

**To:** NJ Institutions of Higher Education, Undergraduate & Graduate Students  
**From:** NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education  
**Date:** April 2, 2025  
**Subject:** Call for Student Applications—OSHE Mental Health Ambassadors Program

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We are pleased to announce the launch of the *New Jersey Higher Education Mental Health Ambassadors Program*. This student-centered initiative aims to promote mental health awareness, empower students to lead advocacy efforts on their campuses, and build a statewide peer-network dedicated to improving mental health culture across the state.

**As Mental Health Ambassadors, students will:**

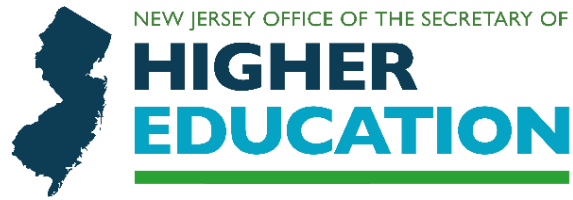
- **Lead peer advocacy efforts**, fostering campus-wide support for mental health.
- **Help plan the NJ Statewide Student Mental Health Summit**, a Fall 2025 convening that will bring together students, mental health professionals, and community organizations to promote mental health at higher education institutions across the state.

**Program Highlights:**

- **Eligibility:** Open to full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students at accredited New Jersey institutions of higher education.
- **Program Duration:** June – October 2025
- **Time Commitment:** 15-20 hours per month
- **Stipend:** \$2,000
- **Application Deadline:** May 15, 2025

We ask institutions share the opportunity widely with students and encourage them to apply. Application link: [https://oshe.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2afeKhITwuh3BSm](https://oshe.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2afeKhITwuh3BSm). For more information or questions, please contact [Jacqueline.Campbell@oshe.nj.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Campbell@oshe.nj.gov).

*Please see the call for applications attached.*



## **Call for Applications: New Jersey Higher Education Mental Health Ambassadors Program**

***Applications due May 15, 2025. Reviewed on a rolling basis.***

### **Program Overview:**

The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (NJ OSHE) is pleased to announce the launch of the Mental Health Ambassadors Program, a student-centered initiative dedicated to understanding and improving the mental health of New Jersey's college students. This program includes two core components: first, ambassadors will engage in discussions and advocacy efforts among their peers, fostering campus-wide awareness and support for mental wellness. Second, they will take an active role in planning and executing a student-led statewide convening in Fall 2025. The NJ Statewide Student Mental Health Summit will bring together students, mental health professionals, and community organizations to share best practices and advance mental health advocacy across New Jersey's higher education institutions. By elevating student voices and perspectives, OSHE aims to gain deeper insights into the challenges and opportunities surrounding student mental health while empowering students to lead meaningful change at both the campus and statewide levels.

### **Program Vision:**

- Promote mental health awareness within higher education institutions across New Jersey.
- Equip students with the tools to lead mental health advocacy efforts and reduce stigma on their campuses.
- Build a peer network committed to improving mental health culture at colleges and universities across the state.

### **Ambassador Responsibilities:**

- Participate in training sessions hosted by NJ OSHE to enhance advocacy skills and knowledge.

E-MAIL: [oshe@oshe.nj.gov](mailto:oshe@oshe.nj.gov)

LOCATION:  
1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625  
*New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education*

WEBSITE:  
[www.nj.gov/highereducation](http://www.nj.gov/highereducation)

- Develop and execute on-campus mental health awareness initiatives, collaborating with student groups and mental health professionals.
- Serve as a point of contact for students seeking mental health resources and engage in online campaigns to raise awareness about mental health.
- Lead the planning, development, and execution of the NJ Statewide Student Mental Health Summit in Fall 2025.
- Review and select proposals for Summit presentations, workshops, and discussions.  
*\*Ambassadors may also apply to present at the Summit, though presenting is optional.*
- Engage directly with speakers, presenters, and stakeholders contributing to the Summit.
- Attend the Summit and assist with event logistics, supporting speakers and presenters, and ensuring the overall success of the conference.

### Program Details:

- **Eligibility Requirements:**

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students at an accredited institution of higher education in NJ.
- Demonstrate a passion for mental health advocacy.
- Possess strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Be able to commit to the time requirements of the program, including attending training sessions and meetings, actively participating in campus initiatives, and planning and attending the NJ Statewide Student Mental Health Summit.

***Ambassadors will dedicate approximately 15-20 hours per month to program activities.***

- **Stipend:** Each Ambassador may receive up to **\$2,000** for their participation in the program.
- **Location:** The program will be primarily remote, with applications welcome from students across NJ. Required in-person events include a launch event in late spring/early summer, the Summit in October, and 1-2 additional workshops (detailed schedule to be confirmed).
- **Program Duration:** June – October 2025 (exact start and end dates to be confirmed).

### Program Benefits:

- **Advocacy Leadership:** Gain valuable experience leading mental health advocacy efforts, honing your ability to inspire change, organize initiatives, and advocate for mental health awareness on campus and beyond.

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- **Professional Skills:** Develop strong communication, teamwork, and organizational skills, as well as experience in project management, event planning, and public speaking.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with peers from other New Jersey institutions, mental health professionals, and community organizations, expanding your network for future opportunities.
- **Impact:** Make a tangible impact on your campus and within the state by contributing to meaningful mental health initiatives and the creation of the statewide Summit.

#### Program Subcommittees:

- Outreach and Communications
  - Develop branding, flyers, and promotional materials.
  - Manage social media and other platforms to ensure effective student outreach.
  - Craft communication emails, announcements, and messaging to maintain engagement.
- Peer Engagement and Community Building
  - Moderate and facilitate discussions on messaging platforms (e.g., Discord, WhatsApp).
  - Maintain ongoing communication within the ambassador network to sustain momentum.
  - Foster peer connections and engagement within the program.
- Summit Planning and Logistics
  - Coordinate with speakers, presenters, and stakeholders for the Summit.
  - Lead logistical efforts during the Summit, including managing volunteers and event execution.
  - Ensure smooth event operations and assist with problem-solving during the Summit
- Proposal Development Committee
  - Support students interested in presenting at the Summit.
  - Host bi-weekly office hours for proposal development.
  - Organize peer brainstorming and structured feedback sessions.
    - *We anticipate this subcommittee would be led by advanced undergraduate and graduate students or those who have demonstrated a knack for presenting*

#### How to Apply:

1. **Deadline:** All applications must be submitted via **Qualtrics** by the end of the day on **May 15, 2025**. Please access the application here: [Mental Health Ambassadors Qualtrics](#)

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## 2. Personal Statement:

- **Format:** Word documents (.docx) or PDF files (.pdf) preferred
  - **Length:** 500-600 words
  - **Prompt:** ***Why do you want to promote mental health awareness on your campus?*** In a brief, 500-600-word personal statement, explore one or more of the following questions:
    - ☐ What personal experiences motivate you to improve mental health awareness at your institution?
    - ☐ Are you passionate about a particular mental health issue? If so, why?
    - ☐ How would you describe the current culture surrounding mental health on your campus? What do you think is working well, and what needs to change?
3. **References:** Provide 1-2 references who can speak to your abilities, work ethic, and character. Possible references include professors, academic advisors, employers, or leaders of student organizations.
4. **Resume:** Highlight any relevant experiences, particularly in roles that involved initiative, teamwork, responsibility, community engagement, or mental health advocacy.

## Selection Process:

A committee from NJ OSHE will review all applications. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a group interview. Final selections will be based on the applicant's commitment to mental health advocacy, leadership potential, and alignment with the program's objectives.

## Questions:

For more information or questions regarding the application process, please contact Jacqueline Campbell: [jacqueline.campbell@oshe.nj.gov](mailto:jacqueline.campbell@oshe.nj.gov)

We look forward to receiving your application and working together to build a healthier, more supportive campus environment for all students.