![Cleveland State University logo]

SafeVikes: A Culture of Prevention

Campus Student Safety Grant Program

Andrew Pausch-Taylor, Senior CARE Manager, Division of Student Belonging and Success

Dear Grant Review Committee,

Cleveland State University respectfully requests funds from the ODHE Campus Student Safety Grant to expand expert-led Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) training and strengthen a campuswide culture of prevention. Rising referrals across CARE, Counseling, Community Standards, Residence Life, and CSU Police highlight the need for earlier, more consistent responses that keep students safe, learning, and connected to support. This proposal funds comprehensive behavior intervention training by a national organization widely known to be the industry standard for evidence-based BIT training. Grant funds will support evidence-based training, tabletop exercises and targeted consulting to align early identification, triage, and case-management across units, so students receive help sooner and potential crises are de-escalated before they disrupt classes or campus safety.

The student impact is direct and measurable. Earlier intervention shortens the time from concern to care, reduces crisis severity, and lowers the likelihood that students disengage or miss coursework. Consistent, evidence-based decision-making increases confidence in university processes and improves collaboration among staff and faculty who support students every day. The project embeds a campuswide culture of prevention by establishing durable capacity through shared tools and rubrics, updated procedures, and ongoing access to training resources so improvements are institutionalized, persist beyond the grant period, and continue to benefit future cohorts.

We respectfully request $50,000 to cover on-site trainings, access to professional training, resources, and consulting to equip campus personnel and student leaders with practical, evidence-based tools for safety and threat management.

Campus Student Safety Grant Program Application

Program purpose: *Through the Campus Student Safety Grant Program, ODHE seeks proposals from state institutions of higher education and private nonprofit institutions of higher education to enhance security measures on their campus and increase student safety. ODHE will prioritize funding institutions that demonstrate increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment towards students and student organizations.*

Section I – Applicant(s) Information:

Title of Project: SafeVikes: A Culture of Prevention

Name(s) of Institution(s) and/or organization(s) involved with the proposal: Cleveland State University

Partnership and Fiscal Agent Information:
- Is this a joint application with another eligible institution?
  ☐ Yes
  ☒ No

- If yes, which institution will be serving as the fiscal agent for the agreement?
  N/A

The institution listed above agrees to serve as the fiscal agent and assumes full responsibility for receiving and managing grant funds, if awarded. This includes signing the grant agreement, and ensuring compliance will all applicable requirements.

Primary Institutional Contact
This individual will serve as the main point of contact for all programmatic and administrative matters related to the grant. For applications involving more than one institution the primary contact should be located at the campus serving as the fiscal agent for the funding.

Name: Andrew Pausch-Taylor
Title: Senior Care Manager - Division of Student Belonging & Success
Address: 2121 Euclid Avenue, Student Center 319, Cleveland, OH 44115-2214
Phone Number: 216-327-8093
Email Address: a.w.taylor57@csuohio.edu

Secondary Institutional Contact
A secondary contact is only required if two institutions are partnering on a joint proposal. This individual should represent the partnering institution and serve as a point of contact for coordination and communication.

Name: N/A
Title:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Authorized Legal Signatory (if different from the primary institutional contact)

This individual has the legal authority to sign the grant agreement on the behalf of the institution receiving grant funds. For applications involving more than one institution the authorized legal signatory should be located at the campus serving as the fiscal agent for the funding.

Name: Dr. Tachelle I. Banks

Title: Vice President, Student Belonging and Success

Address: 2121 Euclid Avenue, Student Center 319, Cleveland, OH 44115-2214

Phone Number: 216-965-7705

Email Address: t.i.banks@csuohio.edu

Amount of funding requested: $50,000.00

Please review the cover sheet for eligibility criteria, important dates, and legal notices before submitting your application.

Section II. Project Design

1. In the past two years, CSU has experienced numerous student and campus crises, ranging from incidents of gun violence, physical violence due to ideological differences, hate speech, to student hospitalizations, mental health emergencies, and violence between students. Case Management data from student-facing departments demonstrates an elevation in incidents related to student safety, as well as increased reports of student mental and emotional distress resulting from issues of violence, harassment, and discrimination. Incidents of politically motivated violence on the national stage have prompted numerous case referrals regarding students fearing the local manifestation of such violence, presenting additional challenges related to the perception of safety and subsequent impact on student engagement in normal campus activities. CSU staff must be able to effectively contextualize student experiences of crisis and distress within a broader framework for risk-management that supports the safety and well-being of individual students and student organizations.

2. Many offices have been involved with supporting students and student organizations at CSU, including the Cleveland State University Police Department, Office of CARE Management, Deans Office, Presidents Office, Office of Community Standards and Compliance, Office for Protected Rights, and the Counseling Center, each of which engage in case management activities and the provision of student resources and support. The institution also maintains a Community Assessment Response and Evaluation (CARE) intervention team facilitated by the Office of Care Management that includes representation from over 20 campus departments, administrative groups, and campus safety personnel, designed to provide early identification of risks to student wellbeing and safety and connection to appropriate supports. The CARE team allows ongoing information-sharing with regular, formal opportunities for campus partners, including faculty, staff, students, law enforcement, and community members, to identify students in crisis, distress, or significant need. Case management supports are provided directly by the

Office of Care Management staff, who provide individualized risk assessments for every student referral. This data has demonstrated a significant increase in number of student cases classified as "severe" in the past two years, requiring immediate intervention and the creation of robust support plans.

3. To coordinate an effective institutional response during and following a crisis event, the university must be able to leverage industry expertise to deploy targeted resources and supports that minimize disruption of and mitigate risk to the campus community. As such, this proposal seeks funding through the ODHE Campus Student Safety Grant Program to strengthen campus-wide readiness and collaboration in preventing and responding to potential acts of violence, hate crimes, terror threats, or harassment targeting students and student organizations. Improvements to the campus infrastructure for risk-management will promote improved identification of potential safety risks, the construction of stronger intervention protocols, and enhanced collaboration with campus personnel through the provision of industry-standard resources, training, and guidance unique to CSU's institutional context. Thus, the proposed program seeks to 1) reduce the number of crisis-level safety events with improved prevention practices, 2) provide a improve framework for assessing and responding to crisis-level events that would threaten student and campus safety, and 3) expedite the resolution of crisis-level issues while mitigating their negative impact to students and the campus community.

4. Cleveland State University maintains an enrollment of roughly 14,000 students. Offices involved in the provision of student supports and prevention of student safety issues are accessible to and responsible for institutional efforts that support the entirety campus community. The Office of Care Management receives approximately 1,000 referrals for students experiencing disruptions, safety concerns, or wellbeing issues each semester (Fall & Spring), with the Counseling Center, Office for Protected Rights, Office of Community Standards & Compliance, and Dean of Students collectively managing additional hundreds of student issues related to safety and wellbeing each semester. Expanding the capacity and quality of institutional efforts to

support students through widespread accessibility to trainings, resources, and industry-standard supports for staff members has the potential to impact the entire student body through improved quality of service and the reduction of safety issues with a potential to impact the entirety CSU community.

5. In the past two years, CSU has experienced numerous student and campus crises, ranging from incidents of gun violence, physical violence due to ideological differences, hate speech, to student hospitalizations, mental health emergencies, and violence between students. Cleveland State University Police data and Case Management data from student-facing departments demonstrates an elevation in incidents related to student safety, as well as increased reports of student mental and emotional distress resulting from issues of violence, harassment, and discrimination. This data has demonstrated a significant increase in number of student cases classified as "severe" in the past two years, requiring immediate intervention and the creation of robust support plans.

6. Non-Applicable

Section III. Project Rationale

1. Through a strategic partnership with the National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment (NABITA), CSU will implement a combination of on-campus training, membership access, and expert consultation designed to build sustainable safety infrastructure. The project includes three days of NABITA training, a NABITA Super Membership, and 10 hours of off-site consulting to equip campus personnel and student leaders with practical, evidence-based tools for safety and threat management. This proposal integrates NABITA's nationally recognized training programs to align with the ODHE Campus Student Safety Grant priorities. Each NABITA course meets one or more of the ODHE-identified eligible activities. Selected trainings include:

   NABITA BIT Standards and Best Practices (Two-Day Training): Strengthens interdepartmental collaboration and standardizes threat assessment practices campus-wide. Supports ODHE's priorities to enhance student safety on-campus.

   Threat Management Course (One-Day): Provides structured frameworks for identifying, assessing, and mitigating threats. Supports ODHE's goal for educational training that mitigates violent crime or harassment risk towards students and student organizations.

   Additionally, the NABITA Super Membership includes ongoing access to trainings, resources, and supports for continued refinement of higher education risk management programs.

2. A comprehensive training for the prevention, identification, and resolution of student crises (mental, physical, and emotional) represents an area of critical institutional need for Cleveland State University. The SafeVikes prevention program is designed to equip core university staff with a comprehensive awareness of industry best-practices for risk management in higher education. While the institution maintains established protocols through campus police, Student Affairs, and Behavioral Intervention "CARE" Team (BIT), there remain opportunities to enhance communication, consistency, and coordination among safety stakeholders. This project directly

addresses those needs through standardized training, cross-departmental exercises, and expert consultation to ensure preparedness and proactive risk mitigation.

3. The short-term impacts will be an improved intervention and response strategy for dealing with active and potential safety issues within the CSU community. NABITA trainings will provide research-supported intervention strategies to provide faster and better engagement with students and student organizations experiencing harassment, bullying, discrimination, violence, or distress. The long-term effects of the program include an improved capacity of CSU staff to properly address threats to student safety, with a greater proportion of campus personnel having access to training and resources to support the identification of student safety issues, and an increase in prevention activities that reduce crisis-level events through early identification, improved risk assessment, and the provision of more robust supports within a research-informed overarching framework to address student and campus risk.

4. CSU maintains a fully functioning campus police department dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of all students, faculty, and staff. The department has established an open-door policy to encourage regular communication between student organizations and campus police regarding any security concerns or incidents. This approach fosters a collaborative relationship where students feel comfortable voicing issues, seeking guidance, and working together with law enforcement to maintain a secure campus environment. Beyond traditional law enforcement functions, the campus police department also operates a therapy dog program, which has proven beneficial during moments of stress or following difficult events. This outreach includes visits to student organizations, where the therapy dog provides emotional support and helps strengthen the bond between student groups and campus officers. In addition to the services provided directly by CSU's police department, the university also coordinates with local law enforcement agencies when necessary, such as the municipal police or sheriff's office, to address broader security concerns or incidents that extend beyond campus boundaries. This

partnership ensures a comprehensive safety network and demonstrates the university's commitment to proactive, multi-layered security measures. Additionally, the Viking Watch program, created in collaboration with underrepresented and at-risk student populations, underscores intentional efforts by CSU to improve relationships between students, student organizations and campus police to enhance campus safety.

5. CSU is not requesting funds to support security improvements to physical structure within this grant proposal.

6. CSU is not seeking to partner with an external security partner within the scope of this proposal. While the proposed trainings are offered by a third-party institution, NABITA, the organization is not providing security for an event, program, or meeting.

Section IV. Project Plan

1. The key partners of the Risk Reduction and Behavioral Intervention Training program are comprised by the university's core CARE Team membership, which includes representatives from Housing & Residence Life, the Office of Community Standards and Compliance, CSU Police, the Dean of Students, Office of Care Management, Office for Protected Rights, Counseling Center, Office of Disability and Testing Services, and a variety of other student-support departments on campus. The primary responsibility for the coordination and execution of program trainings, including participant and content selection, timeline, and the development of outcome metrics, is vested in a partnership between the Office of Community Standards and Compliance (CSC) and Office of Care Management (OCM), both of which are housed within the Division of Student Belonging & Success at CSU. Additional professional areas represented on the core CARE Team will assist with the identification of local personnel for representation and participation in on-campus trainings and provide ongoing feedback and requests for resources afforded to the institution through the NABITA Super membership, custodial access

for which will be managed by the Office of Community Standards and Compliance and the Office of Care Management in conjunction with division leadership.

2. This initiative emphasizes capacity building, consistency, and collaboration through onsite training, off-site consulting support and access to excessive resources, training, and materials through NABITA Super Membership. This collaboration exists between both internal stakeholders (Office of Care Management, Office of Community Standards & Compliance, CARE Team Members, Division of Belonging & Student Success Leadership, CSU Police) and external stakeholders (NABITA). The following goals and intended outcomes are identified in partnership between CSU and NABITA.

 I. Goal 1: Strengthen cross-departmental collaboration among safety stakeholders: including Police/Security, Student Support Personnel, CARE Team Members, Title IX, Compliance, and Student Leaders—through shared frameworks and training.

 II. Goal 2: Expand institutional capacity to identify, assess, and manage potential threats or concerning behaviors using evidence-based tools and standardized approaches.

 III. Goal 3: Build long-term sustainability for safety efforts through ongoing NABITA membership access, resource sharing, and policy consultation.

3. Timeline & Activities

 I. Phase 1 – Launch (Award → January 15th 2026): Kickoff, participant selection, baseline assessment, finalize training logistics, schedule trainings.
  Key Partners: Baseline Assessment (OCM & CSC), Training Logistics (OCM & CSC), Participant Selection (Core Care Team), Schedule Trainings (Division Leadership)

 II. Phase 2 – Capacity Building (Jan 2026- June 2026): Deliver 3-Day NABITA Training, conduct collaborative exercises, begin consulting hours.

Key Partners: NABITA Trainings (NABITA, OCM & CSC Facilitate), Developmental Activities, Departmental Coaching (OCM & CSC), Collaborative Exercises (OCM, CSC, CARE Team, Division Leadership), Consulting Hours (NABITA facilitated, OCM, CSC, CARE Team, Division Leadership participation)

III.   Phase 3 – Institutionalization (Duration of Contract): Integrate NABITA resources, complete consulting, submit final report of progress indicators/metrics, including:

• Number and diversity of participants trained

• Participant feedback and knowledge gains

• Implementation of updated policies or workflows

• Use of NABITA tools and training materials across departments

• Evidence of cross-functional engagement and collaboration, including CARE Team engagement metrics.

Key Partners: Ongoing implementation, assessment, and data tracking (OCM & CSC), ongoing participation and localized implementation of NABITA tools (CARE Team members in their respective areas).

Section V. Previous Award Status

Cleveland State University has not received funds through the Campus Student Safety Program.

Ohio Department of Higher Education

Campus Student Safety Grant Program

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

*The primary contact for the institution applying for the grant is required to complete and submit this with the grant application.

Recipient Name	SafeVikes Program - Cleveland State University
Date	11/11/2025
Primary Contact Person N	Andrew Pausch-Taylor
Primary Contact Person T	Senior Care Manager
Primary Contact Person F	216-327-8093 216-875-9787
Primary Contact Person E	a.w.taylor57@csuohio.edu

Please provide costs budgeted in the following categories. The total of all categories must equal the total of all costs budgeted for the grant period. Please note, the total budget cannot exceed the grant award.

Type of Security Expenditures (ex. security camera)	Budgeted Amount
1. NABITA Super Membership (1 Year)	$5,500.00
2. Off-Site Consulting (10 Hours)	$5,500.00
3. NABITA 3-Day On-Campus Training	$39,000.00
4	$0.00
5	$0.00
6	$0.00
7	$0.00
8	$0.00
9	
Total	$50,000.00

Budget Narrative

Please explain the estimated costs by budget line item. The narrative should be written in such a way that someone not specifically familiar with the project can conceptually understand the rationale, purpose and calculation of the anticipated costs identified. Please keep the list in the narrative in an order consistent with the categories listed above. **For joint proposals**: The budget narrative should clearly indicate how funds will be used across all participating institutions or organizations. Please specify which partner is associated with each cost, where applicable.

Insert Narrative Here:

1. NABITA Super Membership (1 Year)	An institutional membership through the National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment, the leading organization for higher education risk management and standardization of Behavioral Intervention Teams. This membership is priced at $5,500, and would afford Cleveland State University a number of benefits, including 1) ongoing access to essential training materials, resources, and risk assessment tools to effectively guide risk management practices for all employees working student-facing areas of campus, 2) access to certification courses to bolster staff capacity to deal with high-risk students and situations, and 3) access to new research related to higher education risk management to aid in the ongoing adjustment of university procedures commensurate with evolving industry standards.
2. Off-Site Consulting (10 Hours)	As Cleveland State University navigates various transitions and structural adjustments, additional guidance is needed to effectively apply risk management trainings to a reorganized university landscape. Consulting provided by NABITA, billed at $5,500 for 10 hours of consulting, would allow tailor-made structural suggestions for the updating and reorganization of university procedures to better reflect industry best-practices for reducing risk and improving safety in higher education. Access to resources and trainings is only meaningful to the extent that CSU is able to tailor their application to CSU's unique context and positionality as a public, regional, urban university in downtown Cleveland. As such, in-depth consulting provided by the leading organization for behavioral intervention in higher education constitutes an essential need to bolster student safety through the refinement of processes, policies, and procedures related to risk, safety, and crisis management, and includes a strong focus on sustainability for adjustments in practice as a result of engagement with training, consulting, and institutional NABITA membership.
3. NABITA 3-Day On-Campus Training	The primary strategic thrust of the SafeVikes program is to better equip university personnel capacity to improve student safety through early intervention strategies that address potential risks to the campus community. Cleveland State University has been afforded an opportunity to provide three days of intensive on-campus training by industry experts at NABITA, including a two-day intensive workshop to identify and apply the best practices for Behavioral Intervention Teams (BIT) and a one-day training related to the usage of risk assessment tools to prevent violence on campus, including the Structured Interview for Violence risk Assessment (SIVRA). Both of these trainings would help to provide essential training to a large number of campus personnel in a short amount of time, establishing a firm foundation for a critical mass of student-facing administrators to reference best-practices in higher education risk management, both within the initial trainings, and supplemented by ongoing usage of tools, techniques, and practices provided within the NABITA Super Membership. While consulting services will provide specific guidance related to the adjustment and creation of relevant risk-management polices and procedures, on-campus trainings provide an opportunity for in-depth trainings to be provided on a large scale, commensurate with available budget. The larger the allocation, the more student-facing administrative staff can receive intensive training. NABITA has offered to provide three days of on-site training for a cost of $13,000 per day, for a total of $39,000. This amount reflects the cost of speaker fees, transportation, and training materials provided by NABITA. These trainings will meet FERPA, Clery Act, ADA, and Title IX standards, and provide robust context for elevating student safety and compliance with local, state, and federal directives to the forefront of institutional awareness.
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