awards are contingent on the availability of funds, progress in meeting project goals and objectives, timely submission of required data and reports, compliance with all terms and conditions of award, and alignment with SAMHSA, HHS, and Trump Administration priorities.

Program Description

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to support a comprehensive, public health, and evidence-based approach for colleges and universities that:

- Improves access to behavioral health services for all college students, including those at risk for suicide, depression, serious mental illness, and substance use disorders that can lead to school failure.
- Prevents and reduces suicide, mental health and substance use disorders.
- Promotes student help-seeking behaviors and reduces stigma.
- Improves the identification and treatment of at-risk college students.

The comprehensive approach should address the needs of all college students including those at risk for mental health and substance use disorders, as well as student veterans. GLS Campus Suicide Prevention projects must include the development of a comprehensive plan to support

[1] A Junior or Community College is an institution of higher education (1) that admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located and who have the ability to benefit from the training offered by the institution; (2) that does not provide an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree (or an equivalent degree); and (3) that— (A) provides an educational program of not less than 2 years that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, or (B) offers a 2-year program in engineering, mathematics, or the physical or biological sciences, designed to prepare a student to work as a technician or at the semiprofessional level in engineering, scientific, or other technological fields requiring the understanding and application of basic engineering, scientific, or mathematical principles of knowledge.

the necessary infrastructure and increase and sustain capacity for effective prevention, identification, and suicide prevention programming for college students.

The comprehensive approach to campus suicide prevention is an evidence-based model adapted for campuses. This model identifies students at risk, increases help-seeking behaviors, provides substance use disorder and mental health services, follows crisis management procedures, restricts access to potentially lethal means, develops life skills, and promotes social connectedness. For more information, go to SAMHSA's SPRC **Comprehensive Approach to Suicide Prevention**.

Before adding new intervention efforts, there are essential capacities that campuses must have in place, such as crisis response protocols (including postvention), safety planning, crisis stabilization, referral pathways to on- and off-campus behavioral health services, and appropriately trained staff. Also, campuses should be able to respond to college students' demand for services so that demand does not outpace capacity. Applicants should explore a variety of options to increase capacity, such as adjusting a triage model; enhancing screening efforts so that college students are reached before a crisis; developing resiliency training and psycho-educational groups; and engaging resources in the community.

Suicide continues to be a leading cause of death among college and university students in the United States. The 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) continues to report high rates of mental health issues for young adults, including young adults enrolled in college: the percentage of 18- to 25-year-olds with a mental illness was 33.2% and serious mental illness at 9.4 percent, Evidence-based Gatekeeper reflecting the highest rates compared to other age groups. Among young adults aged 18 to 25, the percentage who had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year declined from 13.4 percent (or 4.5 million people) in 2021 to 12.6 percent (or 4.4 million people) in 2024.[2]

According to the Fall 2024 College Health Association's (ACHA) National College Health Assessment Data (NCHA) Academic Year 2024-2025, 2.4 percent of students surveyed in Fall 2024 reported a suicide attempt in the past year; 13 percent of students reported having serious thoughts of suicide in the past year, and 6 percent of students reported having a suicide plan.

[2] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2025). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP25-07-007, NSDUH Series H-60). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health/national-releases

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate; racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

In addition, applications must also align with SAMHSA Strategic Priorities and the application and budget narrative must not support harm reduction as outlined in SAMHSA's Dear Colleague Letter on harm reduction.

As of October 1, 2025, HHS has adopted **2 CFR Part 200**, with some modifications included in 2 CFR Part 300. These regulations replace those in 45 CFR Part 75.

Key Personnel

Key Personnel are essential to the successful implementation and oversight of your SAMHSA-funded project. These individuals, whether or not their salaries are paid by this grant, must play a substantive role in project execution and be actively involved in monitoring, reporting, and compliance activities throughout the project period.

The Key Personnel for this program is as follows:

- **Project Director (PD):** The PD oversees the entire grant project to ensure goals are met, all reports are filed on time, and all rules are followed. The PD level of effort (LOE) should be a minimum of 25% of a full-time equivalent (FTE) position.

Below are the expectations, requirements, and compliance obligations for Key Personnel under this NOFO:

- Key Personnel are expected to participate regularly in program monitoring and maintain consistent communication with SAMHSA staff.
- Key Personnel selected/hired for this grant must be based only on merit and qualifications. Executive Orders strictly prohibit using demographics (like race or sex) to give preference in hiring.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring Key Personnel have the skills, time, and commitment to meet the expectations of the grant.

- If awarded funding, approved Key Personnel will be identified on the Notice of Award.
- Changes to Key Personnel require written prior approval from SAMHSA. This includes:
    - Replacing or removing Key Personnel, or
    - Reducing any Key Personnel's level of effort by 25% or more.

Required Activities

Funds for this program are primarily used to support capacity building. Capacity building involves strengthening the ability of your organization to meet identified goals so that it can sustain or improve the delivery of services.

In the Project Narrative (**B.2**), you will provide a description of how you will implement all required activities listed below.

Nothing in the required or allowable activities described below allows grant recipients to use grant funds for prohibited activities described in the **Funding Restrictions and Limitations** section of this NOFO.

Your organization is required to implement all required activities listed below:

1. **Conduct a Needs Assessment**

   When: Within 6 months after the award, and updated annually

   Conduct an initial and ongoing assessment of student (including student veterans) behavioral health needs to inform your project activities and identify opportunities and gaps your program should address throughout the lifespan of this grant. The needs assessment must include an initial assessment that addresses student suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use disorder needs. Each subsequent year of the grant, you will review your needs assessment and update.

2. **Administer Behavioral Health Screenings and Assessments**

   When: Within 9 months of award

   Administer voluntary behavioral health screenings and assessments in all relevant student settings (e.g., health fairs, medical and behavioral health clinics) while following all applicable privacy laws. You will:

   - Provide evidence-based, mental health and substance use disorder screenings and assessments
   - Provide referrals to appropriate services
   - Provide follow-up contact with the individual

3. **Develop and Implement a Community Stakeholder Collaboration Plan**

When: Within 10 months after award

Develop and implement a community stakeholder collaboration plan to seek input from relevant stakeholders in the community, including appropriate private and public entities, in order to carry out your program. Stakeholders should include those that interact with students in on and off-campus settings.

The plan must include:

- How collaborators are supporting the project activities that address student suicide prevention, mental health and substance use needs
- Strategies to maintain collaboration across stakeholders
- Plans for sustainability of community efforts
- How resources will be shared across community stakeholders

4. **Create and Maintain an Integrated Crisis and Referral Network**

   When: Within 12 months after award

   Create and maintain an integrated crisis and referral network to link your college/university with appropriately trained behavioral health care providers (on and off campus), who treat mental health and substance use disorders.

   As part of your network infrastructure, you must include the following plans and activities:

   - An operational crisis response plan, which is an overarching plan on how you will manage and address crises
   - A postvention plan that utilizes a trauma-informed approach
   - Increase the availability and utilization of 24/7 crisis services—including phone, text, and chat—through program-wide promotion of local crisis services and the national 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
   - Establish agreements with local behavioral health crisis response services and treatment providers to ensure referral and crisis intervention service pathways and ongoing care for students who need long-term treatment

5. **Provide Comprehensive Prevention Support Services**

   When: Within 12 months of award

   Provide comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery support services to students, including care coordination, evidence-based programming, and the appropriate use of telehealth modalities.

6. **Provide Evidence-based Gatekeeper and Intervention Trainings**

When: Within 12 months of award

Provide evidence-based gatekeeper and intervention training to students, families, faculty, and staff to recognize and respond effectively to students, and make appropriate referrals for students experiencing mental health and substance use disorders, distress, crisis, or who are at risk of suicide.

7. **Increase Awareness Through Outreach and Education**

   Increase awareness through outreach and education to college students, families, faculty, and staff to increase awareness of mental health and substance use disorders and promote resiliency. Outreach and education activities include:

   - Conducting awareness campaigns and educational workshops, to enhance life skills, resilience, and promote social connectedness
   - Efforts to increase awareness of suicide prevention, mental health and substance use issues, available services, and help-seeking behaviors
   - Disseminating informational materials about suicide, suicide prevention, mental health, substance misuse prevention, and resilience
   - Support student groups on campus with tailored information
   - Educate and disseminate informational materials to increase awareness of suicide and suicide prevention, promote mental health and substance misuse prevention, increase understanding of mental and substance use disorders, and support resilience

8. **Implement and Promote Strategies to Reduce Access to Lethal Means**
   Implement and promote strategies to limit and reduce access to potentially lethal means for students at risk of suicide.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

Eligibility is statutorily limited to institutions of higher education.[3]

Applicants from both public and private institutions may apply, including state universities, private four-year colleges and universities (including those with religious affiliations), Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and junior/community colleges.

[3] **Institution of Higher Education (IHE)** means an accredited college or university authorized by a state to provide postsecondary education, as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 1001).

Any institution of higher education receiving an award may carry out activities through:

- College counseling centers;
- College and university psychological service centers;
- Mental health centers;
- Psychology training clinics; or
- Institution of higher education-supported, evidence-based, mental health and substance use disorder programs.

If a consortium is formed to carry out the activities of this grant, a single institution in the consortium must be the legal applicant, the recipient of the award on behalf of the consortium, and the entity legally responsible for satisfying the grant requirements.

Recipients who received funding under the GLS Campus NOFO SM-24-004 are not eligible to apply under this announcement. A full list of ineligible applicants can be found in **Appendix A**.

At least six awards will be made to junior/community colleges pending adequate application volume.

For general information on eligibility for federal awards, see **the Grants.gov website**. For specific eligibility questions, see **Agency Contacts**.

Cost Sharing

This program requires a cost sharing/match under Section 520E-2 of the Public Health Service Act. This requirement is waived for minority-serving institutions[4] and junior/community colleges[5].

You must provide matching funds (directly or through donations from public or private entities) in non-federal contributions that are not less than $1 for each $1 of federal funds provided in

[4] A minority-serving institution is: (1) a part B institution (as defined in Section 322 (20 U.S.C, 1061)); Historically Black College or University; (2) a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 502 (20 U.S.C. 1101a)); (3) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)); (4) an Alaska Native-serving institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving institution (as defined in section 317(b) (20 U,S.C. 1059(b))); (5) a Predominantly Black Institution (as defined in subsection (c)); (6) an Asian American and Native American Pacific islander-serving institution (as defined in subsection (c)); or (7) a Native American-serving non-tribal institution (as defined in subsection (c)).

[5] A Junior or Community College is an institution of higher education that (1) that admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located and who have the ability to benefit from the training offered by the institution; (2) that does not provide an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree (or an equivalent degree); and (3) that— (A) provides an educational program of not less than 2 years that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, or (B) offers a 2-year program in engineering, mathematics, or the physical or biological sciences, designed to prepare a student to work as a technician or at the semiprofessional level in engineering, scientific, or other technological fields requiring the understanding and application of basic engineering, scientific, or mathematical principles of knowledge.

the grant toward the costs of activities carried out with the grant and other activities to reduce mental health and substance use disorders.

Non-federal contributions may be in cash or in-kind. Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, may not be included in determining the amount of the non-federal contributions. You must itemize the match separately in the budget worksheet and explain the match separately in the budget justification.

For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of your cost sharing, or matching when such contributions meet all criteria listed in 2 CFR 200.306.

For awards that require matching by statute, you will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the amount required by the statutory match. **Your failure to provide the statutorily required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds. You must report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

The requirement of matching funds may be waived by the Secretary if SAMHSA determines that extraordinary need at the institution justifies the waiver. If you believe such an extraordinary need exists at your institution, a letter must be submitted with the application requesting the waiver and documenting the extraordinary need.

The letter must address and fully respond to each item listed below. If the letter does not fully respond to and address each criteria item, the request will not be considered for review.

Programmatic:

- Description of severe economic distress of institution and the community that has led to low or decreasing revenues for the college and for local partners that would normally be expected to contribute to the match.
- Description of the impact of the cost on the institution if it were to carry out the grant program without the waiver.
- Description of the impact upon the campus and community that would result if the grant were not awarded.
- Provide specific, concise explanation of what steps you have taken to try to provide a match.

Financial:

- Documentation by an institutional audit and full disclosure of your total assets and liabilities that you lack the available resources to meet the non-federal matching requirement.
- Document that reasonable efforts to obtain cash or in-kind contributions for the purposes of the project from other resources, local community, and third parties have been unsuccessful. Evidence of such efforts must include letters from possible sources of funding indicating that the requested resources are not available for the grant project.
- Provide the amount of current State and local funds specifically allocated to support campus suicide prevention programming and trainings.

Cost-sharing/match funds must go toward the costs of approved project activities. For more information on cost-sharing, see **FAQs**.

Data Collection, Performance Measurement, and Performance Assessment

You must collect and report data and document your plan for data collection and reporting in **Section D** of your Project Narrative.

You must collect and report on selected indicators on a quarterly basis. Data collection and reporting tool and related guidance will be provided post-award.

You can visit **SAMHSA's Performance Measures** webpage to view the performance measurement tools. Recipients must collect and report data on the following indicators:

1. Number of individuals who have received training in prevention or mental health promotion.
2. Number of individuals exposed to mental health awareness messages.
3. Number of individuals screened for suicidal ideation.
4. Number of individuals referred to crisis or other mental health-related services for suicide risk, ideation, or behavior.
5. Number of individuals who received mental health services.

You will receive training and technical assistance on SPARS after award.

The data you collect allows SAMHSA to report on key outcome measures. Performance data may be reported to the public.

Performance Assessment

Discretionary awards should include clear benchmarks/objectives for measuring success and progress toward relevant goals. Recipients are required to submit programmatic progress reports that demonstrate if you are meeting the objectives you selected for this project and achieving the outcomes you anticipated, and if any changes need to be made. You must review

your performance data to find out if you are making progress and improving project management. Refer to **Reporting Requirements** for information on submitting these reports.

For more information on completing this section, see **Developing Goals and Measurable Objectives** and **Developing the Plan for Data Collection and Performance Measurement**.

SAMHSA Strategic Priorities and Other Expectations

When developing your project, you must consider **SAMHSA's Strategic Priorities**, which includes recovery, a commitment to innovation, data, gold-standard science, and access to high quality services for all, which align with the Administration's **Make America Healthy Again** initiative. In addition, there are other expectations included in ***Section I*** in the *Application Guide* that you must consider as you design your project.

As a part of the project funded under this NOFO, the recipient is required to adhere to the following principles where consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

1. Evidence-Based and Outcome-Focused Practices: Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches grounded in gold-standard science, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement and accountability.
2. Program Integrity and Fiscal Stewardship: Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions; maintain strong internal controls; and ensure the efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars while preventing waste, fraud, and abuse.
3. Partnership and Coordination: Consistent with program purpose and authorization, coordinate with law enforcement, juvenile and criminal justice systems, civil courts and civil commitment systems (including Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs where available and in alignment with state law), crisis services (including the 988 Crisis and Suicide Lifeline), and state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, to engage individuals in prevention activities, treatment, and support while tailoring services to meet community needs.

In addition, the recipient should advance the following objectives in programs that are authorized to advance them:

4. Treatment for Serious Mental Illness and Complex Needs: Serve individuals with the most serious and complex behavioral health needs, including those with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders, through access to evidence-based treatment.

5. Crisis Intervention and Emergency Services: Expand access to crisis intervention care and services, coordinating with crisis systems and first responders to ensure public safety and suicide prevention.
6. Recovery, Sobriety, and Self-Sufficiency: Provide support and treatment to help individuals achieve long-term recovery, sobriety, independence, and improved functionality in work-life responsibilities.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these principles and objectives, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other enforcement actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the terms and conditions of this award.

As referenced in the **SAMHSA's Dear Colleague Letter** on MAT, if your proposed project funds training/TA related to MAT/MOUD, this funding should be used to provide training to clinicians and other behavioral health providers on the clinically appropriate use of medications in the treatment of substance use disorders, including options for safe tapering and discontinuation when clinically indicated, and regular, at least annual, reviews for continuing treatment. This training should include strategies to support shared decision-making by ensuring patients are fully informed of the risks and benefits of medication treatment initiation, continuation, and discontinuation. Training must ensure providers educate patients about and facilitate access to comprehensive substance use treatment and recovery support services.

Training should include tools to support the development of individualized comprehensive treatment plans with patients that include consideration of medication treatment duration, and tapering and discontinuation, as clinically indicated based on the patient's individual circumstances, recovery, and preferences.

Recipient Meetings and Technical Assistance

You are expected to participate in SAMHSA technical assistance activities as directed by SAMHSA.

We expect your attendance at one in-person grantee meeting during the life of this grant. We will provide your team with ample notice to ensure your attendance. You must send a maximum of two people, including the Project Director, to this meeting.

A detailed budget and budget narrative for in-person travel costs must be included in the application budget. For budgeting purposes, these meetings are usually held in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area for up to 3 days.

Funding Restrictions and Limitations

The following are funding restrictions for this project:

- Food is an unallowable expense.
- Capitalizable infrastructure, such as computer systems or software, is recoverable as depreciation through an approved negotiated indirect cost rate or 15 percent de minimis rate in accordance with your organization's existing capitalization/amortization policies.
- You must comply with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of 31 U.S.C. § 3729(b)(4).
- Discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate:
    - Racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation;
    - Denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic;
    - Illegal immigration; or
    - Any other initiatives that compromise public safety.
- Discretionary awards must not support harm reduction as outlined in SAMHSA's Dear Colleague Letter on harm reduction.
- Discretionary awards must not support "housing first" policies that fail to ensure accountability and fail to promote treatment, recovery, and self-sufficiency.

You must also comply with SAMHSA's Standards for Financial Management, Standard Funding Restrictions and Principles in *Section G* in the *Application Guide*.

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations and applicable judicial holdings. Applications must also align with SAMHSA Strategic Priorities. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

Get Registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to SAM.gov Entity Registration and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the financial assistance general certifications and representations specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with **Grants.gov**. You can see step-by-step instructions in the Grants.gov **Quick Start Guide for Applicants**.

eRA Commons

You must register in **eRA Commons**. Register at least six weeks before the application deadline.

See guidance at **eRA Help and Tutorials** and *Section A* in the *Application Guide.*

Find the Application Package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it online. Go to **Search Grants at Grants.gov** or **eRA ASSIST** and search for opportunity number: SM-26-009.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials, you may request them from **dgr.applications@samhsa.hhs.gov**

Step 3: Build Your Application

Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply:

Narratives

Component	Form to use	Page limit
☐ Project abstract	Project Abstract Summary Form	1 page
☐ Project narrative	Project Narrative Attachment form	10 pages
☐ Budget narrative	Budget Narrative Attachment form	None

Attachments

Insert each in the Other Attachments form (Grants.gov) or Other Narratives Attachment form (eRA ASSIST) in this order.

Component	Page limit
☐ 1. Letters of commitment, if applicable	None
☐ 2. Data collection instruments and interview protocols	None
☐ 3. Sample consent forms	None
☐ 4. Project timeline	2 pages
☐ 5. Biographical sketches and position descriptions	No more than two pages for each.
☐ 6. Confidentiality and SAMHSA Participant Protection	None
☐ 7. Letter to the State Point of Contact	None
☐ 8. Documentation of nonprofit status	None
☐ 9. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), if applicable	None

Other required forms

Use each required form in Grants.gov or eRA.

Component	Page limit
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	None
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	None
☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	None

Component	Page limit
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s)	None
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying Form	None

Application Contents and Format

This section includes guidance on each item found in the application checklist.

The following links contain information on:

- **Formatting instructions and information on system validation requirements**
- **Completing forms and required components** (***Section A*** in the *Application Guide*)

Project Abstract

Page limit: 1 page

Your project abstract should include:

- The project name,
- The geographic area that will be reached through the grant activities and the capacity development needed in the geographic area that will be addressed through the grant,
- The population of focus that will benefit from the capacity building,
- If services will also be provided, include a description of the population planned to be served (age range, distribution, clinical characteristics, e.g. diagnoses, service needs, etc.),
- Strategies and interventions to increase capacity that will be implemented through the grant,
- Project goals, and
- Measurable objectives (whenever possible, focus on objectives that relate to **SAMHSA's Strategic Priorities**).

In the first five or fewer lines of your abstract, write a summary of your project that can be used in publications, reports to Congress, and press releases, if you are funded.

Project Narrative

Page limit: 10 pages

Filename: Project narrative

In developing your Project Narrative:

- Provide a detailed response to the **merit review criteria.**

- Follow the **required formatting instructions.**
- Stay within the page limit or we will not review your application. We recommend page limits for the subsections, but they are for guidance only. You may place citations in an attachment, which does not count in the 10-page limit.

Budget Narrative

Page limit: none

Filename: BNF

The budget narrative supports the information you provide in Standard Form 424-A. See **Other Required Forms**.

It includes added detail and justifies the costs you request. As you develop your budget, consider:

- Whether the costs are reasonable and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See **funding limitations**.

To create your budget narrative, see detailed instructions and a template in the ***Application Guide***.

Attachments

You will upload attachments in Grants.gov using the **Other Attachments form** or in eRA ASSIST using the **Other Narratives Attachment form**.

Use only the following attachments listed. If your application includes any attachments not required in this document, they will be disregarded.

Do not use attachments to extend or replace any of the sections of the Project Narrative. Reviewers will not consider them if you do.

Name the attachments: Attachment 1, Attachment 2, and so on.

Attachment 1: Letter(s) of Commitment (LOC)

Include LOCs from any organization(s) partnering in the project. **Do not include any letters of support. Reviewers will not consider them.** A letter of support describes general support of the project, while an LOC outlines the specific contributions an organization will make in the project.

Attachment 2: Data Collection Instruments and/or Interview Protocols

If you are using standardized data collection instruments or interview protocols, you do not need to include these in your application. Instead, provide a web link to the appropriate instrument or protocol.

If the data collection instrument or interview protocol is not standardized, include a copy in Attachment 2.

Attachment 3: Sample Consent Forms

Include, as appropriate, informed consent forms for the collection of data.

Attachment 4: Project Timeline

Page limit**:** 2 pages

This attachment is scored by reviewers. Provide a chart or graph depicting a realistic timeline for the entire 4 years of the project period. Show dates, key activities, and responsible staff. The key activities must include the requirements outlined in **Required Activities**.

Attachment 5: Biographical Sketches and Position Descriptions

See **biographical sketches and position descriptions** for more information. Position descriptions should be no longer than one page each and biographical sketches should be no more than two pages.

Attachment 6: Confidentiality and SAMHSA Participant Protection

See **Section E** in the *Application Guide* for full information about how to complete this required attachment.

Attachment 7: Letter to the State Point of Contact

Review information on **Intergovernmental Review** and in ***Section J*** in the *Application Guide* for detailed information on E.O. 12372 requirements to determine if this applies.

Attachment 8: Documentation of Nonprofit Status

All private nonprofit organizations: you must submit proof of nonprofit status in your application. Any of the following is acceptable evidence of nonprofit status:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations, as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.
- A copy of a current and valid IRS tax exemption certificate.
- A statement from a state taxing body, state attorney general, or other appropriate state official certifying the applicant organization has nonprofit status.
- A certified copy of the applicant organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that establishes nonprofit status.

- Any of the above proof for a state or national parent organization **and** a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

Attachment 9: Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)

If you have a NICRA, the document must be submitted.

Other Required Forms

You will need to complete some standard forms. Upload the following standard forms as listed on Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO **Application Package** or review them and their instructions on **Grants.gov Forms**.

Forms	Submission Requirement
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With application
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With application
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With application
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	With application
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	With application

- **SF-424** – Fill out all sections of the SF-424.
  - In **Line 4** (Applicant Identifier), enter the eRA Commons Username of the Project Director (PD)/Principal Investigator (PI).
  - In **Line 8b** (Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN)), enter the recipient organization's **12-character EIN and suffix** as registered with the Payment Management System (PMS), if applicable. If not registered in PMS, enter the recipient organization's EIN.
  - In **Line 8f**, enter the name and contact information of the PD identified in the budget and listed in Line 4 (eRA Commons Username).
  - In **Line 17** (Proposed Project Date), enter: a. Start Date: 09/30/2026; b. End Date: 09/29/2030.
  - In **Line 18** (Estimated Funding), enter the amount requested or to be contributed for the first budget/funding period only by each contributor.
  - **Line 21** is the Authorized Representative and should not be the same individual as the PD in Line 8f.

  It is recommended you review the sample **completed SF-424**.

- **SF-424A BUDGET INFORMATION FORM –** Fill out all sections of the SF-424A using the instructions below. **The totals in Sections A, B, and D must match.**
  Section A – Budget Summary:

- As cost sharing/match **is required,** use the second row (Line 2) to report the total non-federal funds (f) for the **first year** of your project only.

Section B – Budget Categories:

- As cost sharing/match **is required**, use the second column (Column 2) to report the budget category breakouts for the **first year** of your project only.

Section C – Non-Federal Resources:

- As cost sharing/match **is required,** use the second row (line 9) to report non-federal match for the **first year** only.

Section D – Forecasted Cash Needs:

- Enter the total funds requested, broken down by quarter, only for **Year 1** of the project period.
- Use the first row for federal funds and the second row (Line 14) for **non-federal** funds.

Section E – Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for the Balance of the Project:

- Enter the total funds requested for the out years (e.g., Year 2, Year 3, and Year 4). For example, if funds are being requested for four years total, enter the requested budget amount for each of those budget periods in columns b, c, and d (i.e., three out years):
  (b) First column is the budget for the second budget period;
  (c) Second column is the budget for the third budget period;
  (d) Third column is the budget for the fourth budget period;
  Use Line 16 for federal funds and Line 17 for non-federal funds.

See **Formatting Requirements** to review common errors in completing the SF-424 and the SF-424A. These errors will prevent your application from being successfully submitted.

It is highly recommended you use the Budget Template on the SAMHSA website.
See the **Budget Template Users Guide** and the sample completed SF-424A forms at **Sample SF-424A (Match Required)** for minority-serving institutions and community. **For additional information, see *Section F* in the *Application Guide* and Budget Related FAQs.**

Step 4: Learn About Review and Award

Application Review

Initial Review

We review each application to make sure it meets basic requirements. We will not consider an application that:

- Is from an organization that does not meet all eligibility criteria.
- Is submitted after the **deadline**.
- Exceeds the 10-page limit for the Project Narrative.

Merit Review

Project Narrative: Your Project Narrative describes the proposed project. Peer reviewers will assess your response to the criteria below. The following instructions should be considered as you develop the Project Narrative:

- The Project Narrative cannot be longer than 10 pages.
- There are four sections (Sections A–D) and you must use the section numbers and headings listed in the Evaluation Criteria.
- Include the section letter and number (e.g., A.1, B.2) **before the response to each criterion.** You do not need to type the full criterion in each section.
- Do not combine two or more criteria or refer to another section of the Project Narrative in your response.
- Reviewers will only consider information included in the appropriate numbered criterion.
- The number of points after each section heading is the maximum number of points a reviewer may give for that section.
- Unless required, cost-sharing will not be a factor in the review of your response to the criteria.

A: Population of focus and need statement (25 points – approximately 2 pages)

1. Clearly describe the college student population and their mental health, substance use disorder, and behavioral health needs (including student veterans). Clearly describe service gaps and other problems related to the need to build capacity for the college student population.

2. Describe federal, State, local, private and institutional resources and programs currently available to address suicide prevention, mental health, and the substance use disorder needs of your students.

3. Provide data to show the need for suicide prevention and mental health services. The data sources must be identified (e.g., National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)) Note: Citations may be included in an attachment and will not count towards the page limit.

B: Proposed implementation approach (40 points – approximately 5 pages)

1. Describe the goals and measurable objectives of your proposed project. See **Developing Goals and Measurable Objectives**. They must align with the Statement of Need in A.3.

2. Describe how you will implement all the **required activities**.

3. Describe how your proposed implementation approach will address **SAMHSA Strategic Priorities**.

4. In **Attachment 4**, provide no more than a two-page chart or graph depicting a realistic timeline for the entire four years of the program. It must include dates, key activities that must also include required activities, and responsible staff. Indicate when service delivery will begin. The timeline does not count towards the page limit for the Program Narrative.

C: Organizational experience and staffing (20 points – approximately 2 pages)

1. Describe your organization's experience with and capacity to provide services to college students at risk for suicide, depression, serious mental illness, and substance use disorders. Include relevant examples of similar projects implemented at your institution of higher education.

2. Identify organization(s) you will partner with on this project. Describe their specific roles and responsibilities for this project. Letters of Commitment (LOCs) from each partner organization must be included in **Attachment 1.**

3. Provide a complete list of all significant staff positions for the project, including the key personnel (Project Director). At least one individual must have experience in clinical services and prevention. For each, describe their:
    - Role
    - Level of effort (LOE), stated as a percentage of employment (e.g., 1.0 FTE = full-time)
    - Qualifications, including their experience with similar projects.

D: Data collection and performance measurement (15 points – approximately 1 page)

1. Describe how you will collect the required data for this project and how such data will be used to manage, monitor, and enhance the program. See **Developing the Plan for Data Collection and Performance Measurement**.

Risk Review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will not prudently manage federal funds. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use SAM.gov **Responsibility/Qualification** to check this history for all awards likely to be over $250,000.

You can comment on your organization's information in SAM.gov. We'll consider your comments before making a decision about your level of risk.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see **2 CFR Part 200**.

Review and Selection Process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Peer review results. Reviewers evaluate an application's scientific/technical aspects through the merit review process, which is an evaluation of the merits of the submitted application(s) based on the criteria/guidelines provided in the NOFO. The results of that merit review are advisory in nature only. Program offices and approving officials make final determinations for funding.
- Alignment with agency priorities. Before final funding decisions are made, applications will be reviewed for consistency with applicable laws and alignment with **SAMHSA's Strategic Priorities**. To the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders, applications that do not align with SAMHSA's Strategic Priorities will not receive funding.

The program office and approving official make the final determination for funding based on the following:

- Availability of funds.
- Submission of any required documentation that must be submitted prior to making an award.
- Recipients who received funding under the GLS Campus NOFO SM-24-004 are not eligible to apply under this announcement. A full list of ineligible applicants can be found in **Appendix A**.

- At least six awards will be made to junior/community colleges pending adequate application volume.

Other principles that may be considered in funding decisions include:

- Preference for discretionary awards should be given to institutions with lower indirect cost rates.
- Discretionary grants should be given to a broad range of recipients rather than to a select group of repeat players. Grants should be awarded to a mix of recipients likely to produce immediately demonstrable results and recipients with the potential for potentially longer-term, breakthrough results, in a manner consistent with the funding opportunity announcement.
- To the extent institutional affiliation is considered in making discretionary awards, agencies should prioritize an institution's commitment to rigorous, reproducible scholarship over its historical reputation or perceived prestige. As to science grants, agencies should prioritize institutions that have demonstrated success in implementing Gold Standard Science.

Award Notices

You will receive an email from eRA Commons that describes how you can access the application review results, including the application score. If your application is approved for funding, a **Notice of Award (NoA)** will be emailed to: (1) the Signing Official identified on page 3 of the SF-424 (Authorized Representative section); and (2) the Project Director identified on page 1 of the SF-424 (8f).

If your application is not funded, an email will be sent to you from eRA Commons. This email will include a summary of the peer reviewer comments and scores. It may take up to four months from the program's award date for this information to be sent to you.

The NoA is the only document that authorizes recipients to receive federal funding for a project.

Step 5: Submit Your Application

Submission Requirements and Deadlines

Go to **Find the Application Package** to make sure you have everything you need.

Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements. See **Get Registered**.

You must maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.

Deadlines

Application

Due on **Monday July 27, 2026**.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See exemptions for paper applications (3.2) in ***Section A*** in the *Application Guide***.**
- When your application is submitted, it must pass validation checks for both Grants.gov and eRA. You will receive emails from both systems to either confirm the application successfully passed validation checks, or to notify you that there were errors that must be fixed before the application can be considered successfully submitted.
- If using the Grants.gov Workspace tool, use the Preview Grantor Validation feature in Grants.gov before submitting your application. Doing so will allow you to validate your application and review/fix all errors and warnings before submitting.
- It is strongly advised that organizations log into their eRA Commons account post submission to confirm submission status, as emails from each system could be placed in a recipient's junk mail folder and go unread.

Intergovernmental Review

You will need to submit application information for intergovernmental review under **Executive Order 12372**. Under this order, states may design their own processes for obtaining, reviewing, and commenting on some applications. See ***Section J*** in the *Application Guide*.

This requirement does not apply to states or American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations.

Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award

Post-award Requirements and Administration

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

There are important rules you need to know if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the NoA. We incorporate this NOFO by reference. You can see SAMHSA's **standard terms and conditions** on our website.

- The regulations at **2 CFR Part 200** – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards, modifications at 2 CFR 300, and any superseding regulations.
- The HHS **Grants Policy Statement** (GPS). Your NoA will reference this document. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they will be listed in your NoA.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in **HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements**. See ***Section H*** in the *Application Guide*.
- All anti-discrimination laws: By applying for or accepting federal funds from HHS, you certify compliance with all federal antidiscrimination laws and these requirements. Complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding streams. You are responsible for ensuring subrecipients, contractors, and partners also comply.
- SAMHSA grants must align with SAMHSA and presidential priorities and policies.
- SAMHSA may terminate an award in accordance with any of the conditions set forth in 2 CFR 200.340(a)(1)–(4), including when an award no longer effectuates program goals or agency priorities as provided in **2 CFR 200.340(a)(4)**.

Reporting Requirements

You are required to submit an annual Programmatic Progress Report (PPR) in Years one, two, and three, and a cumulative Final Progress Report (FPR) in Year four. You must use the OMB-approved Excel PPR template for your program. You will need to submit your completed PPRs in eRA Commons.

The annual PPR is due within 90 days of the end of each budget period. The FPR is due within 120 days after the end of the project period. The FPR must be cumulative and include all activities during the entire project period.

You must report the following information in your PPRs:

- Updates on key personnel, budget, or project changes (as applicable);
- Progress towards project goals as stated in your grant application, including project activity accomplishments, implementation facilitators, implementation challenges, and plans/actions for leveraging success and/or overcoming challenges;
- A description of program impact and a summary of local evaluation findings; and
- Success stories.

After receiving your grant award, you will be required to submit various financial reports to SAMHSA. Please see **SAMHSA Reporting Requirements**.

Appendix A: Ineligible Applicants

NOFO #	Grant #	Organization	State
SM-24-004	SM089903	Occidental College	CA
SM-24-004	SM089883	Colorado Mesa University	CO
SM-24-004	SM089892	University of Northern Colorado	CO
SM-24-004	SM089921	University of Connecticut Storrs	CT
SM-24-004	SM089916	Florida Keys Community College	FL
SM-24-004	SM089891	College Of Western Idaho	ID
SM-24-004	SM089874	Illinois College	IL
SM-24-004	SM089922	Illinois Wesleyan University	IL
SM-24-004	SM089991	Monmouth College	IL
SM-24-004	SM089938	Franklin College	IN
SM-24-004	SM089894	University Of Notre Dame	IN
SM-24-004	SM089950	University Of Saint Francis of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Inc.	IN
SM-24-004	SM089949	Bellarmine University	KY
SM-24-004	SM089900	Endicott College	MA
SM-24-004	SM089877	Notre Dame Of Maryland University	MD
SM-24-004	SM089902	Oakland University	MI
SM-24-004	SM089873	Augsburg University	MN
SM-24-004	SM089948	Central Methodist University	MO
SM-24-004	SM089917	Winston-Salem State University	NC
SM-24-004	SM089920	Keuka College	NY
SM-24-004	SM089906	Juniata College	PA
SM-24-004	SM089944	Widener University	PA
SM-24-004	SM089942	University Of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras	PR
SM-24-004	SM089854	Johnson & Wales University Inc	RI
SM-24-004	SM089914	Victoria County Junior College District	TX
SM-24-004	SM089890	Eastern Mennonite University	VA
SM-24-004	SM089885	Norwich University	VT
SM-24-004	SM089909	Viterbo University	WI