

USG HIPs Challenge Mini-Grants 2025

Overview:

The HIPS Challenge Mini-Grant Program will support institutions in strengthening their processes for validating, documenting, and evaluating HIPs on campus. This project will enhance System capacity through institutional exploration in these critical areas, ultimately benefiting faculty, staff, and students through improved tracking and assessment mechanisms. Up to 10 awards of up to \$5,000 each will be provided to institutions working in one of the following key areas:

- 1. Developing Protocols and Procedures for Reviewing and Evaluating HIPs Course Proposals:** Projects in this area will establish and document a scalable process for the review and approval of HIPs attribution for courses. Among other things, projects may include the creation of playbooks and workflows for review teams, documentation of evidence and definitions for individual High-Impact Practices and how these can be used to support proposals for course-level HIPs documentation. Creating structured guidelines for reviewing and documenting HIPs within the student information system ensures a consistent and transparent approach to recognizing HIPs across various departments and disciplines and ensures proposals for HIPs attributes meet the recognized requirements and expectations of the practice.
- 2. Documenting Procedures for Recording Course Attributes:** Projects in this area will develop and document clear processes for developing and tracking course attributes proposals, through to the documentation of the HIP in Banner, as well as processes for periodic re-affirmation of the attribute. Effective projects will support HIPs promotion, institutional reporting, and student engagement in HIP-designated courses.
- 3. Integrating HIPs across a program of study, or into General Education:** Projects in this area will outline and document the implementation for integrating courses with High Impact Practices across an entire program of study or into General Education (or both). Specific focus should be on creating clear pathways for students by embedding HIPs into courses within their program of study, with the intensity of these practices increasing as student advance on their academic journey.
- 4. Assessing and Evaluating HIPs in the Classroom:** Projects in this area will design and document methods for evaluating HIPs to measure their impact on student learning and success. Evaluation procedures should extend beyond the application of existing VALUE (or other) rubrics to include processes around documentation, specifications for different disciplines, and the use of measures to improve practices.

Successful projects must produce guidance documents, templates, playbooks or other artifacts that can be shared with other institutions to aid in System implementation efforts. These resources will serve as a foundation for best practices and contribute to a broader effort to institutionalize HIPs effectively.

Additionally, programs will be reviewed on the following criteria: feasibility, institutional impact, student impact, scalability, and sustainability. These resources will serve as a foundation for best practices and contribute to a broader effort to institutionalize HIPs effectively. **Projects must be completed by June 1, 2026.**

Institutions may submit up to three proposals; each proposal must affirm approval by the Provost's office. Proposals should be submitted online <https://usgsurveys.usg.edu/zs/0rC4by> by March 21, 2025.

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Application Guidelines:

Institution:

Primary Contact Name, Title & Email Address

Project Title:

Is this project new or continuing existing work? [new] [continuing]

1. Area of Focus (Select One):

- Developing Protocols for Reviewing and Evaluating HIPs
- Documenting Procedures for Recording Course Attributes
- Integrating HIPs across a program of study, or into General Education
- Assessing and Evaluating HIPs in the Classroom

2. Project Description:

Please provide a detailed overview of your proposed project, including its primary objectives, goals, and expected outcomes. Describe how the project will be structured and how it aligns with the institution's broader efforts to enhance HIPs. Explain any anticipated challenges and strategies to overcome them (max 750 words).

3. Institutional Need and Impact:

Explain how this project aligns with your institution's goals and the anticipated impact on students and faculty. Describe the current gaps or limitations in your institution's HIP implementation and how this project will address those needs. Where possible, include data or examples to illustrate the importance of this initiative and the number of students impacted (max 450 words).

4. Work Plan and Timeline:

Outline key activities, milestones, and expected completion dates. Provide details on who will be responsible for each stage of the project and any collaboration with other departments or institutions. Ensure that the timeline reflects a realistic plan for project completion within the grant period (max 1000 words).

5. Deliverables:

List the guidance documents, templates, or other artifacts that your institution will develop and share. Describe how these materials will be designed to support other institutions in implementing similar initiatives and how they will be distributed (e.g., public repository, institutional networks, workshops).

6. Budget Justification:

Provide a detailed breakdown of how the requested funds will be used to support the project. Categories may include personnel support, technology (one-time expenses), materials, training, or other necessary expenses. Clearly outline why each expense is essential to the project's success. Your budget must align with institutional rules for state-appropriated funds.

7. Sustainability Plan:

Describe how the institution plans to sustain the project's impact beyond the grant period. Include strategies for institutional adoption, faculty engagement, and long-term integration of the developed resources into standard practices. Discuss potential funding sources or institutional commitments to maintain the initiative.

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Submission Information:

Applications must be submitted online at <https://usgsurveys.usg.edu/zs/0rC4by> by March 21. Please forward any questions to jonathan.hull@usg.edu. Awards will be announced by April 4th, 2025.

This program represents an opportunity for institutions to strengthen their High-Impact Practices and contribute to a growing body of knowledge and best practices that will benefit students and educators across multiple campuses. We look forward to reviewing your proposals and supporting innovative approaches to HIPs implementation.