

## **(h) FY27 One-Time Request: Expanded Retention Efforts**

### Background and Overview

The Center for Student Empowerment (CSE) respectfully submits this proposal to expand retention-focused initiatives in collaboration with Student Housing & Residential Life (SHRL) and enhance support for high-need student populations.

CSE serves as a crucial resource for students navigating academic, personal, and financial challenges. As demand for services grows each semester, this modest but strategic funding request will allow CSE to enhance programming, expand outreach, and deepen our impact on student success and retention — with a particular focus on students living on campus who may need additional support to persist and graduate.

### Expansion of Retention Initiatives with SHRL

With targeted funding, CSE proposes to expand the following key efforts in collaboration with SHRL:

**Enhancement:** Increase peer mentoring hours and provide academic workshops for students in the core retention groups.

Impact: Build community, reduce isolation, and improve persistence among this at-risk population.

#### 1. Joint Engagement Events

Enhancement: Host 2–3 targeted events per semester focused on retention-related topics (financial literacy, mental health, midterm preparation, and career planning).

Impact: Foster belonging, equip students with life skills, and encourage persistence through critical points in the semester.

#### 2. Resource Navigation & Referrals

Enhancement: Develop quick-reference resource guides and conduct proactive outreach to connect students to available support.

Impact: Help students resolve crises earlier, reducing the risk of academic withdrawal.

### Strategic Alignment with DSA Initiatives

This proposal supports the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) Strategic Initiative Student Success:

#### **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 graduate students.
- Championing exceptional opportunities and services for all UH students
- Fostering holistic well-being through coordinated and intentional support

Engagement events:

- Tutoring/Mentoring
- Coffee Chat
- Navigate Your First Day of Class
- Financial Literacy

| Category                      | Description                                                                    | Cost            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Peer Mentor Stipends          | Modest stipends for peer mentors                                               | \$4,000         |
| Event Programming             | Supplies, speaker honoraria, and refreshments for 4–6 retention-focused events | \$5,000         |
| Resource Development          | Printed guides, marketing materials, and digital outreach campaigns            | \$2,000         |
| Assessment & Evaluation       | Surveys, simple tracking tools, and reporting                                  | \$1,500         |
| 6% Administration Fee         |                                                                                | \$750.00        |
| <b>Total Requested Amount</b> |                                                                                | <b>\$13,250</b> |