



CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTERS

Student Fees Advisory Committee (SFAC)
One Time Allocation Request FY 2011-2012
Base Augmentation Request FY 2012-2013



University of Houston Children's Learning Centers
On Time Allocation FY 2012 and Base-Augmentation FY 2013 Request

We are presenting to the Student Fees Advisory Committee (SFAC) this One Time Allocation FY 2012 and Base Augmentation FY 2013 Request for the University of Houston Children's Learning Centers (CLC) which is a critical need in order for CLC to continue to help eligible UH student parents with their child care costs. In response to the UH Child Care Task Force recommendations, CLC opened a second location on campus in January 2011 and increased enrollment capacity from 153 to 226 children. With the added spaces for children at the Cameron location, the number of student parents requesting enrollment at CLC has also increased. Many of the student parents on the CLC waitlist are graduate student parents; often these parents are past CCAMPIS recipients who have graduated with an undergraduate degree and are now pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Houston.

Many student parents need child care tuition assistance. Our current SFAC funding allows \$40,000 annually towards this effort; additionally, we have \$100,000 from the Department of Education CCAMPIS grant for child care tuition assistance. The federal CCAMPIS funding is specifically designated for undergraduate students receiving the Pell Grant and there are many student parents who do not qualify for this option. Yet, there are still UH student parents who need assistance in paying for the cost of early childhood care and education, especially student parents in graduate programs.

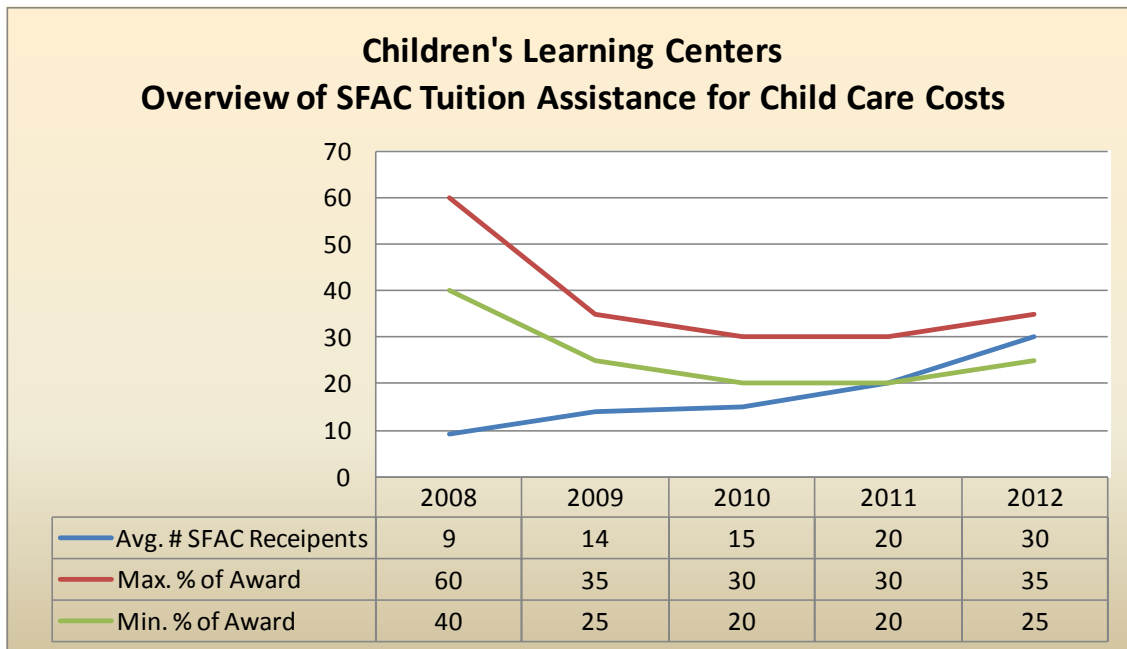
Supporting student success is a University goal, a strategic objective of the Division of Student Affairs and a commitment of CLC. The following quotes from student parents with children enrolled at CLC demonstrate how child care tuition assistance is making a difference by supporting parents to stay in school and earn a degree.

"An advantage of having child care tuition assistance is that I will be able to take my full course load instead of taking fewer classes and finishing my degree later, I can now finish in a timely manner." Excerpt from SFAC essay,

"If I receive SFAC assistance, I will be able to apply myself to my studies, not be late or miss class, and be closer towards graduation." Excerpt from SFAC essay

CLC has been very prudent in our utilization of financial resources that we obtain from SFAC and we realize that a One Time Allocation and Base-Augmentation requests are for "critical priority" items only. We know that the availability of quality affordable early childhood care and education is vital for the student parent's success; we also recognize that it is critical for CLC to remain financially solvent by meeting our objective to increase our enrollment to capacity.

We are requesting a \$25,000 One Time Allocation for FY 2012 and a \$25,000 increase to our base SFAC funding of \$116,417 for FY 2013; this would bring our total SFAC funding to \$141,417. As the graph below demonstrates, the number of CLC student parents awarded SFAC assistance continues to grow each year, from 9 in fall 2008 to 20 in fall 2011, while at the same time though, the percentage of weekly assistance to reduce child care costs has dropped from a “maximum of 60%” to a “maximum of 30%”. Our goal with any additional funding is to increase the number of awards to approximately 30 families who can receive child care tuition assistance with up to a maximum deduction of 35% in weekly costs.



CLC has ongoing/open enrollment; however, by September 2011 we had used our semester allotment of SFAC funds for child care tuition assistance and had to turn down families for the first time ever. These families then had to decline enrollment at CLC and are now back on the waitlist for the spring semester hoping for assistance at that time, while CLC still has openings for enrollment.

The table below offers an overview of the SFAC child care tuition assistance provided since fall 2008. Our current SFAC allocation for child care tuition assistance is \$40,000 which is divided into \$15,000 for each of the fall and spring semesters with \$10,000 remaining for the summer semester. As seen in the table we are serving 20 families in fall 2011 for a total of \$16,025.25 in SFAC child care tuition assistance which is why we have had to deny some families assistance. A One Time Allocation FY 2012 and Base Augmentation FY 2013 would positively impact our ability to assist student parents.

University of Houston Children's Learning Centers <i>Overview of SFAC Child Care Tuition Assistance</i>				
Semester/Year	Max. % of CLC Rate Discount	Amount SFAC Funds Awarded	# SFAC Awarded Student Parents	% SFAC Awarded Student Parents
Fall 2008	60%	\$12,731.50	9	27%
Spring 2009	60%	\$16,862.00	10	30%
Summer 2009	60%	\$10,172.00	8	44%
2008–2009 Total		\$39,765.50		
Fall 2009	35%	\$13,593.50	16	50%
Spring 2010	35%	\$21,581.50	15	52%
Summer 2010	35%	\$6,578.00	12	67%
2009–2010 Total		\$41,753.00		
Fall 2010	30%	\$11,274.75	16	40%
Spring 2011	30%	\$14,563.00	17	38%
Summer 2011	30%	\$5,268.75	13	65%
2010–2011 Total		\$31,106.50		
Fall 2011	30%	\$16,025.25	20	49%

As an auxiliary operation of the University of Houston, CLC receives no state funding. In fact, CLC operates on user/parent tuition dollars, SFAC funding, that we have been fortunate enough to receive for several years, the University annual contribution which covers part of Administrative Fees and utilities and the Department of Education CCAMPIS grant. Our mission is to provide exemplary early education services for the University of Houston students, staff and faculty. We are committed to meeting the highest standard in early childhood education, keeping our tuition rates at a competitive level, and assisting student parents in paying for the costs of early childhood services. Additionally, we know we must maintain a balanced budget and that a balanced budget is contingent upon CLC reaching and keeping full enrollment capacity.

We are thankful for this opportunity to present our One Time Allocation FY 2012 and Base Augmentation FY 2013 request to SFAC and appreciate your consideration.