



Great Minds Fellowship Program

Colleges and Universities Guidance Document

PURPOSE

The health and success of Ohio's families and communities depends on effective strategies to recruit and retain behavioral health professionals. The focus of this funding opportunity is on growing high-quality training and academic programs in Ohio's two- and four-year colleges and universities that educate professionals to fill the unmet need for behavioral health services in home and community-based settings. This effort will help provide an immediate infusion of talent to stabilize our workforce while growing and sustaining the future pipeline.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has joined forces with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) on a multi-pronged approach to boost the number of qualified graduates who are educated and ready to enter the behavioral healthcare workforce in the next one to two years and who are committed to serving in communities across Ohio. This infusion of talent will improve the ability of Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs) regulated by OhioMHAS to deliver quality, timely, person-centered care for Ohioans living with mental health and substance use disorders and expand, enhance, and strengthen home and community-based services under Ohio's Medicaid program. These CBHCs are the setting and provider type where Medicaid-covered behavioral health services – such as case management for people with substance use disorders and rehabilitative services like community psychiatric supportive treatment, psychosocial rehabilitation and therapeutic behavioral – are provided.

FUNDING INFORMATION

In 2022, Ohio received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Ohio General Assembly to invest federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into efforts to boost the number of qualified professionals who are trained and ready to enter the behavioral healthcare workforce in the next one to two years and who are committed to serving in CBHCs regulated by OhioMHAS. CBHCs offer non-institutional behavioral health services.

The developed plan will use \$85M of the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Workforce Development Strategic Fund to grow existing career-focused programming in the

behavioral healthcare disciplines at Ohio’s two- and four-year colleges and universities, incentivize people to return to the behavioral healthcare workforce, and create a Technical Assistance Center to provide needed career supports to Ohio’s Wellness Workforce.

This guidance document focuses on funding opportunities for students in their final two years of higher education for costs associated with completing undergraduate and graduate degrees.

| Amount | Purpose | Administrative State Entity |
|---------------|--|---|
| \$45M | Funding for students in their final two years of higher education for costs associated with completing undergraduate and graduate degrees. | Ohio Department of Higher Education |
| \$22.5M | Employment recruitment and retention funding to CBHCs. | Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services |
| \$5M | Funding for workforce recruitment for behavioral health care providers choosing to return to the workforce. | |
| \$1.5M | Establishment of a Statewide Technical Assistance Center. | |
| \$11M | Operational and administrative support for CBHCs to provide training, support, and supervision to students to prepare for workforce entry. | |

PROJECT PERIOD

Through fall semester 2024 with a final report due by March 30, 2025.

ELIGIBILITY

Students – Great Minds Fellows

Students who are within two years of graduating with degrees or certificates in Social Work (CIP 44.0701, 44.0799, 51.1503), Marriage and Family Therapy (CIP 51.1505), Mental Health Counseling/Counselor (CIP 51.1508), Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse/Nursing (CIP 51.3810), and Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling (CIP 51.1501), are eligible to participate in the Great Minds Fellowship.

Students must commit to performing their internship at a participating Ohio Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) and, upon graduation, commit to employment at a

participating Ohio CBHC for at least one year. Students are required to sign an agreement with the State of Ohio, committing to both the internship placement and post-graduation employment requirements.

Through participating colleges and universities, Great Minds Fellows will be eligible for up to \$10,000 during their undergraduate and graduate studies for scholarship opportunities to assist with the costs of obtaining these undergraduate and graduate-level degrees or certificates; paid internships in CBHCs at the undergraduate and graduate level; and the costs of required license and certification preparation and exams, and other necessary costs related to the degree or certificate.

Post-Graduation Requirement

Great Minds Fellows must commit to at least one year of employment at a participating Ohio Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) upon graduation. Fellows are not obligated to post-graduation employment with the same CBHC where they complete their Great Minds Fellowship-funded internship.

Colleges & Universities

Ohio's two- and four-year public and private colleges and universities with eligible CIP programs (See Students – Great Minds Fellows section above) in Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, and Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling have been identified to participate in this initiative. The institution must be willing to partner with participating Ohio CBHCs for the student's internship placement and comply with reporting and data collection requirements.

Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs)

CBHCs offer non-institutional behavioral health services in communities across the state. CBHCs regulated by OhioMHAS and providing Medicaid-covered behavioral health home and community-based services (Provider types 84 & 95) are eligible to participate in this initiative. CBHCs must partner with an eligible participating Ohio college or university. Participating CBHCs must be able to provide required supervision and support, based on the student's discipline. OhioMHAS will provide funding to CBHCs to support administrative costs associated with supervision of Great Mind Fellowship interns. CBHCs must also comply with reporting and data collection requirements.

Please visit the [Great Minds Fellowship Dashboard](#) to view participating Community Behavioral Health Centers.

USE OF FUNDS

Funds will be used to grow existing career-focused programming in the behavioral health disciplines at Ohio's two- and four-year colleges and universities. These efforts will support students in their final two years of studies who are pursuing degrees or certificates in Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling, Psychiatric/Mental Health

Nursing, and Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling. Allowable uses of this funding toward the intended purpose are listed below.

| Amount | Purpose | Details |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>The Fellowship</i> | | |
| \$45M | Funding for students in their final two years of higher education for costs associated with completing certificates, undergraduate, and graduate degrees. <i>Students are eligible for up to \$10K total.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarships to assist in the cost of final 1-2 years of studies in Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, and Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling • Paid internship(s) at a participating CBHC • Cost of license or certification preparation course • Cost of license or certification examination and fees • Other necessary costs related to the degree or certificate |
| \$11M | Operational and administrative support for CBHCs to provide training, support, and supervision to students to prepare for workforce entry. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the cost to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a quality supervision experience for the student, including direct supervision, coordinating tasks, and learning opportunities, reviewing documentation, and training - assist with student onboarding – HR activities - support IT needs, such as equipment, and EHR training |

Students – Great Minds Fellows

This program will support up to \$10K in scholarship opportunities to assist with the costs of obtaining undergraduate and graduate-level degrees or certificates; paid internships in participating CBHCs at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and the costs of license and certification preparation and exams and other necessary costs related to the degree or certificate. Students benefiting from this opportunity will be expected to perform their internship at a CBHC.

Great Minds Fellows will be required to sign an agreement with the state of Ohio that commits them to performing their internship(s) at a CBHC. Upon graduation, the student will be required to work at a CBHC for one year. Fellows are not required to work post-graduation at the same CBHC where they intern.

PROCESS OF AWARDING FUNDS & REPORTING

Higher Education Institutions

ODHE will award institutions scholarship funds based on a formula developed by OhioMHAS in consultation with ODHE.

ODHE and participating institutions will enter into a grant agreement that specifies the eligible CIPS and total funding.

Institutions are responsible for budgeting the GMF award from ODHE and determining eligible students, scholarship amounts and when to offer scholarships (i.e., which terms) based on total amount of funds available and anticipated completion dates. ODHE reserves the right to make modifications to the award based on utilization of funds monitored at regular intervals by ODHE. Modifications will be made to better attain the goals and objectives of the project and of the State of Ohio. ODHE will notify the institution of any modification to its funding for student GMF scholarships.

Higher Education Information (HEI) System

The Higher Education Information (HEI) System is a comprehensive relational database that includes a wide variety of data submitted by Ohio's colleges and universities. Institutions must use the HEI System to report academic program information and student information, and request reimbursement for Great Minds Fellowship scholarships. Information about the HEI System requirements for the Great Minds Fellowship program can be found at

<https://highered.ohio.gov/greatminds>.

NOTE: The Great Minds Fellows Program is utilizing the Choose Ohio First program within HEI for student and payment submission information.

For institutions that are not part of the Choose Ohio First program, please contact the ODHE data team, <https://highered.ohio.gov/data-reports/hei-system#HEIContacts>, by August 31, 2023. The data team will provide a form to the institution to create user accounts and designate specific roles and permissions. Technical assistance will be provided throughout the program.

Reimbursement Process

The Ohio Department of Higher Education will reimburse institutions for the Great Minds Fellowship scholarships at the end of each term (summer, fall, and spring). Institutions will request reimbursement by submitting the required data through the HEI system.

Reimbursement requests must be made within the prescribed period for each term, called the “payment window.” ODHE will distribute funds within 60 days of receipt of a complete and accurate reimbursement request.

Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHCs)

Community Behavioral Health Centers are eligible to receive reimbursement through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) for the cost of supervision of Great Minds Fellowship interns. CBHCs are also eligible for funds to support recruitment and retention of individuals who have participated in the Great Minds Fellowship.

Funding Application Process

OhioMHAS Grants and Funding Management Systems (GFMS) will be used for this effort through the allocation application and Request for Information process. A Great Minds Fellowship guidance document for Community Behavioral Health Centers will be issued separately.

OhioMHAS will award CBHCs funds based on a formula developed by OhioMHAS.