

U N I V E R S I T Y of
HOUSTON

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTERS

UH Children’s Learning Centers
SFAC FY2026 Base Augmentation Request

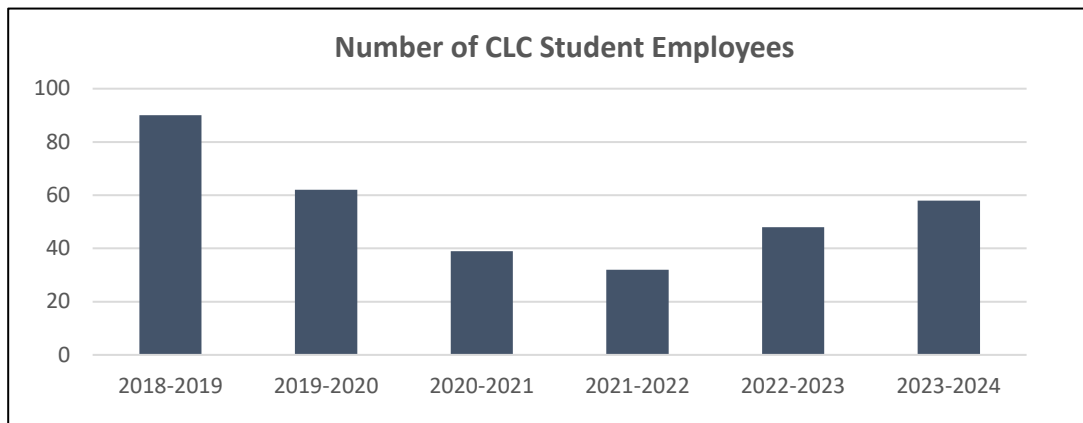
FY2026 Base Augmentation Request	
Student employee salaries: \$150,000.00	\$160,590.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student employee fringe: \$1,500.00 • 6% administration fee: \$9,090.00 	
Student parent child care tuition assistance: \$172,800.00	\$172,800.00
Total-	\$333,390.00

The Children’s Learning Centers (CLC) is requesting **\$333,390.00** in FY2026 Base Augmentation request to support an additional 15 student employee positions (20 hrs./wk. for 50 weeks at \$10/hr.; plus 1% benefits).

Student employees at CLC assist teachers in the classroom with all routine activities and must meet all training criteria to be counted in the teacher:child ratios. Low teacher:child ratios and small group sizes help ensure children get enough one-on-one attention from their teacher or caregiver. In general, children who are younger should have more adults present and smaller group sizes [\(1\)](#).

- One-on-one attention helps children feel safe and secure and reduces feelings of being overwhelmed—for both children and adults. This responsive caregiving is very important to children’s social-emotional development, physical well-being, and overall learning.
- A smaller group size allows adults to interact more easily with each child and quickly respond to each child’s unique needs.

As illustrated in the chart below, CLC saw a drastic decrease in the number the student employees due to the pandemic closures and UH’s instructional flexibility options which resulted in many students not returning to campus in person until fall 2021. CLC had an increase in student employees in FY23, FY24 and again CLC is seeing an increase in applications in FY25. In October 2024, the student employee minimum wage increased to \$10/hr. CLC’s previous beginning salary was \$8.75/hr.



With SFAC's support, CLC will be able to financially support more student employees in the classroom, enhancing program quality through responsive caregiving and developmentally appropriate interactions.

This request will also support 25 additional eligible low-income student parents per semester (48 weeks) at a 50-70 percent reduction in costs. Below is a chart illustrating the weekly cost of child care for student parents with the reduction in costs.

Weekly Child Care Tuition Costs 2024-2025				
Full-Time Care	Student Rate	50% Reduction	60% Reduction	70% Reduction
Infant Room	\$290	\$145	\$116	\$87
Toddler Rooms	\$240	\$120	\$96	\$72
Pre-K Rooms	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$60

CLC's tuition assistance program has steadily increased post-COVID.

- In FY23, CLC provided approximately 20 awards per semester totaling \$109,600.00.
- In FY24, CLC provided approximately 35 awards per semester totaling \$167,000.00.
- In FY25, CLC provided 41 fall awards totaling \$92,000 with a projection of \$250,000.00 for the year.

The financial need has increased over the years and families are receiving a higher percentage of discounts. Student parents struggle with paying for quality child care while also pursuing a degree fulltime. It leaves little time for a fulltime job, resulting in decreased income as one CLC parent explains:

"I have so many stories of the many times I thought it was the end of my education journey but somehow, I found a way. One of those ways has been the SFAC tuition assistance and the UH Children's Learning Centers. The SFAC tuition assistance has allowed me to focus more on my studies and be able to afford childcare for my son. As a newly, young, and low-income mother, I thought going back to school was not an option for me. However, I was wrong, and I am glad I was. Without the SFAC tuition assistance, I would have to look for a full-time job position to cover my son's childcare then have to quit school to show up to the job. The SFAC is literally a big part of why I am able to be a full-time student. M.C. (Excerpt from SFAC application essay)

An article from *Education Trust*, stated that a student parent would need to work anywhere from 30 to 90 hours per week, on average, to cover child care and tuition costs at a public college or university in the U.S. (1). Providing student parents with the opportunity to afford an accessible, quality early learning program for their children often results in life changing experiences for the entire family. With SFAC's increased support, more student parents will be able to spend additional time focused on their own studies while their children build a strong foundation for learning at CLC.