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

All of the SFRB funding El Centro receives is directly returned to students in various forms, therefore this was a very challenging task, especially considering the budget cuts the last several years. The following are the priorities identified for funding after instituting the budget cut:

* El Puente Research Fellowship – Undergraduate Portion
* Summa Academia – Graduate Program
* Transformar Fellowship – Undergraduate and Graduate
* Emergency Scholarships – Undergraduate and Graduate
* Raza Graduation and other critical programming

Prioritizing needs has to do with the commitments we have already made for cohort program participants, the impact to students across the board, and to be able to serve as many diverse students as possible. Additionally, we have cornerstone events such as Raza Graduation that our campus and students look forward to and are vital to maintaining tradition despite the changes due to COVID-19 and budget challenges. All of our programming is designed from a cultural lens, so it is important to maintain specific programming for students. Finally, we have prioritized keeping the IT student staff position since much of our needs are now on-line and our full-time staff does not have the skills to maintain our website and assist in this critical area.

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

Due to budget cuts, we have had to reduce the following for FY21:

* Student Staff – Typically, we hire 8 - 10 students on work-study except the IT position since their responsibilities require specific skills.
* Professional development travel cancelled – El Puente and Transformar (29 students)
* El Puente Research Fellowship – Graduate Fellows reduced from 3 to 2
* Cut all 15 professional development scholarships in the amount of $300 each
* Cut all 5 student organization and department funding support in the amount of $300 each
* Graduate emergency scholarships – reduced from $550 to $450. Additionally, the number of recipients has been reduced from 18 students to 12 students.
* Undergraduate emergency scholarships recipients reduced from 24 students to 18.

El Centro strives to serve students in various and diverse capacities, as we are responsible for working with the largest population at UNM. Our collection of programs have been designed to support students very intentionally. They range from cohort – year-long, intense, weekly and competitive programs to one-time or stand-alone activities such as Raza Junta our welcome back days, to Wellness, Professional Development and culturally driven workshops or weekly study sessions throughout the academic year. This allows for students to choose from a variety of activities that best support their individual needs.

For decades, El Centro prided itself on the student staff we employ. Over the course of the last several years we have worked diligently to increase professional development opportunities for student staff, and we instituted the Student Leadership Academy. Within this program, we have developed a Performance Evaluation and Event Planning form where student staff outline goals to advance El Centro’s mission as well as their own professional development. While students are earning a paycheck and invaluable skills, they are essential, the heart, and the face of El Centro. Their responsibilities include greeting all guests who visit El Centro, coordinating and assisting in student programming and most importantly, they help guide our center to ensure that we continue to remain student centered and a “home away from home” for students.

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

If awarded this emergency funding, El Centro will hire student staff to continue to support all students and meet our mission. While it is challenging to work in this COVID-19 reality, we recognize the importance of the support and work that students bring to the table. El Centro needs to have student staff to be able to maintain the number of students and families that we reach annually (~14,000 per FY19), and we only are able to do so because of the effort from student staff. Moreover, many of our students do not have the luxury of attending college and depend on their parent’s financial support, instead they seek scholarships and work study employment to be able to continue their education and stay involved, while still providing support for themselves and their families. Being able to hire student staff is a double reward. Student employees gain critical skills and they in turn can provide support to other students. Often student staff serve as mentors, tutors, consolers, tour guides, and ambassadors for the university while helping create and provide an open door for all who come to El Centro.

Since working remotely, we have had student staff on board and thus far they have shown their commitment and have done an exceptional job. Our future is still uncertain as we are not 100% sure that we will be working on campus on a limited basis this semester or completely remote. Therefore, it is essential to have student staff to coordinate online activities, promote social justice conversations, and continue to serve our students and community.

The last three years, El Centro invested an average of $38,000 in student salaries, including student employment, for the entire fiscal year with about half the staff working in the summer. This request is for $16,300 which will allow us to hire students but only during the academic year with limited hours.

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| **El Centro de la Raza SFRB Budget Sinopsis** | | | | | |
| **FY18** | **FY19** | **FY20** | **FY21** | **Total Reductions since FY18** | **Total Reductions FY20 to FY21** |
| $172,747 | $163,118 | $150,069 | $116,391 | $ 56,356 | $ 33,678 |