

2025-2026 Mental Health Incubator Challenge Call for Submissions

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Thanks to the generous support from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Division of Student Affairs at SIUE is pleased to provide one-time financial support to fund student mental health initiatives that raise awareness, provide training, reduce stigma, or otherwise promote and advance student mental health in innovative and creative ways.

Timeline

- November 26-Mental Health Incubator Challenge [Application](#) AND [Budget and Implementation Template](#) Due
- December 5-Notification of selection to advance to Mental Health Incubator Pitch Meeting
- December 10 -Mental Health Incubator Pitch Meeting Showcase
- December 12 -Notification of selection to Pitch Meeting Showcase participants

Proposal Details

The Mental Health Incubator will provide one-time funding to be expended by June 15, 2026 to support student mental health initiatives. There are two funding categories to which applicants may submit proposals:

- Direct Awards: \$1,500 or less
- Competitive Awards: Maximum \$5,000

The funded initiative must not require ongoing funding; this is a one-time funding opportunity. The funding will not be used to fund research, hire personnel including student staff, support travel for professional development, or offset previously allocated institutional resources. Applications with a broad impact or which impact a larger number of students will be prioritized.

Eligibility

The one-time funding opportunity for student mental health initiatives is available to:

- SIUE student organizations
- SIUE athletics and club sports teams
- SIUE departments (either employees or groups of students)
- SIUE employees



Application Requirements

A complete application must include the following:

- A completed [online application](#) including:
- How the initiative will target and benefit SIUE students.
- A detailed description of the student mental health initiative.
- How the initiative seeks to advance and/or elevate a unique effort pertaining to student mental health.
- Which of the following areas the initiative will address:
 - Education/training
 - Prevention
 - Skill-building
 - Innovative practices
 - Stigma reduction
- A completed Budget and Implementation document uploaded in the online application ([FY26 MHIC Budget.Implementation Template.xlsx](#))

Additional Details

Direct Award Applicants

Applications for direct awards of funding totaling \$1,500 or less will be reviewed by a representative committee. Up to \$8,000 may be distributed among selected direct award applicants.

Competitive Award Applicants

Up to 10 applicants will be invited to participate in an inaugural Mental Health Incubator Challenge, presenting a pitch of 3 minutes or less outlining why their student mental health initiative should receive a funding of up to \$5,000. The applicants will be selected by a representative committee to move forward to the Mental Health Incubator Challenge which will showcase projects and provide applicants the opportunity to make the case to receive full funding for their initiative. Up to \$15,000 may be distributed among selected Mental Health Incubator Challenge winners.

Questions? Email cpassan@siue.edu

Apply today at [Mental Health Incubator – Fill out form.](https://tinyurl.com/MHIncubator) (<https://tinyurl.com/MHIncubator>)

