

**Center for Student Empowerment
Base Augmentation Requests FY26**

The Center for Student Empowerment respectfully submits four (4) requests for FY2026 One Time Allocation Requests to enhance programs and services. **The requests for funding are as follows:**

FY26 Base Augmentation Requests Summary

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| 1. First Generation Summer Bridge | \$10,918.00 |
| 2. First Generation Initiatives | \$10,070.00 |
| 3. Fostering Success Initiative | \$6,000.00 |
| 4. AD Bruce | \$3,710.00 |

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| Total | \$ 30,698.00 |
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FY26 Base Augmentation Request #1- First Generation Summer Bridge

One of our pillar programs to support students is our Summer Bridge Program. The 4 day, 3 night immersion program is hosted by the Center for Student Empowerment and led by our Student Leaders. Participants will be selected from enrolled and committed University of Houston students transitioning from high school to college. Participants will work through an integrated curriculum focused on breaking down the barriers to success that students face in their first year of college. Students will be armed with academic, social, and financial tools which will equip them to better cope with the unique challenges faced by first-generation and underrepresented college students. The purpose of the summer bridge is to:

- Increase confidence in addressing the challenges faced in their first year of college including the academic rigor, financing their education, and personal adjustment
- Increase self-efficacy to navigate the resources available at the University of Houston
- Instill a sense of belonging and involvement
- Encourage personal growth through exposure to new populations and projects

DSA Strategic Initiative

- Increase Retention of First Time in College (FTIC) students
- Promote increased student credit hours and GPA for FTIC
- Increase the retention rate of Pell-eligible FTIC

Please note: These numbers are based on a single Summer Bridge for up to 55 participants

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| Housing | \$4,300.00 |
| Event shirts | \$500.00 |
| Food | \$5,000.00 |
| Marketing | \$500.00 |
| <i>Sub Total</i> | <i>\$10,300.00</i> |
| Total for 1 Summer Bridge | \$10,300. 00 |
| 6% Administration Fee | \$618.00 |
| Total Requested Amount | \$10,918.00 |

FY26 Base Augmentation Request #2- First Generation Initiative (FSI)

The priority at CSE is to help students thrive by offering a variety of services that students need to get the most out of their college experience and prepare for a successful future. One of our many goals is to expand opportunities for first generation students by providing the support they need to achieve the social and economic mobility they desire. The multifaceted components of our program promotes scholarship, community service, and personal and professional development by offering a holistic approach to advising.

CSE became one of the primary campus liaisons for first generation students to engage and feel empowered. In the past, CSE has partnered with the Center for Diversity & Inclusion, Counseling and Psychological Services, to host mixers, groups and workshops. The First Gen Success program serves as a signature program for CSE, providing an opportunity for students, staff, and faculty to learn about and engage with UH First Generation.

The goals of First Generation Success are:

- To provide support to first generation students by spreading awareness about educational laws and student rights
- Increase persistence to graduation of first generation by providing academic, personal, career, and professional advising and programs
- Promoting a welcoming environment and campus climate

This helps faculty, staff, and students gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of underserved students through a series of activities. As First Gen Success continues to develop, we will look to deepen existing partnerships and develop new partnerships both across campus and in the community. In the wake of the current political climate it has become imperative that we provide students with ways to engage in and support the UH First Gen community.

DSA Strategic Initiative

- Increase Retention of First Time in College (FTIC) students

- Promote increased student credit hours and GPA for FTIC
- Increase the retention rate of Pell-eligible FTIC

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| Marketing | \$2500.00 |
| First Generation Fair | \$1400.00 |
| 1 st Day | \$350.00 |
| First Generation Summit | \$3750.00 |
| First Generation Support Series | \$500.00 |
| First Generation Mixer | \$1000.00 |
| Sub Total | \$9500.00 |
| 6% Administrative Fee | \$570.00 |
| Total Request Amount | \$10070.00 |

FY26 Base Augmentation Request #3- Fostering Success Initiative (FSI)

An integral part of Center for Student Empowerment has been its pillar programs. Due to increase numbers of students former foster youth, orphan, ward of state, unaccompanied youth and homelessness), CSE is seeking funds to enhance its program offerings under its Fostering Success Initiative (FSI) .

Each CSE event will have the following:

- Unique advertising with separate themes and activities.
- Planned around what a certain population of student would get involved in.
- Held in either the Lynn Eusan Park or the University Center.
- Planned collaboratively with registered student organizations, colleges, and departments to attract diverse student populations

Events will be advertised in the following ways:

- Classroom announcements
- Electronic bulletin boards and the Get Involved website
- Coog Radio and Coog News
- Paper advertising – handbills, flyers, A-frames
- Ads in The Daily Cougar
- Facebook, social media advertising, and CSE website

This request supports the following Strategic Initiatives and Action Steps:

DSA Strategic Initiative:

- Increase Retention of First Time in College (FTIC) students

- Promote increased student credit hours and GPA for FTIC
- Increase the retention rate of Pell-eligible FTIC

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| Engagement Activity | \$200.00 |
| Room Rental | \$270.00 |
| Food | \$600.00 |
| Marketing/Equipment Supplies | \$350.00 |
| 6% Administrative Fee | \$80.00 |
| Total Per Event: (Feb, March, April, June) | \$1500.00 |
| \$1500.00 per event x 4 events | |
| Total Request Amount | \$6000.00 |

As the numbers above indicate, the Center for Student Empowerment budget is very noncontrollable and does not allow the organization to operationally serve a growing more diverse student body. This request for enhanced financial support is directly correlated to the growth in CSE initiatives and the number of students served by CSE.

FY26 Base Augmentation Request #4- AD-Bruce Lunch

We are requesting a Base Augmentation funding amount of \$3,700.10 to provide free lunch for 400 students at the A.D. Bruce Religion Center. This initiative aims to promote community engagement, support student well-being, and foster connections among students in a welcoming environment. CSE has supported and collaborated on the AD Bruce Religion Center initiative for 2 years in a row.

DSA Strategic Initiative:

- Increase Retention of First Time in College (FTIC) students
- Promote increased student credit hours and GPA for FTIC
- Increase the retention rate of Pell-eligible FTIC

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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Food | \$2500.00 |
| Merchandise | \$1000.00 |
| Subtotal | \$3500.00 |
| 6% Administrative Fee | \$210.00 |
| Total Request Amount | \$3710.00 |

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced Student Well-Being:

Outcome: At least 300 students will attend the lunch event, with 85% reporting that the meal positively impacted their day and provided a sense of community.

2. **Increased Community Engagement:**

Outcome: 400 students will have the opportunity to socialize and network, leading to a reported 30% increase in students feeling connected to campus life.

3. **Support for Diverse Needs:**

Outcome: Providing free lunch will alleviate financial burdens for students, allowing them to focus more on their studies and extracurricular activities.

Conclusion:

Your support will significantly enhance the student experience at the University of Houston by providing essential resources and fostering community connections. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to the opportunity to work together to support our students.