

## FY24 Mental Health Early Action on Campus Funding FAQs

1. Would it be acceptable to use funds from the FY 24 Mental Health Appropriation to purchase furniture for a space for additional counseling staff?

Yes, you are able to use funds for this purpose. Since it will allow more space and opportunity to provide counseling, it is working toward the counselor ratio outlined in the legislation.

2. Can we use Mental Health Early Action funds to pay for food during a training?

If these events are 5 to 6 hours and participants are expected to stay for the entire duration of the event, then yes. However, in the case of events with shorter durations, funds should not be used for food.

Food should not be used for promotion and marketing. If the event, training, seminar, etc. extends long enough that a meal period would be crossed and the participants are expected to continue without breaking, then food is reasonable and necessary.

3. According to Sec. 40 of the MHEAC Act, institutions are to work toward having a ratio of 1250 students to one clinical staff member. It also refers to technical assistance that would be provided to determine if there would be any updates to those ratios. Has the state defined “students” under this Sct? Is it defined as the total unduplicated count of students in an academic year? Or is it based on the number of currently active students? And does it include credit, continuing education and adult education students? Has the technical assistance center defined what our target number of staff should be?

At this point, we would be looking at unduplicated count of credit students in an academic year, so it would exclude continuing education and adult education students. We have also discussed this number excluding dual credit (distinctive of dual enrollment) students, as they have access to such services through their high school and the dual credit course occur on the high school campus. As the TAC develops guidance and recommendations, which may impact the students counted, ICCB will communicate all guidance to all colleges.

3. Can we carry over any funds allocated through the MHEAC to pay for virtual services? If not, will we be able to obligate and spend FY24 allocations on contracts that extend into FY25? For example, if we contract for peer support or teletherapy service, the contract would cover part or all of FY25 or if we can sign a contract with a community partner to deliver care in the next fiscal year, is that allowable as long as the payment is made in the funding year.?

Unfortunately, there is not an extension for the funds as they are a direct allocation rather than a grant.

FY24 funds can be used to contract for services that extend outside of the fiscal year, so you can spend the FY24 funds for contracting virtual service contracts that extend outside of the fiscal year. This is acceptable as long as the funds are obligated by June 30 and expended by Aug. 30.

6. The police on campus are already engaging in a crisis intervention training and would like to know if this training will suffice in place of MHFA training outlined in the Act?

When reviewing training programs for law enforcement on campus, we have to consider two factors.

First, the training should be above and beyond the basic law enforcement training on trauma response or similar since the idea is to deepen the first responder's understanding and capacity to interact effectively with an individual with a mental illness.

The second consideration is content and the need for the content to go beyond basic crisis intervention techniques and really drill into mental health issues, needs, and responses.

Crisis intervention training would not be sufficient to fulfill the expectations of training under the legislation. If you have other training that the law enforcement officers on campus are exploring, please reach out to ICCB staff to discuss the training.

7. Is there guidance for who should be involved in the panel required in Sec. 30. Training to develop and implement policies and procedures or is it up to each college to decide who would be most relevant to have on this panel?

There isn't currently guidance on the development of the expert panel; however, the Technical Assistance Center, TAC, which is required in the statute is in development and part of the TAC's role will be developing initial standards around the development of policies and procedures, including the expert panel.

In the meantime, colleges can begin to establish a panel, which they may end up expanding based on TAC recommendations. Membership on the panels will likely vary by location due to differences in resources, but it would be ideal to include representation from a variety of areas related to Student Services. Depending on your campus make-up, this may include wellness center staff, counseling staff, student success staff, and disability services staff. Additionally, it would be helpful to include staff/administrators with experience in development of policies and procedures and faculty/administrators from mental health programs.