

SANTA CRUZ: DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SUCCESS

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DIVISIONAL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SUCCESS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Equity in Mental Health Funding Call

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to announce the funding call for the Equity in Mental Health Funding Initiative. Members of the campus community are invited to submit funding requests to support the development of programs and services to meet students' needs by ensuring our campus provides prevention, early intervention, and treatment and recovery services to remove systematic barriers that influence health inequities among our students.

Background:

Health equity is the ability for everyone to have a fair and just opportunity to thrive and be well. This includes removing systemic barriers as described by the social determinants of health, a set of conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age that influence health inequities. Given the direct link between student wellness and academic success, student mental health support is integral in reaching the university's goals of producing more degrees and eliminating gaps. UC is inviting all stakeholders to develop programs and services to meet students' needs by ensuring each campus provides prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services via the Equity in Mental Health Funding Plan.

The University of California has developed an [Equity in Mental Health Funding Plan](#), which supports universal prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for students. The plan uses an allocation methodology that considers the base level of support required at each campus, an Equity Index (i.e., accounting for the mental health needs of underrepresented and food- and housing-insecure students) and enrollment levels.

The monies for the Equity in Mental Health Funding initiative were made available via The Budget Act of 2021 (California Assembly Bill 128), which includes \$15 million in ongoing funds to address student mental health needs at the University of California.

Available Funding and Tiers:

UCSC has been allocated the following funding amounts for the initiative:

Campus Baseline Prevention and Early Intervention (Tier III)	Collaborative Well- being Programs (Tier II)	Holistic Treatment and Recovery (Tier I)	TOTAL
\$450,000	\$398,000	\$342,000	\$1,190,000

Tier 1: Holistic Treatment and Recovery

Developing services and supports that meet the needs of students and increase access to care, such as integrating care, enhancing services to support underrepresented students' needs and cross-disciplinary training and developing clinical and non-clinical wraparound support. Examples of collaborative stakeholders include crisis advocates, recovery specialists, clinicians, community agencies and staff, case managers, and disability service programs and staff.

Tier 2: Early Intervention and Collaborative Well-being Programs

Campuses will receive funding based on a weighted equity index, the goal of these funds being to support underrepresented student groups in collaborative work with on- and off-campus partners to ensure unencumbered access to services and support. Minimum activities should address barriers to student success, including efforts to ensure early identification of struggling students, unencumbered access to care and referral to support and resources.

Tier 3: Comprehensive Universal Prevention and Wellness Programs

Campuses will receive funding based on an equal distribution to develop universal prevention programming. The goal of these funds is to support healthy campus environments and to promote primary prevention strategies that support healthy behaviors. Minimum activities should include peer navigation and outreach programs (to reduce stigma), peer-to-peer training and support for programs that promote healthy behaviors. In addition, campuses ought to develop programming focused on the transition into and out of college, resilience workshops, social emotional learning, and living-learning environment needs.

Funding Model Attributes:

UCOP has provided instructions to the Vice Chancellors of Student Affairs at each campus to proceed with initiating a process to develop a funding plan for this funding. To this end, interim Vice Chancellor Baszile is convening a committee to support the activities. The role of the Committee will be to develop a rubric to review and evaluate funding proposals, initiate a funding call to eligible units, to assess proposals that are submitted, and to make recommendations that will be approved by Chancellor Larive, iVCSA Baszile and Associate Vice Chancellor Register (Budget, Analysis, and Planning).

Please note that at the campus level, we are offering a funding call to highlight the cross-divisional and highly collaborative spirit of this initiative.

Requesters may submit proposals for one-time and/or ongoing funding. Ongoing funding awards will be issued for an initial three-year period, during which time the awardee is expected to assess impact and effectiveness of activities that are funded. Annual reporting is required at the end of years 1, 2, and 3 in order to maintain funding awards. At the three-year point, a committee will evaluate the efficacy of assigning the funding on an ongoing basis.

Student Initiated Requests:

The funding committee has recommended that a portion of the funds be allocated annually for student-initiated requests. The committee will recommend a funding cycle and schedule, and process, and may consult/collaborate with the Student Fee Advisory Committee on the process. Student groups may submit a proposal by the November 5th deadline and/or submit in future cycles (which may be as often as quarterly).

Eligibility:

Registered Student Organizations (RSO's), other student groups recognized by the University (SUA, GSA, SFAC, SVC, College Governments, etc.), other student groups or student-initiated events sponsored by Campus Academic and Administrative Departments

- Please note that projects must have a University unit agree to serve as the sponsor, advisor, and administrator of funds. Sponsor is defined as an administrative or academic unit that accepts responsibility for overseeing the planning, organization, execution, and expenditure of funds, and assures collaboration with all appropriate campus units to make sure all security and risk concerns are addressed, and that all applicable laws and university regulations and policies are followed.

Resources for Budget Planning:

The Equity in Mental Health Funds will not participate in the central campus salary program or benefit pool. Therefore, for planning purposes, if the proposal includes a request for staff payroll, please add expenses for salary increases and benefits. The Fiscal Year 2022 rate for this fund source is 58.34%. For multi-year planning, a reasonable escalation would be 1% to 2% of the rates.

Timeline and Process:

[Applications](#) are due by November 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The funding recommendation committee will then review and evaluate proposals and make recommendations for review by the interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, AVC Budget, Analysis and Planning, and the Chancellor. The campus funding plan is due to UCOP by November 19 and is subject to approval by the UC Office of the President.

Departments and student groups seeking additional orientation and resources to help support engagement in this process are invited to attend a funding call orientation.

Here are the details:

- October 26th, 2021 @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm
- [Zoom Conference Access Information](#)

Please visit this [website](#) for more detail and to access the [application](#). Please contact larojas@ucsc.edu with any questions or requests for information.

Thank you for your engagement with this process.

Best,



Jennifer Baszile
Interim Vice Chancellor
Division of Student Affairs and Success

CC: Chancellor Larive
CP/EVC Kletzer
Vice Chancellor Latham
EMF Initiative Committee