



STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE FY26 ONE TIME REQUEST (F)

The WGRC is seeking a FY26 One Time Request in the amount of \$10,000 for hygiene products.

Providing essential hygiene products to college students, such as menstrual products, safe sex supplies, diapers, and baby hygiene items, plays a vital role in supporting student health, well-being, and academic success. Access to these products ensures that students can manage their basic needs without the stress of added financial burden, allowing them to focus more on their studies and less on where or how to afford these necessities. For students who are economically disadvantaged, including Pell-eligible students and student parents, having access to these products directly influences their comfort and engagement on campus.

This initiative aligns closely with the strategic priority of lowering costs for economically disadvantaged students by removing financial barriers that can impact their ability to fully participate in their academics. By alleviating these costs, we create a more equitable learning environment where all students have the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Providing free menstrual products and safe sex supplies also promotes increased student engagement, as students who feel supported by their institution are more likely to stay involved in campus activities, clubs, and organizations, leading to a stronger sense of belonging and connection.

Ultimately, the availability of free hygiene products supports the university's goal of increasing the retention of First Time in College (FTIC) students, as well as encouraging higher GPA and credit hours by minimizing the distractions and stressors related to unmet basic needs. By creating a supportive environment that addresses both the academic and personal challenges that students face, we help pave the way for their success during their time at UH and beyond.

We firmly believe that these efforts not only enhance student satisfaction and retention but also position the University of Houston as a leader in advocating for student welfare and inclusivity, fostering a community where all students are empowered to reach their full potential.

Project: Hygiene products

Investment: \$10,600 (Asking amount plus 6% admin fee)

Itemized breakdown estimate: The WGRC spends an average of \$1,000 a month to supply a variety of hygiene products. \$10,000 would allow for the WGRC to provide approximately 10 months of supplies, accounting for slower periods during winter and summer breaks.