UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTERS

STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)
FY2027 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please provide in brief terms: your unit's mission, goals that support your mission, and a justification of your unit's student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.

The Children's Learning Centers (CLC) presents this request to the Student Fees Advisory Committee (SFAC) to assist University of Houston (UH) student parents, with children enrolled at CLC, in paying for the cost of child care tuition and to provide income for UH student employees working at CLC. In the early 1970's, UH students voiced a need for campus child care that provided a quality program in a nurturing environment. In keeping with the spirit and ideas of those forward thinking students and incorporating today's research on early childhood development, the CLC mission is to facilitate an inclusive learning environment that celebrates diversity as well as promotes a professional commitment to impacting our community and supporting student success, through the provision of a nationally accredited early childhood educational program for the children of University of Houston (UH) students, faculty, and staff.

The accomplishment of this mission is met through established strategic initiatives aligned with DSA values. First, CLC creates a culture of care by supporting student parents with resources from UH Women and Gender Resource Center (WGRC), CLC tuition assistance opportunities, and UH student parent priority registration processes. Second, CLC collaborates with others to provide/share resources within the division and across the university by partnering with the UH Moores School of Music for weekly preschool classes, the UH College of Education for professional development, and the UH Police department which hosts fall/spring CLC family events. Third, CLC ensures a sense of belonging and responsibility for the well-being of fellow community members by offering free family outings every semester and partnering with the UH International Student and Scholar Services Office to host AD Bruce Free Lunch Wednesday. Fourth, CLC embraces improvement and adaptability with enhancements to the CLC building structures and playgrounds. Lastly, CLC illustrates accountability and transparency about processes/outcomes by participating in Cognia reaccreditation, a nonprofit organization that provides quality assurance for schools, school districts, and education service providers.

Justification of CLC's student fee allocation, in terms of benefits to students, is multifaceted. To begin with, the allocation of SFAC sponsored child care tuition assistance funds allow many student parents to gain access to affordable, quality child care which supports CLC/UH student retention and graduation. To fulfill our obligation to NAEYC and Cognia accreditation criteria, there are unique and additional costs involved. A portion of funding is also utilized to cover Student Employee salaries needed to maintain developmentally appropriate teacher: child ratios. The Student Employee positions help UH students by providing a source of income for those who choose to work at the Center. Finally, by maintaining a high-quality early childhood program, as defined by accreditation, the Children's Learning Centers provide parents with reassurance of their child's well-being and educational foundation which allows them to concentrate on their studies.

2. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate your success in achieving the DSA strategic initiatives as well as action steps in contributing to the retention of students. Where data exists, discuss any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting this data.

CLC utilizes a variety of formal and informal means to evaluate our success in achieving our objectives. CLC is licensed by **Texas Health and Human Services**; a department inspector completes, at minimum, an annual inspection of CLC with a written report of all findings. Through national accreditation program standards for both the National Association for the Education of Young Children (**NAEYC**) and **Cognia**, CLC collects data for annual reports and documents evidence of compliance with individual standards to prepare for future accreditation validation visits. In FY25, CLC maintained its status as a **Texas Rising Star** 4-star program.

DSA Strategic Initiative: Increased Student Engagement

CLC student employees were assessed using the DSA Student Competency Rubric-

- Fall 2024- Students (26) received the following average scores (out of a 4.0) in each Competency area: Teamwork and Collaboration (3.29), Emotional Intelligence (3.25), Cultural Competency (3.24) Team Leadership (3.13) and Professionalism (3.12).

- Spring 2025- Students (33) received the following average scores (out of a 4.0) in each Competency area: Teamwork and Collaboration (3.05), Emotional Intelligence (3.10), Team Leadership (2.94) and Professionalism (2.86).

- Summer 2025- Students (20) received the following average scores (out of a 4.0) in each Competency area: Teamwork and Collaboration (3.5), Emotional Intelligence (3.4), Team Leadership (3.25), and Professionalism (3.04).

Term	Teamwork & Collaboration	Emotional Intelligence	Team Leadership	Professionalism
Fall 2024	3.29	3.25	3.13	3.12
Spring 2025	3.05	3.10	2.94	2.86
Summer 2025	3.5	3.4	3.25	3.04

Student Hours of Career Related Experience-

Term	Hours
Fall 2024	6,868
Spring 2025	7,176
Summer 2025	3,043

Student hours include: Moores School of Music, Gessner College of Nursing, and CLC Employees in a field related degree program.

DSA Strategic Initiative: Lowering costs for Economically Disadvantaged

In an effort to remove the barrier of high costs associated with quality child care and increase access for low-income student parents, CLC provided child care tuition assistance (50%-70% discount) to CLC families through SFAC (Student Fees Advisory Committee) funds in the amount of $233,542. Families seek SFAC support in order to reduce financial burdens.

Term	Assistant Provided
Fall 2024	$84,019
Spring 2025	$109,917
Summer 2025	$39,606

UH student parents are the highest percentage of users overall and within the toddler and preschool program areas for fall 2024/spring 2025. UH student parents and siblings of currently enrolled families are first to be considered for CLC enrollment. The Provost's Office will have access to 15 total guaranteed spots (5 infant, 5 toddler, 5 pre-school) for an August start date on an annual basis to assist with faculty recruitment.

Term	Student	Faculty	Staff	Alumni
Fall 2024	**40%**	**19%**	**21%**	**20%**
Infant	33%	47%	20%	0%
Toddler	45%	17%	16%	22%
Preschool	37%	13%	27%	23%
Spring 2025	**42%**	**19%**	**21%**	**18%**
Infant	54%	33%	13%	0%
Toddler	45%	18%	23%	14%
Preschool	37%	17%	20%	27%

DSA Strategic Initiative: Increased Engagement for Students at UH Sugar Land and UH Katy Campuses

CLC partnered with the UH Gessner College of Nursing to provide opportunities for their nursing students to conduct clinical rotations (NURS 4221Pediatric Clinical) as part of their Pedi course. The cohorts of students were at the Center for two 7–8-hour shifts. Student expectations specific to CLC rotations included developmental assessment and safety/teaching (taking part in health teaching with children of different age groups).

Term	Hours of Career Related Experience
Fall 2024	216
Spring 2025	696

"The experience of nursing students in the CLC is invaluable to their learning. In alignment with QSEN (Quality and Safety Education for Nurses), nursing students learn to prepare teaching materials that are age-appropriate, use evidence-based teaching techniques to deliver the safety topics and then apply those skills in the hospital setting. The students felt more empowered, comfortable, and confident around children as this was some students' first-time interacting with the pediatric population. When nursing students feel confidence, this helps increase their quality and safety of patient care." -Laura Arzac, MSN, RN, CPN, CPEN (Adjunct Nursing Faculty)

DSA Strategic Initiative: Increased Grants/Donations to DSA

A private donor's foundation gifted CLC **$25,000** to assist CLC student parents with child care tuition costs. In the spring/summer semesters, CLC awarded $6,210 in annual re-enrollment fee waivers for 17 CLC student parents. *"As a student parent at CLC, balancing school and family has been both rewarding and challenging. This fee waiver will ease financial stress, allowing me to focus more on my studies without worrying about tuition. I'm truly grateful for CLC's support in creating an environment where student parents like me can succeed." -Quote from student application for fee waiver)*

The CLC Advisory Board was awarded the Coog Moms grant of **$500** for the Fall 2024 semester to help support resources needed for teacher appreciation initiatives. The Board was awarded a another Coog Moms grant of **$500** for the Spring 2025 semester to help support resources needed for enhancing family engagement events.

CLC raised $273 for UH Giving Day and unlocked a $500 leaderboard challenge award, totaling **$773**. An electronic mailer was sent out to request donations that directly impact the future of our youngest learners at the UH Children's Learning Centers. Every gift strengthens our commitment to providing exceptional early childhood education.

CLC received **$1,465** in sponsorships for the CLC 50th Celebration Event. On February 14, 2025, the UH Children's Learning Centers (CLC) hosted a family birthday bash to commemorate its 50th anniversary on campus. Former and current CLC families and staff came together to create new and exchange fond memories of the Centers. CLC hosted classroom birthday-themed parties, a face painter, balloonist, make and take crafts, as well as offered ice cream from Shasta's Cones & More. The photo booth, provided by UH Veteran Services, captured fun moments from the event. Shasta and Sasha even made photo booth appearances before joining in on the birthday party festivities!

CLC received two equipment and supplies grant from Workforce Solutions totaling **$8,500**. The incentive grants allowed CLC to purchase classroom materials to enhance children's learning.

3. Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2026) SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes that some programs did not receive the funds that they requested, that some programs were impacted by additional expenses after the conclusion of the budget cycle, and that some programs may be ahead of or behind their self-generated income projections.

In September 2025:

CLC implemented a tuition fee increase of $10/week across all programs and an increase of $105 in annual enrollment fees. This change reflects the increasing costs of operations and is a necessary step to continue offering the education and supportive environment our customers have come to expect from CLC. It will also allow us to attract and retain excellent educators, maintain small class sizes, and provide the personalized attention the children deserve.

CLC also provided merit increases to eligible salaried employees to reward the most productive employees that continue to work to further UH Tier One goals.

A minimum effective billing rate increase of 5% across the Facilities Services shops that provide billable services to UH departments went into effect. CLC is an axillary service and all costs associated with building maintenance/custodial are billable.

4. **Questionnaire completed by Jennifer Skopal, CLC Director, jjdora@central.uh.edu, 832-842-0502**