

Certification

PLEASE CERTIFY THAT YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE SCHEDULE A CORE STRATEGIES AND SCHEDULE B-APPROVED USES

Digital Signature

true

Click here for more information.

(https://viewpointcloud.blob.core.windows.net/profile-pictures/Schedule_A-Core_Strategies_Mon_Mar_18_2024_14:56:43_GMT+0000_(Coordinated_Universal_Time).pdf)

Contact Information

Organization Name

West Virginia State University

Website (if applicable)

https://www.wvstateu.edu/current-students/counseling-and-accessibility-services.aspx

Tax ID Type

TIN

Address

4015 Fairlawn Avenue, Dunbar, WV 25064

Phone Number

3047663262

Email Address

toledoke@wvstateu.edu

Tax ID Number

xxx-xx-8567

Project Summary

Please provide a narrative overview or summary of your proposal, including but not limited to the following:

1. Brief description of the proposal

West Virginia State University (WVSU) Collegiate Recovery, Education and Wellness (CREW) program is designed to provide a safe and welcoming environment where students in recovery can receive support while working to obtain a college degree. CREW provides a comprehensive continuum of care for students with substance use concerns. Services include peer recovery support, wrap around services both on campus and in the community, and offer students meaningful connections with other students in recovery. Additional services include prevention education and awareness, including Ally training, and Naloxone training for members of the campus community. Ally Training is designed for participants interested in supporting those in or seeking recovery, and includes information about substance use disorder and recovery, and ways to support students, friends, and family members in recovery.

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes

Increase the retention rate of students participating in the CREW Program by 10% as compared to the WVSU overall student population.

Increase the 6-year graduation rate by 5% as compared to the WVSU overall student population.

3. Individuals or communities served

CREW will primarily serve enrolled students at WVSU who are in recovery from opioid use disorder. The Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) will develop relationships with local recovery programs to assist their clients with information about higher education, and assistance with applying for admission, financial aid, and course registration.

4. Amount of funding requested**250000****5. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable****0****6. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization****0****7. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization****0****8. How Opioid Settlement funds, if awarded, will be used**

The Opioid Settlement funds will be used to fund a full time Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS). This component is crucial for providing essential guidance and mentorship to individuals navigating the challenges of recovery. Additionally, allocating resources for tuition and books is vital to help students stay enrolled and succeed in college, alleviating financial burdens that could otherwise hinder their academic progress. Weekly support meetings and social programs tailored for participants offer a supportive community, fostering a sense of belonging and enhancing overall well-being, which is integral to both recovery and educational attainment. By investing in these areas, we create a comprehensive support system that empowers individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their personal and academic goals.

9. Which Core Strategies or approved uses will be met

1. Naloxone Training: Providing Naloxone training to staff, faculty, employees, Resident Assistants, University Police Officers, and Kanawha County Healthy Grandfamilies groups is an essential step in combating the opioid crisis and ensuring a safer campus and community environment. This comprehensive training equips individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer Naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose. By educating a diverse range of campus and community members, we create a network of informed and prepared responders who can act swiftly in emergency situations, potentially saving lives. Additionally, this training fosters a sense of shared responsibility and empowerment, promoting a supportive and proactive community culture.

Healthy Grandfamilies is a free initiative led by West Virginia State University to provide information and resources to grandparents who are raising one or more grandchildren. The program is funded by the West Virginia State Legislature, grants and contributions from several health insurance companies throughout the state. Designed as a series of nine discussion sessions and follow-up services, Healthy Grandfamilies is taught by volunteer professionals and paraprofessionals that are knowledgeable of each topic. The Peer Recovery Support Specialist will provide training on Naloxone and Ally Training to Healthy Grandfamily groups in Kanawha County.

2. Wrap Around Services: The program will utilize a comprehensive network to connect students to wrap-around services, ensuring seamless access to necessary treatment services by collaborating with local healthcare providers, mental health professionals, social services, and community organizations. The Peer Recovery Support Specialist will assess individual student needs and provide services or refer students as needed to appropriate services, including counseling, medical care, substance abuse treatment, and family support. Additionally, the program will offer ongoing case management and follow-up to monitor progress and adjust services as needed, ensuring that each student receives continuous, holistic care. This integrated approach aims to remove barriers to treatment, promote well-being, and support students in achieving their educational and personal goals.

10. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

We are requesting \$250,000 to fund the program over the course of 3 years.

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address

According to the CDC West Virginia has the highest rate of overdoses at 80.9 (per 100,000). The Recovery Research Institute states that individuals 18-25 years old have rates of substance use disorder (<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR1-2015/NSDUH-FFR1-2015/NSDUH-FFR1-2015.pdf>) two to three times greater than older adults, and comprise 20% of addiction treatment patients in the United States (https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/TEDS2012N_Web.pdf). College campuses are often high-risk environments for substance use due to the prevalence of social drinking and drug experimentation. The culture of binge drinking and drug use, coupled with peer pressure, can make it challenging for students in or seeking recovery to maintain sobriety. Collegiate Recovery Programs like CREW provide safe, sober spaces where students can feel understood and supported. Our program will foster a sense of community among students in recovery, offering peer support which is crucial for maintaining long-term sobriety. Students will gain access to counseling, support groups, academic assistance, and other resources tailored to their recovery needs. Structured programs and ongoing support reduce the likelihood of relapse by helping students develop coping strategies and resilience and develop into well-rounded individuals prepared for success in their academic endeavors and for life after college.

2. Please provide the details regarding the design and strategy of your proposal

CREW aims to provide a supportive environment by providing peer support and other services for our students in recovery by:

- 1. Provide a Safe and Supportive Environment:**
 - a. Create a dedicated space on campus where students in recovery can feel safe and supported. We have a Recovery Lounge space for meetings, and for students to spend time between classes to study, relax, talk to the PRSS or other students in the program
- 2. Promote Academic Success:**
 - a. Provide workshops of the services available on campus to such as academic support services, tutoring, career services, etc.
 - b. Provide tuition and book financial assistance for students with a gap in their financial aid and actual cost of attendance.
- 3. Peer Support and Community:**
 - a. Hire a Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) to serve as a full-time staff member within Counseling and Wellness Services. The PRSS will provide individual peer support.
 - b. Host peer-led support groups and meetings to encourage shared experiences.
 - c. Organize social events and activities that are substance-free and inclusive.
 - d. Provide Naloxone and Ally Training to WVSU staff, faculty and students, as well as community organizations as requested.
- 4. Enhance Personal Development and Well-Being:**
 - a. Provide access to counseling, mental health services, and wellness programs.
 - b. Offer workshops on life skills, stress management, and relapse prevention.
- 5. Raise Awareness and Reduce Stigma:**
 - a. Conduct campus-wide awareness campaigns to educate the campus community about addiction and recovery.
 - b. Train staff, faculty, and students on how to support peers in recovery and reduce stigma associated with addiction.
 - c. Participate in community programs related to opioid use disorder.
- 6. Education and Training:**
 - i. Provide the CREW leadership team with additional training to continue to improve the program.

3. Please provide your project timeline

1. September 2024: Hire a Peer Recovery Support Specialist

2. September 2024 – August 2027

- 1. Advertise the CREW program to the campus community including to staff, students and faculty.**
- 2. Provide campus and community outreach events and activities.**
- 3. Host weekly recovery meetings.**
- 4. Engage with local recovery programs to assist interested clients in applying for admission, assist with financial aid, and registration.**

5. Provide regular Naloxone and Ally Trainings on campus, for the Health Grandfamilies program, and other community agencies as requested.
6. Conduct a mid-year survey and focus groups in ensure we are meeting the needs of the students, and make changes in our programming as needed.
7. Conduct a final review of the program in May of each year.
8. Continue to seek additional funding opportunities to support and grow the program.
9. Complete all reports on the program.

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.

Budget Category	Yearly Cost	Total 3 year Project Period
Personnel- Peer Recovery Support Specialist (Salary and Fringe)	\$47,000	\$141,000
Association for Recovery in Higher Education – Annual Membership and Conference	\$5,000	\$15,000
Tuition, books and emergency assistance	\$25,833.33	\$77,500
Social activities and meals for participants	\$3,000	\$9,000
Educational/Office Supplies	\$1,000	\$3,000
Program evaluation	\$1,500	\$4,500
Total		\$250,000

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them.

1. The WV Collegiate Recovery Network offers peer recovery support services on nine higher education campuses. This project is supported by federal State Opioid Response funding, which originates from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This Collegiate Peer Recovery Network is a project of the Alliance for the Economic Development of Southern West Virginia is a joint venture among West Virginia's southern colleges and universities to better connect the educational resources and workforce training offered in southern West Virginia to promote the region, eliminate redundancies and share best practices, and improve the quality of life for area residents.
2. University of Charleston, Dr. Lindsey Acree, Executive Director of Experiential Education and Assistant Professor at the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy provides Naloxone for us to distribute during our trainings.
3. Jobs & Hope West Virginia is the state's comprehensive response to the substance use disorder crisis. Established by Governor Jim Justice and the West Virginia Legislature, this program offers support through a statewide collaboration of agencies that provide West Virginians in recovery the opportunity to obtain career training and to ultimately secure meaningful employment.
4. WV DII (Drug Intervention Institute) plays a crucial role in enhancing our program by offering comprehensive training sessions and providing essential resources through their "One Boxes." These resources are specifically designed to support our campus needs, ensuring that both faculty and students have access to the tools and information necessary for success.
5. The Pretera Center for Mental Health has established a partnership with West Virginia State University (WVSU) to offer treatment options and referrals for current students. This collaboration aims to enhance mental health support and services, ensuring that students have access to the care they need during their time at the university. Through this partnership, students can receive comprehensive mental health care tailored to their individual needs.

6. Please identify the anticipated leadership of the proposal and upload/attach their resume(s) or CVs

1. Kellie Toledo, Director, Counseling and Wellness Services, will provide oversight to the grant, CREW programs and the PRSS.
2. Peer Recovery Support Specialist will provide direct services to students, and naloxone and Ally Training, coordinate campus programing, and develop partnerships with recovery programs to assist their participants with transitioning to college.
3. Dr. Leighann Justice Davidson, Assistant Professor, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, College of Professional Studies

7. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted

To ensure the long-term success and sustainability of CREW, we have developed a comprehensive plan that addresses financial stability, community engagement, and programmatic resilience.

1. **Diverse Funding Sources:** We will seek funding from multiple sources, including federal and state grants, private foundations, individual donors, and corporate sponsorships. This diversified approach will reduce our dependency on any single funding stream and enhance our financial resilience.
2. **Alumni Network:** Increased alumni engagement is vital for the sustainability of the CREW.
3. **Community Connections:** Building relationships with local recovery organizations and advocacy groups will expand our support network and increase awareness of the CREW's services.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement.

West Virginia State University is a diverse, 1890 land-grant institution that advances knowledge through access and opportunity, innovative teaching and learning, interdisciplinary research, and impactful service. Our learners are equipped to meet the economic and social needs of the state, region, and nation, and contribute solutions to complex global challenges.

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities

Describe the history of your organization.

West Virginia State University was founded under the provisions of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 as the West Virginia Colored Institute, one of 19 land-grant institutions authorized by Congress and designated by the states to provide for the education of black citizens in agriculture and the mechanical arts. West Virginia was one of the states that maintained segregated educational systems at that time.

From 1891 to 1915, the original Institute offered the equivalent of a high school education, vocational training, and teacher preparation. In 1915, the West Virginia Collegiate Institute began to offer college degrees. Under the leadership of President John W. Davis, the academic program was expanded and new buildings were constructed, and in 1927, the Institution was accredited by the North Central Association; in 1929, it became West Virginia State College. Over the next decades, WVSC became recognized as one of the leading public institutions of higher education for African-Americans.

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court gave its historic decision outlawing school segregation. The consequence of this decision for West Virginia State College was a rapid transition to an integrated institution serving a predominantly white, commuting, and older student population. Enrollment quadrupled during the following decades.

Meanwhile, by a decision of the West Virginia Board of Education, WVSC was compelled to surrender land-grant status, the only one of the 1890 institutions to do so. Only after a 12-year effort was the college's land-grant status fully restored, in 2001 by an act of Congress.

In 2004, the West Virginia Legislature approved WVSC's transition to University status. With a rich history, and promising future, WVSV is positioned to become the most student-centered research and teaching, land-grant university in West Virginia, and beyond.

Tell us about your current programs and activities:

The support from the Statewide Opioid Response Grant has been instrumental in advancing our efforts to combat the opioid crisis and support those affected within our community. By funding a dedicated Peer Recovery Support Specialist, the grant has facilitated personalized guidance and encouragement for individuals in recovery. It has also provided essential supplies, enabling us to conduct Naloxone training and Ally training, which are crucial for equipping individuals with the skills to respond to overdose situations and foster a supportive environment. Weekly support meetings have been established, offering a consistent space for individuals to share their experiences and receive emotional support. The grant has also supported campus and community awareness programs, amplifying the message about the

importance of prevention and recovery. Naloxone overdose kits have been distributed on campus, ensuring immediate access to life-saving medication. Additionally, wellness programming funded by the grant has promoted overall health and well-being, while creating spaces for students to connect with one another and build a supportive network. Through these multifaceted initiatives, the grant has significantly enhanced our capacity to provide support to students pursuing their degrees. Unfortunately, the SOR funding has expired, and losing this financial support will negatively impact the robust services we have offered through the CREW program.

3. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Kanawha County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s).

West Virginia State University Research & Development Corporation currently manages a portfolio of approximately \$40,000,000.00 in grant funds, including a Kanawha County Public Safety Grant (10/16/23 to 10/15/24 for \$20,303.00).

Please see attached document including other grants managed by the WVSU R&D Corporation. Counseling and Wellness Services received SOR Grant funding of \$40,000 per year for the past three years. This funding ended in March 2024.

4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:

WVSU Senior Staff Members:

Ericke S. Cage, President

Deborah, Williams, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Eric L. Jackson, Vice President and Chief of Staff

Justin McAllister, Senior Vice President for Strategic Finance, Operations and Chief Innovation Officer

Dr. Lee Young, Vice President for Enrolment Management and Student Affairs

Patricia Schumann, Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Ami Smith, Vice President and Dean and Director for Agricultural Research and Extension

Nate Burton, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

Alice, Faucett, General Counsel

WVSU Research and Development Corporation

Ms. Kimberly Duff, Executive Director/Director of Business and Finance, WVSU R&D Corporation

WVSU Board of Governor's

Mr. Mark Kelley, Chair

Mr. Ian Flores, Vice Chair

Ms. Tracey McKibben, Secretary

Mr. Andrew Marcum, Student Representative

Mr. W. Lee Greenhowe, Member

Mr. Duke Jordan, Member

Mr. Michael McClung, Staff Representative

Mr. James Payne, Member

Dr. Jeff Pietruszynski, Faculty Representative

Mr. Lester Raines, Member

Dr. Lateef Y. Saffore, Member

Mr. Vic Sprouse, Member

5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:

Ms. Kellie Toledo, Director, Counseling and Wellness Services – Ms. Toledo is the Director of Counseling and Wellness Services. CREW is part of this department. Ms. Toledo will oversee the staff person and all activities related to the program.

Dr. Leighann Davidson will coordinate evaluations of the program by utilizing surveys and focus groups. These methods will be used to gather insights and provide guidance on the program, identifying areas that may need adjustments or improvements.

The Peer Recovery Support Specialist will provide the day to day services for the CREW Program, including providing peer support, education and training for campus faculty, staff and students, and community members.

6. Please upload/attach the following financial documents, if applicable:

Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year

--

Two years of audited financial statements

Current operating budget

3679

3673

If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant

--

7. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.

N/A

8. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization within the last three years

WVSU Counseling and Wellness services has received funding for our CREW program from the Statewide Opioid Response grant (SOR). Three significant accomplishments for the CREW Program are: 1. Have a full time Peer Recovery Support Specialist to support students in recovery; 2. Provide Naloxone and Aily Training to our campus community; 3. Foster connections and relationships with community agencies to provide additional support and resources for CREW students.

Supplementary Information

1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference.

Ms. Susan Mullens, Project Director, WV Collegiate Recovery Network, mullens20@marshall.edu

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County's review.

3680