



**Metropolitan Volunteer Program
FY 2027 Student Fees Advisory Committee
One-Time Request**

FY2027 One-Time Request #1 – Be the MVP

The Metropolitan Volunteer Program (MVP) is submitting this One-Time Request to begin FY27.

MVP believes that this request will allow us to more effectively meet the needs of the city of Houston and the Third Ward community. If approved, these funds will continue to provide students with an early opportunity to engage with MVP at the beginning of the academic year, introducing them to avenues for creating sustainable change in the community while also supporting retention of student volunteers throughout the year.

MVP hosted *Be the MVP* for the fifth time in August 2025. This signature event is designed to welcome students to the University of Houston through interactive activities planned by our Chairs during the first week of classes. This year, *Be the MVP* drew 373 attendees, providing each participant with a more personalized and engaging experience. Students were able to connect directly with our service committees, engage in hands-on service projects, and enjoy food, music, and a welcoming environment supported by tents and cooling systems. Although attendance was lower than in previous years, *Be the MVP* successfully strengthened engagement quality, as many attendees signed up for ongoing volunteer opportunities and leadership roles, such as our Co-chair and Ambassador. By emphasizing follow-up communication and Co-Chair Applications at this event, we have begun turning first-time participants into long-term volunteers, which directly supports our new volunteer retention initiatives.

Be the MVP directly supports the Division of Student Affairs' mission by fostering belonging, care, empowerment, collaboration, innovation, and integrity. The event builds community by welcoming students into a space where they can connect with one another, learn about service opportunities, and engage with the UH and Houston communities. Providing food, tents, and cooling resources ensures that student well-being is prioritized, while the promotion of leadership roles and service opportunities empowers students to take ownership of their UH experience and future. The event also highlights MVP's collaboration with university departments, student organizations, and community partners, demonstrating our shared commitment to student success. By continually refining and adapting the event to meet student needs, MVP reflects innovation in programming while maintaining transparency and accountability in the use of student fees, embodying the value of integrity. We also find that students who engage with volunteer service programs are more likely to be retained for the next academic year.

Summary of Expenses:

Chair Activity Supplies	\$1,000.00
Marketing	\$500.00
Entertainment	\$2,000.00
20x40 Tent and Fans	\$3,150.00
DJ Services	\$300.00
Food and Beverages	\$2,675.00
Subtotal	\$9,625.00
UH Admin Fee (6%)	\$577.50
Total	\$10,202.50

When comparing MVP to our Big XII peer institutions, we continue to stand out as a unique organization. While the University of Central Florida and Brigham Young University both have student-led volunteer programs, only UCF hosts a large-scale, student-led service event during the first week of classes. Most Big XII institutions rely on one-time events run by departments or registered student organizations. In contrast, *Be the MVP* is a University-sponsored organization initiative that allows students to come and go, learn about service opportunities, and immediately get involved in our committees.

With the support of this One-Time Request, MVP will continue to develop *Be the MVP* as a signature Weeks of Welcome tradition that introduces students to service, fosters long-term volunteer engagement, and advances DSAES's mission of empowering students to succeed while making a meaningful difference in the Houston community.

The Metropolitan Volunteer Program appreciates your thoughtful consideration of our request.