



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SUCCESS

200 Kerr Hall, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

February 24, 2022

DIRECTOR AARON JONES
Educational Opportunity Program

Re: Equity in Mental Health Funding Allocation

Dear Aaron,

I am writing to confirm the allocations that will be made to Educational Opportunity Programs in response to your proposals for the Equity in Mental Health funding call. Thank you for your time and engagement with the proposal process. The campus has received confirmation that the funding plan for the Equity in Mental Health funding has been approved, and this letter is to notify you of the outcomes and next steps.

Background:

Health equity is the ability for everyone to have a fair and just opportunity to thrive and be well. This includes removing systemic barriers as described by the social determinants of health, a set of conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age that influence health inequities. Given the direct link between student wellness and academic success, student mental health support serves is integral in reaching the university's goals of producing more degrees and eliminating gaps. UC invited all stakeholders to develop programs and services to meet student's needs by ensuring each campus provides prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services via the Equity in Mental Health Funding Plan.

The University of California has developed an [Equity in Mental Health Funding Plan](#), which supports universal prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for students. The plan uses an allocation methodology that takes into consideration the base level of support required at each campus, an Equity Index (i.e., accounting for the mental health needs of underrepresented and food- and housing-insecure students) and enrollment levels.

The monies for the Equity in Mental Health Funding initiative were made available via The Budget Act of 2021 (California Assembly Bill 128), which includes \$15 million in ongoing funds to address student mental health needs at the University of California.

UCSC was allocated the following funding amounts for the initiative:

- Campus Baseline Prevention and Early Intervention (Tier III): \$450,000
- Collaborative Wellbeing Programs (Tier II): \$398,000
- Holistic Treatment and Recovery (Tier I): \$342,000
- TOTAL: \$1,190,000

Proposal Process:

Per the directive from UCOP, an advisory committee was created and comprised of “chief diversity officers, student health directors, counseling and psychological services directors, health promotion directors, recreation directors, housing directors, basic needs managers, care directors, students, faculty and other staff”, to help advise on how the campus would invest the new fund source. The role of the committee was to develop a rubric to review and evaluate funding proposals, initiate a funding call to eligible units, assess submitted proposals, and to make recommendations that were approved by Chancellor Larive, interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Baszile, and Associate Vice Chancellor Register (Budget, Analysis, and Planning).

The committee has completed its work, the recommendations were approved at a campus level, and now they have been approved at the UCOP level.

Allocation:

The following allocations will be made to EOP. Funding will be transferred on an annual basis at the beginning of each fiscal year. Director Denise Ilarina will be in touch with your budget office shortly to discuss the transfer of funds for FY 22 to your unit’s operating budget.

Summary of Funding Commitments:

EOP - Pathways to Research (P2R)

Effective	Description	One-time ¹	Tier
FY22 1/1/22 - 6/30/22	Grad Student Mentors, Student Researchers, Mentee stipends, etc... <i>(Salary, Benefits and S&E)</i>	\$30,995.50	II
FY23 - Year 1 7/1/22 - 6/30/23	Grad Student Mentors, Student Researchers, Mentee stipends, etc... <i>(Salary, Benefits and S&E)</i>	\$131,957.06	II
FY24 - Year 2 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	Grad Student Mentors, Student Researchers, Mentee stipends, etc... <i>(Salary, Benefits and S&E)</i>	\$162,655.27	II
FY25 - Year 3 7/1/24 - 6/30/25	Grad Student Mentors, Student Researchers, Mentee stipends, etc... <i>(Salary, Benefits and S&E)</i>	\$162,655.27	II
	Total	\$488,263.10	

Tier 1: Holistic Treatment and Recovery

Tier 2: Early Intervention and Collaborative Well-being Programs

Tier 3: Comprehensive Universal Prevention and Wellness Programs

¹ The one-time allocation amount is based on the proposal submitted by the unit/program in fall 2021. At the end of each fiscal year, a true-up process will reconcile actual expenses in comparison to allocated amounts. Any carryforward funds will be returned to the Equity in Mental Health central fund.

Funding Attributes:

Funding is awarded for an initial three-year period (and disbursed annually), during which time the awardee is expected to assess the impact and effectiveness of funded activities. Annual reporting is required at the end of years 1 (FY 23), 2 (FY 24), and 3 (FY 25). At the three-year point, a committee will evaluate the efficacy of assigning the funding on an ongoing basis. More detailed information on the reporting requirements are forthcoming.

The Equity in Mental Health Funds will not participate in the central campus salary program or benefit pool. The Division of Student Affairs and Success divisional budget office will retain an operational fund to assist with payroll and benefits costs associated with FTE that is funded through the Equity in Mental Health funding.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Director Ilarina (dtoni@ucsc.edu) or Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Lucy Rojas (larojas@ucsc.edu, 831-239-9330).

Thank you again for your engagement in—and contributions to—the campus's efforts to improve equity in mental health services and outcomes for our students.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Baszile
Interim Vice Chancellor Student Success

cc: Special Adviser Barker
Business and Administrative Operations Manager Carter
Director of Finance Ilarina
Chief of Staff & Assistant Vice Chancellor Rojas