



MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING AND FOCUS FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

- Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act (110 ILCS 58)
 - Passed in 2019
 - intended to address gaps in mental health services on college campuses across Illinois, including both 2-year and 4-year institutions, through training, peer support, and community-campus partnerships.
 - Included areas of focus such as advisor, mental health conditions, telehealth, campus ratios for service, and technical assistance
- P.A. 102-0373: Student ID Mental Health Info - Suicide Prevention Efforts
 - Requiring suicide prevention number on student ID cards
 - Adds a provision to the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act requirements for raising mental health awareness.
 - If the college issues student ID cards, it must provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and the college's mental health counseling center or program on the back of each student ID. Otherwise, the college must publish the contact information on its website.

MENTAL HEALTH EARLY ACTION ON CAMPUS ACT COMPONENTS

- Training
 - Each college designate panel of experts to develop policies and procedures related to mental health conditions and Section 504.
 - Technical Assistance Center will set initial standards for policies and procedures.
 - Resident Assistants, advisors, and campus security participate in Mental Health First Aid Training
- Peer Support
 - Develop and implement a peer support program using student peers to support individuals living with mental health conditions.
 - Utilize best practices for peer support programs and provide continuous education

MENTAL HEALTH EARLY ACTION ON CAMPUS ACT COMPONENTS

- Local Partnerships
 - Formulate strategic partnerships with local mental health service providers to improve campus mental health wellness and capacity.
 - Through a combination of on-campus capacity and off-campus linkage agreements, attempt to maintain a clinical staff member (non-student) to 1250 students.
 - Work with local resources and non-providers, such as affiliates of the National Alliance on Mental Illness to meet awareness
- Evaluation
 - Each college must evaluate the major components required under the act including:
 - Awareness and Training Programs
 - Peer Support Programs
 - Local Partnerships

MENTAL HEALTH EARLY ACTION ON CAMPUS ACT REQUIREMENTS

- Develop and implement an annual student orientation session aimed at raising awareness of mental health conditions.
- Assess courses and seminar available to students and implement, as available, mental health awareness curricula.
- Create and feature a page on website or mobile application with information solely about mental health resources available at the college.
- Distribute messages through LMS/online that encourage help seeking behaviors during high stress points during the semester (including mid-terms and finals).

MENTAL HEALTH EARLY ACTION ON CAMPUS ACT REQUIREMENTS

- Implement screening tool to raise awareness and establish a referral resource for students.
 - Available year round
 - Includes a validates screening tool for a number of mental health diagnoses
 - Provide general information about all mental health-related resources
 - Function anonymously
- At least once per term and at times of high academic stress, including midterm or final exams, provide information regarding online screenings and resources.
- Provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Crisis Text Line, a local suicide prevention hotline, and the mental health counseling center or program on student ID cards

FUNDING

- Supplemental HB 969 appropriated funding to the Illinois Community College Board to provide to community colleges for implementing the Act.
- The allocations are based on college survey submissions to COGFA (Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability) and must be utilized in Fiscal Year 2023.
- Allocations have been identified for future years (subject to appropriation).
- The bill was signed by the Governor on January 24, 2023
- FY23 allocations range from \$11,199 to \$641,304.
- On 2/17, ICCB will be distributing a memorandum of understanding further clarifying roles and responsibilities.

REPORTING

- ICCB will require reporting showing how funding was used. The report will ask for detail around the major objectives of the act and uses of funds.
- Reporting should highlight activities related to:
 - Awareness
 - Online Screening Tool
 - Training
 - Peer Support Programs
 - Strategic Partnerships
 - Clinical Ratio Benchmark
 - Evaluation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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