



## Request for 2024 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

### BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name:

Create Date:

Due Date:

Submitter Name:

UW Email Address:

Phone Number:

Department Head Approval:

Department Head:

Requested Amount:

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

The Childcare Assistance Program (CAP) offers grants to student parents with financial need (determined by Financial Aid) to assist childcare costs for autumn, winter, and spring quarters. Students utilize a childcare facility licensed through the Department of Early Learning in order to be eligible. There are exceptions for student parents with extenuating circumstances (i.e. specialized care for a physically/mentally disabled child/children), or whose child/children are enrolled in a public school before/after program, or YMCA/JBLM. This is in alignment with UW Seattle practices. We are looking to increase funding for full-time students are eligible for up to \$1,000/quarter and part-time students are eligible for up to \$800/quarter. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis; after verifying enrollment and financial need, funds are disbursed after the 14th day of the quarter. Students are required to provide proof of payment to the approved childcare provider listed on their application. Additional funds (\$800) will be used for marketing and promotional supplies.

### CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

The CAP request is in alignment with the University of Washington Tacoma's Strategic Plan as it is in alignment with three impact goals. The first being "Student," second is "Communities," and the third "Equity," Vital to the strategic plan are programs and services made available to for all learners and our goal is to be inclusive to students such as parents who face financial challenges. First, students are at the forefront of this endeavor as this request is submitted on behalf of the student caregivers of UW Tacoma. By providing additional financial assistance to our students who identify as caregivers we fulfill the impact goal in strengthening persistence to graduation for all student populations. In addition, we increase student awareness of and satisfaction with the availability and accessibility of UW Tacoma resources, support, and infrastructure as we help to alleviate financial barriers. Moreover, our communities are strengthening as we expand access to higher education through increased partnerships, awareness of community support services, and increased numbers of student graduation with high-impact community engagement and leadership. Through awareness of challenges students may face as caregivers we strive to support and create pathways towards graduation. CAP participants are empowered as they gain belonging and ownership within the UW Tacoma community and this is vital to their academic achievements. Lastly, equity is a key impact goal in the strategic plan and is in alignment with CAP as providing financial assistance improves the satisfaction of traditionally underrepresented students including those that care for children. By providing financial assistance for childcare we hope to help ease the financial burden and reduce disparities in learning achievement.

### SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Our goal is to continuously help support the student caregiver population with the Childcare Assistance Program. One way that we continue to build community for our student caregivers is through Huskies & Pups. An official UWT RSO that after a gap in participation during the start of the pandemic has begun hosting events once again in 2022-2023. Our former CAP Student Assistant, Divine Yagumyum, spearheaded efforts to gather student caregivers across campus in collaboration with both CAP and Huskies & Pups. From Zoom formatted application workshops/ brainstorming sessions to an activity night on campus where students and kids were invited to craft in a relaxing environment.

As well as continuing to build community, our CAP Student Assistant position, was established to help with programming and start dialogue around the issue of childcare on campus. At the start of the last academic year we had the opportunity to meet with Jai'shon Berry, former ASUWT Director of University Affairs, to discuss and brainstorm ways to tackle the issue of childcare on campus. Additionally, we continue discussions with campus leadership surrounding the future goal of a childcare center on campus. One collaboration we look forward to annually is UWT Gives where with the Center for Service and Leadership we provide gifts for student parents in need around the holidays.

Another burgeoning opportunity we are excited for is the Child Watch Program at the UWT YMCA. In collaboration with our community partners at the YMCA we are looking forward to a highly discounted childcare opportunity for UWT parents to use while they are attending classes on campus during the week. We are hoping for a Spring 2024 start to this program as licensing and permitting is finalized.

**STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)**

This academic year (2022-2023) we had 16 CAP participants who completed all required documents to receive grants. In the 2021-2022 academic year we were able to utilize HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds) with the assistance of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Mentha Hynes-Wilson, and the Director of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships, Victoria Hill-Ouhl. We distributed over \$12,000 to 7 CAP participants in need of additional childcare funding. We heard directly from those that received additional funding how vital it was for their continued success as a student caregiver.

Also, we anticipate the need for the CAP program to increase over the next academic year as many employers return to in person operations; as well as university courses likely transitioning from remote and hybrid options.

Lastly, the cost of childcare in Washington state is among some of the highest in the nation (Economic Policy Institute- see attached) and in turn weak for appropriate funding in order to help our student caregiver population succeed.

**COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS**

Students participating in the Childcare Assistance Program are asked to complete additional survey questions at the end of their online application. These questions help the program to better understand the needs of our current student community as well as how we can better serve them. The goal through these surveys is better serve student parents while navigating their education experience, as well as providing feedback and suggestions for the Childcare Assistance Program. Students are also welcome to send feedback throughout the year in any form. Moreover, representatives of the CAP program have met with several department/units, participated in tabling events, and attended campus wide events to educate students, staff, and faculty of this program.

**SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS**

Testimonials have demonstrated that CAP is a valuable resource to nontraditional students. It has made it so that students are able to attend school and maintain employment. Through the testimonials, we have learned that we have provided valuable networking opportunities, resources, and grants that help to enrich the college experience.

UW Tacoma is in the top 10 most diverse colleges in Washington, 68% receive financial aid, 43% are Pell grant eligible. A more general look of Student Demographics from the Institute for Woman's Policy Research shows that 22% of college students are student-parents, 55% are single parents, and 53% of them have child(ren) under 6-years-old. The need for assistance from the UWT community for our student caregivers is evident.

While UWT student body demographics of student-parents are not made readily available CAP recognizes that there is valuable research that supports our mission of assisting with childcare costs and the direct impact that has on our campus population and community members of all ages:

While parents may drop out to take care of family and self, in general, completing college results in significant long-term improvement. (Wladis et al., 2018)

Parents who attend college tend to pass more favorable views of college onto their children who tend to have a higher sense of belonging in college. (Marksteiner and Kruger, 2016)

Not only does the ability to pursue a degree in higher education benefit the individual student but the influence of their success may have huge influence on future generations of college-age students as well.

**Staff Budget Requests**


Category	Details	Amount Requested
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$0

### Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Copy Charges	S001 <b>\$250</b>
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	For supplies, raffles, etc.	S002 <b>\$800</b>
Aid, Grants & Subsidies Given	CAP Grants \$1,000 per quarter x 3 quarters x 30 students = \$90,000	S003 <b>\$90,000</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$91,050</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$91,050
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$91,050</b>

### Supplemental Documents


COST OF CHILDCARE IN WA