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**SFRB EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST FOR FY21**

**1. Briefly explain the areas that you intend on prioritizing and allocating the SFRB funding towards (after 18.36% cut).**

The Children’s Campus currently spends approximately 89% or $2,473,400 of its total budget on salaries and benefits in order to continue to provide high quality care and to meet the child to adult ratios required by NM State Childcare Licensing and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), our accrediting body. The prioritized funding provided by student fees will continue to offset the salaries of our Student Employees, Work Study Students, and partially offset the salaries of our Childcare Workers, who help support Teacher Aides and Lead Teachers including implementing activities, interacting with the children, classroom maintenance, and COVID related expenses. Presently, the UNM Children’s Campus employs approximately 50 individuals that are either student employees or regular staff enrolled in UNM classes each semester. This funding, in turn, also enables the Children’s Campus to provide student families with a 5%, 10%, or 25% discount off the staff and faculty childcare tuition rates as indicated in the chart below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tier** | **Undergraduate Credits** | **Graduate Credits** | **Discount** |
| **1** | 1-3 | 1-2 | 5% |
| **2** | 4-8 | 3-5 | 10% |
| **3** | 9 and above | 6 and above | 25% |

Student discounts are determined by the number of credit hours for which a student parent is enrolled. Utilizing this tiered-rate system allows for alignment with the University goals to increase retention and graduation rates and to reduce the time required for student parents to earn their degrees.

Without the support of Student Fees, student parents would be responsible for the full cost of care, or as much as $6,225 per semester ($1,245 per month) for full-time infant care. Student parents eligible for the full 25% discount on childcare tuition rates pay approximately $4,670 per semester ($934 per month). The student rate offered by the Children’s Campus still falls below comparable centers in the community and includes formula, table food, diapers and wipes, benefits not offered in most childcare centers across the state. For a student parent, the cost of childcare tuition for one child, even with the support of SFRB funding, can be a challenge, and potentially a barrier to completion of a degree program. When added to the cost of tuition at the University, graduation could become out of reach for some families.

Research indicates that student parents with access to campus-based childcare have shown a success rate that is 26% higher than that of the general student population (Institute for Women’s Policy Research). The UNMCC currently has the capacity to provide campus-based care for the full time equivalent of 271 children. However, our waitlist currently has more than 1,700 children waiting for services, with UNM students receiving priority on the wait list.

**2. What areas will not receive funding due to the budget cut? Why are these critical to your operations?**

The budget decrease impacts the ability for the Children’s Campus to continue to offer student discounts at its current level and heavily impacts the ability to maintain the ~50 student employees that are currently hired by the UNM Children’s Campus. These positions are critical to the operations of the UNMCC in order to maintain a high-quality education setting while also ensuring that mandatory adult to child ratios are met in each classroom. New regulations and Covid Safe Practices (CSPs) have further reduced ratios and group sizes and have increased the need to maintain these positions and to purchase personal protective equipment. The UNMCC maintains developmentally appropriate staff to child ratios in order to promote quality interactions and education for young children. Research has consistently shown that lower child to adult ratios and smaller group sizes result in higher program quality and more positive outcomes for young children.

This budget cut would result in a decrease in staffing and would not allow the Children’s Campus to function at its normal capacity (271 FTE child care spaces). In turn, this would decrease the number of children served and have a direct impact on the amount of student parents that are enrolled in our facility. In Spring 2015, the Children’s Campus conducted an IRB-approved survey of UNM student parents with the goal of assessing and determine the needs of student parents at UNM and determined that 80% of student parents needed childcare with 82% that would consider placement at the UNMCC if there was availability. This data supports the ongoing need to maximize capacity at the Children’s Campus as well as to ensure that children and student parents have access to high-quality education services with qualified teaching staff.

1. **How will you use the emergency funding (if awarded), to address your critical needs?**

The UNM Children’s Campus (UNMCC) is requesting emergency funding to support the salaries of the approximate 50 student employees hired as Classroom Student Assistants each semester as well as the student discount offered to student families. In 2019, the New Mexico Legislature passed the Minimum Wage Act, increasing the minimum wage to $10.50 an hour beginning January 1, 2021. Based on our current student staff structure, the Children’s Campus is anticipating a substantial increase in student salaries as a result of this change. This emergency funding will be utilized to offset the anticipated increase in salaries. If awarded, the following line items will be offset by SFRB emergency funds: *Student Salary (20J0)*: $40,000 towards Student Employee and Work study salaries; *Other Supplies (8060):*$18,729 towards supplies to ensure the implementation of CSPs**,** amounting to $58,729.00.