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## Special Allocation Request: Wellness Vending Machine


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**From** Matthew Menchavez <mmench96@uw.edu>

**Date** Thu 4/30/2026 10:24 AM

**To** UWT SAFC <safcuwt@uw.edu>

**Cc** Ina Mohajerani <inamoh@uw.edu>

 1 attachment (18 KB)

Wellness Vending Machine Special Allocation Request.docx;

Hello and Good Morning SAFC, Committee,

My name is Matthew Menchavez and I am the Health Promotion Specialist here at UW Tacoma. I am reaching out to inform you that I am submitting a Special Spring Allocation for the Wellness Vending Machine. I am attaching the request to this email. Please let me know if you need anything else from me or if you need further information. Please also refer to the Student Health Services' secondary annual allocation request. Thank you and have a great rest of your day.

Regards,

**MATTHEW MENCHAVEZ MPH, CHES** (He/Him/His)

Health Education/Health Promotion Specialist

Psychological & Wellness Services (PAWS)

Division of Student Affairs

University of Washington Tacoma

Box 358423

1900 Commerce Street, MAT 354, Tacoma, WA 98402

Main: 253.692.4522 / mmench96@uw.edu / <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/paws>

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## Spring Special Allocations Request (Wellness Vending Machine)

**Request Title:** Wellness Vending Machine

**Request Description:** The Wellness Vending Machine provides a wide range of low cost emergency contraception and health supplies intended to support students in maintaining their well-being and preventing the spread of disease and unintended pregnancy.

### **Special Allocations Criteria:**

The Wellness Vending Machine (WVM) at UW Tacoma supports student well-being by providing a wide range of health and medical supplies intended to reduce harm and prevent the spread of disease. In 2024, Student Health received a grant from the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) to provide emergency contraception, Narcan, and fentanyl test strips through an on-campus vending machine. Students have access to items such as eye drops, Tylenol, and Benadryl to support their well-being in a cost-effective and convenient manner. In lieu of an on-campus health clinic, the WVM offers the closest alternative option to health services. The WVM is contracted and maintained by SimpliChek, a higher education-focused health solution company.

This special allocation request is to fund the annual contract fee for the SimpliCheck Wellness Vending Machine.

### **Student Utilization:**

Student Health remains committed to providing convenient and affordable health care supplies for UW Tacoma students. Considering the lower resource status of many of our students, many of whom might not be able to either afford health supplies or have adequate transportation to safely get to and from their local health store. This program aims to fill gaps in increasing access to health-related support in students' lives. Access to a wide range of health supplies supports student well-being by offering barrier-free access to supplies considered essential to the safety of developmentally appropriate college student experiences. Sex, intimacy, illness, and injury are a normal part of life, and stigma-reducing experiences with accessing on-campus health supplies can make a positive impact on well-being while simultaneously contributing to a stickier campus.

### **Special Allocation – Statement of Assurances**

The WVM program continues to be a convenient, low-cost option for UWT students to access essential health supplies. Should this program discontinue, students would be at a loss for accessing affordable, essential medical supplies including but not limited to emergency contraception, Narcan, and allergy and pain medications. We intend to use these funds as soon

as they are awarded to pay the annual contract fee so that the program can continue with little to no interruption.

### **Service Benefits to Students**

The WVM is considered an evidence-based strategy to provide low-cost and low-barrier health supplies for students. This is an evidence supported recommendation and endorsed by the Masters-level Health Promotion Specialist and is in-line with holistic models for student support in higher education. It directly enhances student well-being by providing on-campus access to low-cost health supplies, which positively impacts academic performance, success, and retention. Items like covid-tests, pregnancy tests, and emergency contraception are not always easy to find nor affordable. Having the Wellness Vending Machine on campus allows students to access these items at cost and in a discreet location.

Since its formal introduction to the campus community in Fall Quarter 2025, there have been 81 transactions total. Some of the most utilized items from the WVM are deodorant - 9 units, Cadence Morning After Pill (emergency contraception) - 8 units, and Cadence Early Pregnancy Test (2 tests) - 8 units. Additionally, 28 boxes of free Narcan have been distributed through the WVM.

Students and other patrons of the WVM are not required to provide user feedback. That being said, user data provided by SimpliChek indicates that there is strong demand for reproductive and sexual health products. Some of the highest volume items are Cadence Early Pregnancy Test, Cadence Morning After Pill (emergency contraception), and Opill (daily oral contraceptive). Other user data suggests that there is a need for small convenience-sized essentials like the deodorant and Emergen-C (Vitamin C).

Overall, the Wellness Vending Machine not only provides a convenient physical location on campus to give students better access to essential low-cost health supplies, it also fulfills the greater need to engage in evidence-based health promotion practices to address the challenges that come with supporting students in an urban commuter-based college setting.

**Budget request: Contract year 2 (03/01/2026 to 02/28/2027): \$7,200.00**