

R627, First Responder Mental Health Services Grant¹

R627-1 The following policy has been codified² as Utah Administrative Code R765-627.

R627-2 References

- 2.1 Utah Code § 53B-8-117, First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program
- 2.2 Utah Code Title 49, Chapter 11, Utah State Retirement Systems Administration
- 2.3 Utah Code Title 58, Chapter 60, Mental Health Professional Practice Act
- 2.4 Utah Code § 53B-1-102, Utah System of Higher Education
- 2.5 Utah Code § 63G-4-402, Judicial Review – Informal Adjudicative Proceedings

R765. Higher Education (Utah Board of), Administration.

R765-627. First Responder Mental Health Services Grant.

R765-627-1. Purpose.

This rule outlines the requirements of and application process for First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program.

R765-627-2. Authority.

This rule is authorized by Section 53B-8-117.

R765-627-3. Definitions.

(1) “Academic Year” means the calendar year starting July 1 and ending June 30. For degree-granting institutions, this includes Fall, Summer, and Spring semesters of the corresponding academic year.

(2) “Board” means the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section 53B-1-402.

(3) “Eligible institution” means an institution of higher education as defined in Section 53B-1-102.

(4) “OCHE” means the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

(5) “Scholarship staff” means OCHE staff assigned to administer state scholarships on behalf of the Board.

R765-627-4. Award Requirements

(1) To qualify for the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant, an applicant shall be:

(a) A full-time employee or a retiree, as defined in Section 49-11-102, who is an active member of or has qualified for an allowance under the requirements of:

(i) Title 49, Chapter 14, Public Safety Contributory Retirement Act;

(ii) Title 49, Chapter 15, Public Safety Noncontributory Retirement Act;

(iii) Title 49, Chapter 16, Firefighters' Retirement Act; or

(iv) Title 49, Chapter 23, New Public Safety and Firefighter Tier II Contributory Retirement Act;

and

(b) Seeking a post-secondary degree or certification to become a mental health therapist, as that term is defined in Section 58-60-102, at an eligible institution.

R765-627-5. Application Process

(1) Applicants shall submit a grant application no later than June 30 before the fiscal year during which awards are made.

¹ Adopted XXX.

² This administrative rule is still going through the codification process and minor, non-substantive edits to conform with the Administrative Code may need to be made.

(2) Required Documentation. Applicants shall submit the following documents:

(a) The completed First Responder Mental Health Services Grant application published by OCHE;

(b) Documentation demonstrating enrollment in eligible public safety retirement program, as described in Subsection R765-627-4(1)(a);

(c) A description of the applicant's mental health services career objectives;

(d) A declaration of the applicant's intention to enroll in a program that leads to certification as a mental health professional at an eligible institution; and

(e) Other documents as outlined on the annual grant application or as requested by scholarship staff.

(f) Requirements in Subsections R765-627-5(2)(b) through (2)(f) may be included in the grant application described in Subsection R765-627-5(2)(a).

(3) To be considered for the award each year, applicants shall reapply annually.

R765-627-6. Grant Amounts.

(1) Subject to available funding, qualified applicants may be awarded a grant up to the cost of tuition and fees, with a maximum award of \$6,000 each academic year.

(2) A student may participate in First Responder Mental Health Services Grant for a maximum of four academic years.

(3) If the legislative appropriation is insufficient to cover the costs associated with the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program, the Board may:

(a) Reduce the amount of a grant; or

(b) Distribute grants on a pro rata basis to all eligible applicants who submitted all application material, as described in Section 5.2, before the application deadline.

(4) Institutions shall combine state or federal loans or grants, internships, student employment, and family and individual contributions toward financing the cost of attendance.

(5) The amount of the awards may be subject to funding or be reduced. This information shall be included as a disclosure on the application form.

R765-627-7. Transfers.

Recipients may transfer to the same program at another eligible institution and retain grant eligibility if they meet all requirements in Subsection R765-627-4. Transfer students are responsible for communication with financial aid offices at each institution and with scholarship staff in advance of the application deadline.

R765-627-8. Appeals Process.

An applicant has the right to appeal an adverse decision. Upon request by the student, the scholarship staff shall provide the student an opportunity to appeal an adverse decision to a committee of at least three impartial persons. All appeal requests must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the application notice.

R765-627-9. Reporting.

(1) As specified by OCHE, each institution shall provide, as part of an annual institutional financial aid file submission by February 28 of each year, data pertaining to applications, awards, program enrollments, utilization, funding, and/or other grant information for the most recently completed academic year.

(2) OCHE may, at any time, request additional documentation or data related to the scholarship program and may review or formally audit an institution's documentation and compliance with this rule.