

2010-2011 SAF Application

Office of Financial Aid/ Division of Enrollment Management

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Summary

One barrier student-parents face is the need for childcare while working on completing a degree. For the past seven years, the Services and Activities Fee has helped assist high-need student-parents with these costs through the Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP). This proposal is a request to continue and increase support for qualified applicants.

Program/ Service Need

Without some form of childcare assistance, many student-parents are simply unable to attend school. Although financial aid helps pay for tuition and fees, any financial aid assistance for childcare is in the form of student loans. As UW Bothell grows, so does the population of non-traditional students -- who have different needs and barriers than traditional college students -- and university services must expand to support them.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, we were able to award only 11 students (10 in full, 1 partially) before funding was exhausted. This is only about 40% of students who applied for 2009-2010 CCAP funding.

The chart below details the continued need for childcare support at UW Bothell, and the increase in number of students applying each year.

	# of applications	# of students funded
2005-2006	20+	20
2006-2007	14	12
2007-2008	17	13
2008-2009	19	11
2009-2010	27	11

Assessment

At the close of each quarter, we require verification and documentation of childcare costs and receipts. By continually assessing awards to make sure they were distributed and used appropriately throughout the academic year, we ensure the integrity, accurateness, and effectiveness of the program. A lot of time and effort goes into verification of costs, and awards for subsequent quarters are not released until verification is approved.

Scope

With some marketing (flyers, Axis ads, email to current students spring quarter), this year we received 27 applications for the Childcare Assistance Program before we closed the program and stopped taking applications due to exhausted funding. Between the number of applications we received and the number of students who have inquired since the program closed, we estimate that this program -- with increased funding -- could easily serve 35 students next year. With additional marketing, we believe we could have around 50 applications for childcare funding.

There are no other sources of financial support for this program. However, costs associated with running the program -- printing, mailing, and staff resources -- are absorbed by the Office of Financial Aid.

Benefits

The benefit of this program is that if a student-parent receives CCAP funding, it will help eliminate a direct barrier preventing them from attending school and succeeding in their studies. Many parents cannot attend school, complete homework, and study unless they have some form of childcare. For some students, 40% in childcare assistance can mean the difference between attending UW Bothell or not attending, or attending fulltime instead of part-time. The benefits of this program are enormous and life-changing, because once the student-parents receive their degrees, they are more prepared to successfully support their families, and are demonstrating to their children that education is worth the effort and investment. The CCAP directly helps UW Bothell students achieve their educational goals, and in a broader sense, the importance of education is stressed to the younger generation and the Washington community becomes more educated.

21ST Century

The Childcare Assistance Program directly supports the 21st Century Campus Initiative in three of the initiative's areas: growth, student-centrality, and diversity.

GROWTH: As the fastest-growing university in the state, UW Bothell wants to serve the citizens of Washington by providing increased access to a premier university education. This includes reaching out to populations who have more barriers to overcome, and welcoming non-traditional students who have a different set of needs and priorities. The CCAP supports student-parents, a non-traditional population that will increase as UW Bothell grows. The program can also be used as a tool in recruitment efforts to attract non-traditional student populations.

STUDENT-CENTRALITY: Not only has UW Bothell made a commitment to grow, but it has made a commitment to grow with integrity, and to support the new populations it recruits. Student-parents have different needs than traditional students, and in order to support the growing student-parent

population, UW Bothell should assist with childcare. In addition, the 21st Campus Initiative directly states that the campus wants to address student-life issues, *including childcare services*. Childcare was identified as an area to support when the faculty, staff, students, and alumni drafted the initiative.

DIVERSITY: Diversity is another priority of the university. Focusing on diversity and recruiting a more varied population also means that the university is making a commitment to serve and support these populations. Diversity doesn't just mean ethnicity or gender or religion or sexual orientation; it also means age and life circumstances. Student-parents help contribute to the diversity on this campus, and they offer a unique perspective in the classroom.

Budget

\$46,500 – direct awards to students. This is the amount we needed in order to have funded the 2009-2010 applicants who applied by the deadline.

