

Stephan D. Weiss Student Mental Health Award American College Health Foundation

<https://www.acha.org/ACHF>

AWARD PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Fund Objective:

The American College Health Foundation's *Stephan D. Weiss, PhD, Mental Health Fund for Higher Education* was established in December 2010, to support efforts to promote and improve the quality of mental health care to college students.

With growing national concerns regarding the prevalence and complexity of mental and behavioral health issues among college students and the negative impact these disorders have on the health and safety of higher education communities, student retention, student learning / academic progress, and the human potential of students, the Weiss Fund is providing support for an award offering to be available annually.

This award is sponsored by the Stephan D. Weiss Foundation and the Weiss Fund of the American College Health Foundation. It offers an award of \$5000 along with a commitment from the institution of an additional \$5000 of actual funds or in-kind support of the award to the grantee to promote and improve the quality of mental health support for college students. The Weiss Award is intended to encourage student(s) to develop creative initiatives that will enhance mental health service delivery to students through an innovative program which could be replicated at another college or university. This award will support program development that has the potential to demonstrate measurable success in student retention for those whose mental health problems might otherwise compromise the quality of their college experience and jeopardize the likelihood of their graduation.

Funding for the Weiss award will be awarded annually to applicants enrolled at ACHA individual or institutional member institutions. The recipient should offer a project that is creative in its scope, formulated on the basis of published research, measurable in its effects, and applicable to the mental health enhancement of college students who participate in it. Preference will be given to those candidates who are graduate students engaged in mental health professional training programs.

More specifically, this award will support funding for the following.

1. Identifying and tracking students' mental and behavioral health needs as they relate to individual and community health, student retention, student learning and academic advancement.
2. Assessing environmental factors that may contribute to or provide protection from mental and behavioral health disorders. This may include institutional social and cultural factors as well as public policies that affect the health of students.
3. Assessing the adequacy of campus and community resources and partnerships that provide prevention, early intervention and treatment services for students affected by mental and behavioral health disorders.
4. Developing collaborative, strategic campus-wide initiatives and resource allocation that strengthen the health of the campus-learning environment and reduce the risk for development of mental and behavioral health disorders among students.
5. Developing community and public health initiatives and resources designed to increase awareness, early recognition and active intervention for mental and behavioral health issues across campus.
6. Strengthening theory-driven, evidence-based methods and processes for mental and behavioral health assessment, early intervention, treatment, referral and post-treatment follow-up, including multidisciplinary professional development and capacity-building for appropriate health center, counseling center, student services and academic faculty and staff.
7. Development of campus-wide communication strategies to address an immediate threat to on-campus populations as a result of an individual's mental status and actions.

Award applications will need to demonstrate:

- Strategic and collaborative partnerships across campus that create a shared vision and responsibility for reducing mental and behavioral health concerns.

- Theory-driven-evidence based planning
- Measureable process and outcome evaluation
- Funding that will allow the initiative to continue after award funding is completed.

Eligibility Requirements:

Only American College Health Association Institutional or Individual Members are eligible to apply. An ACHA Membership Number must be included on the application form

Ineligible Requests:

This award does not support activities directly tied to fund raising events, advertising, purchase of routine supplies/equipment other than that required to implement the project or professional development activities unrelated to the project e.g., travel to conferences. Activities such as outside speakers used to train leaders for the project are acceptable. Funding does not cover indirect costs.

Award Application Procedure:

1. All applications must be typed, single or double-spaced.
2. Electronic submissions are required. Please email your application in **pdf format only** to ACHF at achf@acha.org by **February 3, 2025.**
3. The Award Application Form Cover Sheet must be signed by two different individuals: first, the proposed Project Director who if preferably a student and second, the Project Director's supervisor or authorizing agent.
4. Applicants may apply for only one ACHF award offering per year. An applicant with more than one proposal may apply for a different award.

Award Application Review/Award Process:

Each application will be reviewed for completeness and for its relevance to the Fund objective.

Award decisions will be made by the *American College Health Foundation Board of Directors.*

Application Timeline: All applications must be received by **February 3, 2025.** Award recipient(s) will be announced at the next ACHA Annual Meeting.

Amount of Financial Assistance: Individual allocations of up to \$5000 with the assurance of an additional \$5000 from the institution may be awarded.

Length of Financial Assistance: Project funding is available for use over a 12-month period. Award allocations are distributed in two payments, 50% at the beginning of project work and the remaining 50%, six months later, after a mid-year report has been submitted to the ACHF office.

Post Project Requirements: Award recipients shall submit a project results report to the American College Health Foundation within 60 days of the completion of the funding cycle. In addition to the final report, an abstract describing the results of the project will be submitted to the American College Health Foundation. Copies of the abstract may be made available to ACHA members during the ACHA annual meetings or in ACHA/ACHF publications to demonstrate the effectiveness of the fund's objective. Award recipients may also be requested to make a presentation at a future American College Health Association conference (state, regional, national) and/or write an article for publication in a college health related periodical discussing project outcomes.

**Stephan D. Weiss Student Mental Health Award
AWARD APPLICATION FORM COVER SHEET**

Title of Project:

Total Funds Requested:

Project Director:

Name: _____

ACHA Membership #: _____

Position title: _____

College/University: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (area code, number, extension)

TEL: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Student Health Center Authorizing Agent:

Name: _____

Title: _____

College/University: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (area code, number, extension)

TEL: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Post Project Requirements

Award recipients shall submit a project results report to the and may be requested to make a presentation at a future ACHA conference (state, regional, national) and/or write an article for publication in a college health related periodical discussing the outcome of the project

Project Director

I agree to accept responsibility for the implementation of the proposed project and to provide the post project requirements as outlined if the project proposal is awarded as a result of this application.

SIGNATURE (in ink) _____ DATE: _____

Project Director's Supervisor or another Authorizing Agent:

I endorse the proposed project and accept responsibility to monitor project progress and completion of post project requirements.

SIGNATURE (in ink) _____ DATE: _____

AWARD PROPOSAL OUTLINE

Please submit the Stephan D. Weiss Student Mental Health Award proposals using the following format:

Section I. Executive Summary (1/2 page)

Provide an overall description of the project initiative.

Section II. Project Description (three-page limit)

This section should address the following points:

- Describe total student population at the college/university.
- The number enrolled and the number of students in the population that the award is designed to reach.
- Describe the overall funding request in a concise paragraph.
- List the specific objectives of this funding request.
- Explain in what ways this proposal will benefit students.
- Identify key personnel/partnerships who will be involved in the project.
- Describe evaluation procedures that will be used to measure the outcomes/impact of this proposed project.
- Identify other resources that will support this proposed project.
- Indicate total amount of funds requested. (Complete Section III to show how these funds will be used to support the proposed project)

Section III: Budget (one page)

Provide budget detail, including funds requested and justification for their use.

Submission:

- Email completed fund application forms to: achf@acha.org
- Be sure to complete and email the Award Application Form Cover Sheet along with your award application documents.
- For any additional questions concerning the ACHF awards and/or application process, please email: achf@acha.org