**Call for Proposals: Universities of Wisconsin Student Success Mini Grants**

**Academic Year 2025–2026**

The Universities of Wisconsin is pleased to announce a call for proposals to extend one-time funding to facilitate the adoption, expansion, or improvement of practices to support student success. The goal of this funding is to promote collaborative approaches that advance student success strategies, enhance efficiencies and effectiveness, and/or implement process improvements to support holistic well-being, increase student retention, success, timely degree completion, and close achievement gaps. Proposals should align with unit/university strategic goals and priorities and advance the strategies in the [Universities of Wisconsin 2023-28 Strategic Plan](https://www.wisconsin.edu/president/download/StrategicPlan2023-28.pdf) to champion student success for all students across the higher education life cycle. The 2025-2026 Universities of Wisconsin mini grant initiative has a total pool of $75,000 available, and **one grant proposal per campus** will be accepted for consideration of up to $15,000.

**Areas of focus may include, but are not limited to:**

* Academic and career advising
* Mental health/well-being
* Veteran/military connected campus community engagement
* Specific student populations (e.g., first-generation college students, rural students, part-time students, student parents, dual enrollment students, adult learners, online learners, re-enrolling students, underrepresented students, transfer students, etc.)
* New student orientation/onboarding and First Year Experience
* Engaging parents and families
* Faculty engagement in student success
* Student basic needs
* Academic recovery, probation/suspension, and academic support
* Re-enrollment initiatives
* Increasing student engagement and sense of belonging

**Proposal Requirements:**

* Only one proposal can be submitted per campus per grant cycle and will be coordinated through the [Senior Student Affairs Officer](https://www.wisconsin.edu/student-success-leadership-groups/senior-student-affairs-officers/) and/or [Senior Strategic Enrollment Officer](https://www.wisconsin.edu/student-success-leadership-groups/senior-strategic-enrollment-officers/).
* Proposals should address the relevant evaluation criteria below and include a clear and concise project plan that outlines the objectives, methods, expected outcomes, and timeline of the project.
* Proposals should include a detailed budget and justification (support from literature, research, best practices, etc.) for the requested funds. If additional funding or university support is anticipated, then the proposal should include evidence that the funding and/or support has been secured.
* Awarded funds are intended to be spent within the fiscal year. However, given the later timeline this year, if your project requires a longer timeline please include this in your proposal justification. Once project funds are transferred to each campus, the expectation is that they will be used for project-related expenses, even if the project extends into a new fiscal year.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

* **Student Impact:** What is the project’s target population(s) and what is the anticipated impact on student success? What evidence exists to support the project’s approach?
* **Budget:** Are proposed expenses reasonable and necessary to meet project objectives within the budget limitations?
  + All funds must be used for direct project costs; indirect costs are not allowed.
  + Direct project costs cannot include anything that is part of routine office operations and is, or should be, covered by internal funding sources. Examples include general office supplies, technology equipment for staff, office supplies, and office furniture.
* **Feasibility:** Can the proposed project and plan be accomplished within the specified timeframe and within budget?
* **Goal Alignment:** How does the proposal work to meet the goals of the UW university’s strategic plan, the [Universities of Wisconsin 2023-28 Strategic Plan](https://www.wisconsin.edu/president/download/StrategicPlan2023-28.pdf), or other student success goals?
* **Assessment:** How will success be defined and what is the process and tools for assessment? What are the clear and measurable outcomes to be evaluated?
* **Collaboration:** What is the extent and nature of any collaboration? Does the proposal include a partnership with more than one department or office with shared goals for student success? Does the proposal include collaboration with other UW universities, or other educational or community partners? How does collaboration enhance the project goals and objectives?
* **Sustainability:** How will the project create lasting change or positive outcomes? How is this project, including funding, sustainable in future years?

**Application, Award Notification, and Mini Grant Distribution Schedule:**

* **Application Opening**: The 2025-2026 mini grant cycle will open September 2, 2025.
* **Application Deadline:** The deadline for submitting proposals is October 3, 2025.
* One grant proposal may be submitted per university, and applications must be submitted electronically by your SSAO or SSEO. Applications must conform to the Proposal Requirements listed above.
* **Review Process:** Grant proposals will be reviewed by a team at the Universities of Wisconsin Administration, based on the evaluation criteria listed above.
* **Notification:** Award recipients will be notified by October 17, 2025.
* **Grant Funding Distribution:** Once award notifications have been sent, the fund transfer process will commence.
* **Grant Reporting:** A progress report must be submitted to the Office of Enrollment & Student Success no later than May 29, 2026. A final report of outcomes will be due in December 2026.

We look forward to receiving your proposals. Please feel free to direct any questions to Kristen Jasperson at [kristen.jasperson@wisconsin.edu](mailto:kristen.jasperson@wisconsin.edu).