

Recipient:

Mid-America Christian University

Project Name:

Mental Health Counselor Training and Credentialing

Address:

3500 SW 119th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73170

Amount Requested:

\$850,000

Project Explanation:

Mid-America Christian University (MACU), Oklahoma City, OK, will address the significant and unprecedented shortage of trained and credentialed mental health counselors in Oklahoma that will serve the community and in particular, local military families. MACU will strengthen its existing Master of Science in Counseling degree program by recruiting and hiring highly credentialed faculty members.

This is a good use of taxpayer funds because Oklahoma is currently in a mental health and behavioral health crisis. There is a significant lack of trained and accredited counselors and centers to meet the need. According to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, there is a mental health crisis across the state ranging from lack of crisis centers to the need for mental health professionals. Mid-America Christian University's Master of Science in Counseling program, with more enrolled students than another college program in the state (approximately 165 students), will address this tremendous need by combining the University's private match funds with this federal investment in order to quickly recruit, train and hire more credentialed faculty members to address the lack of mental health counselors throughout the state. Without this program, a significant burden would rest on the state and federal government to provide its own resources to address this crisis. However, MACU offers an excellent track record of placing qualified counselors throughout the state who help to improve mental health and transform lives. This project will be sustainable through payment of the counseling center's patients and through the University's funding resources.

TOM COLE
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RANKING REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
VICE RANKING REPUBLICAN

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES –
RANKING REPUBLICAN
DEFENSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 27, 2021

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 2207 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6165
- 2424 SPRINGER DRIVE
SUITE 201
NORMAN, OK 73069
(405) 329-6500
- 711 SW D AVENUE
SUITE 201
LAWTON, OK 73501
(580) 357-2131
- SUGG CLINIC OFFICE BUILDING
100 EAST 13TH STREET, SUITE 213
ADA, OK 74820
(580) 436-5375

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for a Mental Health Counselor Training and Credentialing program in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Mid-America Christian University, located at 3500 SW 119th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73170. The funding would be used to address the significant and unprecedented shortage of trained and credentialed mental health counselors in Oklahoma by strengthening the university's Master of Science in Counseling degree program.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Cole", written over a horizontal line.

TOM COLE
Member of Congress