

Request for 2026 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Student Life

Create Date: 02/06/2026

Due Date: 02/06/2026

Submitter Name: Kelly Tyrrell

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Phone Number: 2536924901

Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Bernard Anderson

Requested Amount: **\$20,800**

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. 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.

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 student 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. Due to limited funding our concentrated efforts for programming in the last year has been focused on simply funding student caregivers. In the future, with more funding, we hope to build community in these ways:

- Huskies & Pups, an official UWT RSO that after a gap in participation we hope to revitalize if renewed interest and capacity for involvement strengthens
- The outreach plan for our current academic year includes a continued effort with our program lead and our partners at the YMCA to build towards reopening a childcare center at the UWT YMCA, regular check-ins to help build community within a group that often feels forgotten, and hosting a 'bring your kid to campus' event prior to the start of the 2026-2027 academic year.
- UWT Gives where with the Center for Service and Leadership we provide gifts for student parents in need around the holidays

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

This academic year (2025-2026) we had 10 CAP participants who completed all required documents to receive grants; in years past we have funded anywhere from 14-20 students depending on the quarter. We have received strong positive feedback from our student caregiver community regarding the rise in funding sources thanks to the generosity of SAFC. Prior to the 2024-2025 academic year we were funding applicants \$600-400 per quarter but now we are funding \$1,000-800 per quarter per applicant to keep up with the rising costs of childcare.

As of winter quarter 2025 we have exhausted all funding given to CAP by SAFC and will not be able to fund any further applicants this quarter. We will notify applicants of spring quarter 2026 that they will not receive any CAP funding.

Also, we anticipate the need for the CAP program to increase over the next academic year as the cost of childcare is still on the rise, Washington state being the highest in the nat. Lastly, the cost of childcare in Washington state is among some of the highest in the nation.

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. Our main focus is departments/ staff that have the most contact with students when they first arrive on campus: financial aid, admissions, and advisors. The lead way we receive feedback from our student caregivers is through direct contact with the program lead: emails, phone calls, office visits where we talk through application materials, finding childcare and other resources in the community, and discussing the issues affecting our community in general (high childcare costs, bringing kids to school with us, etc.). By engaging with this community the program lead is able to pass on information to others as well as tailor CAP to best serve students.

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 often 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.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
	PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Aid, Grants & Subsidies Given	4 percent increase from last year's approved amount	S001 \$20,800
	SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$20,800

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$20,800
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$20,800

Supplemental Documents
