

Objective

The National Standard of Canada for Mental Health and Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students (<https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/studentstandard/>) (the Standard) — the first of its kind in the world — is a set of flexible, voluntary guidelines to help post-secondary institutions support the mental-health and well-being of their students. In Québec, schools also have the option to follow the Québec Action Plan on Student Mental Health for Higher Education (<https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/politiques-orientations/plan-action-sante-mentale-des-etudiants>) (Québec Action Plan).

Bell Let's Talk funding enabled the creation of the Standard under the leadership of the Mental Health Commission of Canada and in partnership with the Canadian Standards Association.

In 2021, the Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund launched to help post-secondary institutions accelerate their important and ongoing work to support student mental health and well-being.

Funding Details

Post-secondary institutions can now apply for a grant of up to \$100,000 to fund programs identified in the institution's gap analysis and support alignment with the guiding principles and models of the Standard or the Québec Action Plan. Funding is available to support projects for one or two years.

Eligibility

The Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund supports initiatives that improve student mental health and support the institution's journey to align with the Standard or Québec Action Plan.

Projects must:

- Demonstrate the institution completed a gap analysis to highlight those areas that require further work to meet the requirements of the Standard or Québec Action Plan;
- Clearly explain how the grant will help offset the costs to activate the institution's project to align with the guiding principles and models of the Standard or Québec Action Plan;
- Support projects that will help the institution close an identified gap and support their efforts to align services with the Standard or Québec Action Plan;
- Demonstrate a financial commitment of cash or in-kind by the institution in aligning services with the Standard;
- Incorporate student and/or student association feedback into their project, or students and/or student associations who were involved in the development of the project.

Applicants must agree and adhere to the terms and conditions as stated in the online application form, including the completion of an annual stewardship report.

Eligible institutions:

Canadian not-for-profit educational institutions which have recognized degree/diploma-granting powers, or their affiliates (e.g. universities, colleges/cégeps, polytechnics, technical institutes).

All eligible institutions may apply, including those who received the one-time \$25,000 Kickoff Grant. However, if your institution received a Grant in the last 12 months, you are not eligible to apply this year.

Exclusions

The following are not eligible for funding:

- For-profit institutions
- Business or contract fundraisers, individuals, families, and political parties
- Private clinics

- Event sponsors
- Capital campaigns

Administrator

Universities Canada, in partnership with Bell, administers the Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund. Universities Canada's mandate is to facilitate the development of public policy on higher education and to encourage cooperation among universities and governments, industry, communities, and institutions in other countries. Universities Canada is associated with leading firms in nearly every sector of the economy through its provision of scholarship services and management of more than 130 different scholarship programs on behalf of corporations, government agencies and private foundations throughout North America. For additional information, please visit www.univcan.ca.

Bell Canada retains the right to change and/or end funding without notice.

Selection Process

Mental health leaders and educators in communities across Canada provide guidance and advice in the selection of Post-Secondary Fund recipients.

Evaluation criteria:

- Strength of the project proposal and feasibility of it to close an identified gap in mental health services which aligns with the guiding principles and models of the Standard or Québec Action Plan;
- Details within the budget demonstrate that Bell Let's Talk funding will be used effectively and efficiently;
- Application demonstrates a deep understanding of the Standard or Québec Action Plan

All applicants will receive confirmation by email of the results of the selection process, once available.

Successful Applicants

The completed application must be submitted by the application deadline on or before 3:00pm EST on June 21st, 2023. Successful grant recipients will be notified in December and publicly announced in early 2024.

Institutions will be required to complete a stewardship report by October 15, 2024 (and by October 15, 2025, for two-year projects).

Grant Payments

Grants will be paid in full in January 2024.

Contact Us

For inquiries about the Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund, email postsecondarymentalhealth@univcan.ca