**SFRB EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST FOR FY21**

**Due Date: Friday, July 24th, 2020 at 5 PM**

**Email to: sfrb@unm.edu**

1. Briefly explain the areas that you intend on prioritizing and allocating the SFRB funding towards (after 18.36% cut).
2. What areas will not receive funding due to the budget cut? Why are these critical to your operations?
3. How will you use the emergency funding (if awarded), to address your critical needs?

Note: Emergency funding will be granted on a one-time basis and is intended to be used for critical services that were already requested in the SFRB FY21 process.

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GEO is requesting SFRB emergency one-time funding in the amount of $6,425 which were funds already requested and granted in the SFRB FY21 process. This entire amount will go to continue to fund the 3 student employees (2 Project Assistants and 1 student hourly employee) who support orientation, social, informational and community programming for UNM International students. If we do not receive this funding we are likely to have to cut at least 1 of these student positions, as our previously awarded SFRB funds in the amount of $35,000 (now cut to $28,575) were already insufficient to cover the total cost of these positions ($40,162). Given other budget cuts (and an extreme drop in student fees paid to the unit, which have heretofore supplement these services), we will not have the additional funds needed to keep these student positions which are critical to our operations. Allow me to explain why these student positions are so critical.

The effects of the global pandemic have been particularly hard on international students. Current UNM international students have been unable to travel home or have traveled home, but are now uncertain if they will be able to return to the US to resume their programs in which they have invested so much time, energy and money. US embassies have been closed for visa appointments since the beginning of the pandemic and throughout the summer, which is the busiest time of the year, leaving new international students scrambling to plead for emergency visa appointments to arrive in time to begin their fall programs. The US government first introduced, then rolled back, and now remains silent on the rules that international students will need to follow for fall semester which begins in less than one month.

Amid all this uncertainty, the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) section of GEO has been meeting with panicked students over Zoom and has been providing information, resources and support throughout these changing circumstances and regulatory requirements. We have created community for incoming international students by dividing students into small cohort groups and meeting regularly with them over the past several months virtually to provide orientation, and to update them on the latest news about UNM operations, US government regulations and their changing options for fall. We have been working to find quarantine housing for new students who are moving to New Mexico without any connections here, aside from their admission to UNM.

Throughout the spring and summer, the student employees who are partially funded by SFRB and partially by GEO have *been critical to this effort to support*, orient, educate, communicate, and connect international students to each other, to campus resources, and to the Albuquerque community. Each student has led their own new student cohort group and has helped to create new materials and means of assisting current and incoming international students.

In the upcoming year, due to all the uncertainty for international students, it is even more critical that we have the support of these 3 student employees to continue these outreach programs. The funding for these student positions if provided by SFRB will allow us to continue to provide programming via virtual delivery methods. The student employees will coordinate and manage our culture, work and practical workshop series’ that help international students adjust to life at UNM and in the US. They will continue to create new social opportunities for students to connect with others and to volunteer in the ABQ community. They will also continue to run our Lobo Friend buddy program that pairs international and domestic students for friendship. All of these programs have now become more challenging to plan and coordinate due to social distancing requirements, so are expected to take even more time and effort to achieve their stated objectives.

We absolutely need these emergency SFRB funds to continue to pay for these important student employees who are critical to our efforts to help UNM international students continue to navigate the changing educational, regulatory and public health landscape. We sincerely request that SFRB provide this emergency funding in the amount of $6,425.