



School Mental Health Collaborative Graduate Student Research Award

The School Mental Health Collaborative (SMHC) Graduate Student Research Award is a \$1,000 scholarship designed to support the research activities of a graduate student in School Psychology who is conducting a thesis or dissertation on a topic relevant to school mental health. Any area of research related to school mental health may be supported by the SMHC Graduate Student Research Award. Special consideration will be given to projects that address key SMHC objectives: (a) identify the risk and protective factors for youth mental health; (b) develop and test practices to promote well-being and prevent mental health concerns; and (c) design strategies to enhance the adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices to promote mental health.

Award Amount: A maximum of \$1000 will be awarded to one student, to support their research activities related to a study with a budget period of one year.

Guidelines for Proposal: Research applications should not exceed ten (10) typed pages (double-spaced, 12 characters per inch, one-inch margins). The proposal should be consistent with current APA style guidelines. Organize the proposal as follows: (a) Abstract, (b) Introduction, Rationale, and Significance of Study, (c) Methodology (sample, procedures, planned analyses), (d) Key References (not to exceed 2 pages; excluded from page limit), (e) Budget and Brief Narrative Justification, (f) Mentorship Plan and Study Timeline, and (g) Applicant Biosketch/CV (not to exceed 2 pages; excluded from page limit). The application must include a letter of support from the student's major professor. This letter (excluded from page limit) must attest to the feasibility of the research strategy, the mentor's availability to act as an advisor throughout the study, and whether the student's advisory committee has approved the thesis or dissertation proposal. If not yet approved, the mentor should specify the anticipated proposal date which must be on or before June 15, 2026.

Information Regarding Budget for Expenses: Within section (e) Budget, include justification regarding each item's relevance to the research project. Example budget items include: travel for data collection, research materials, participant incentives, photocopying, and hourly stipends for research assistants. The budgeted period may begin anytime in the 2025-26 academic year (Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Summer 2026) and generally will not exceed a 12-month period. Funds are anticipated to disperse around May 1, 2026. Costs incurred within six months prior may be included in the submitted budget, in which case the student would be reimbursed for already expended funds.

Evaluation Criteria: Each of the following underlined criteria will be evaluated on a 7-point scale: Significance of Study (does the project address an important issue in school mental health?), Innovation (are the concepts, approaches, or interventions novel and/or advance existing practice/research?), and Study Design (are the Sample, Methods, and Planned Analyses appropriate to answer the research questions)? Each of the following will be evaluated on a 3-point scale: Mentorship Plan, Applicant Qualifications, and Reasonableness of Budget.

Dissemination: After the study is completed, a brief report of the study purpose, methods, findings, and implications should be submitted for posting on the SMHC website <https://smhcollaborative.org/>

Submission Instructions and Notification of Awards. Proposals must be submitted by 11:59pm EST on January 30, 2026. Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals by March 15, 2026. The complete application should be converted to a single PDF file with the sections organized in the order listed above, and emailed to the SMHC Center at the University of South Florida: smhc@usf.edu. The file should be labeled with the applicant's name, followed by the advisor's name and the date of submission (e.g., Doe_Beckman_1-29-26.pdf).