

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

**University of Houston
Wellness**

Base Funding Request

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

**UH Wellness
Base Funding Request
Graduate Student**

There have been growing concerns nationally over the attitudes and environmental conditions that would lead to major alcohol-or violence incidents. On this campus, as on other campuses, drugs, alcohol, and violence are a public health issue. On a national level, there are 1,700 college alcohol related deaths each year, almost 600,000 unintentional injuries, and almost 700,000 assaults. In addition, there are 97,000 sexual assaults reported and another 100,000 students who indicate they were too intoxicated to know if they consented to have sex. Accordingly, the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse tells us this is also having an impact on students academically. Twenty five percent report academic consequences from drinking including lower grades, doing poorly on exams, missing class, and falling behind. At the University of Houston, we are beginning to have a positive impact on alcohol and violence. Less than 10% of our students are drinking heavily at any given time and most of our students are consuming fewer than 2 drinks per week, but even so even the small numbers who drink too much amounts to almost 3,400 students. In the most recent wellness survey, 45% of students who responded say they feel safe only some of the time or rarely. Among their concerns, 45% report concern about sexual assault, and 71% report concern about physical assault.

UH Wellness has a primary responsibility for alcohol, other drug, and violence (AODV) prevention. These issues are vital for a university, especially the size of the University of Houston, which will soon be increasing its residential population. For some time, there has been a growing sense among college administrators across the country that alcohol and violence on campuses must be addressed in a more comprehensive manner. While most University of Houston students do not drink heavily, close to 10% are still engaging in high risk drinking, and almost 8% of our students have used marijuana in the last year. In December 2006, a student at a neighboring institution, Sam Houston State University, was involved in a murder/suicide on campus, apparently the victim of at least some level of stalking behavior while neighboring Austin had an alcohol overdose. In summer 2010, an incident of violence at the University of Texas campus demonstrated that student fears and anxiety are local and affect the entire student population, and that concerns about how to be safe will increase. These examples, close to home, mirror a growing concern over a wide variety of incidents involving alcohol, other drugs, and violence on campuses.

As UH Wellness has taken seriously its commitment to prevention and education, we have made great strides in creating a better climate within which students would make healthier, safer decisions. We have implemented a campus wide social norms and personalized feedback small group intervention that is evidence based to address the issue of alcohol abuse on campus. Our peer educators have developed an affiliation with the State UMADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) chapter. We have also implemented training for our peer educators to form two new groups, One in Four: The Men's Program and One in Four: The Women's Program, both aimed at the prevention of sexual assault from a peer based model. These are major steps in moving forward on these issues. However, the resources are limited and our overall work load is challenging. The need for attention to these peer educator programs is clear, yet they compete with other challenges. Our total contacts for FY10 surpassed 50,000. This does not include the time it

requires to supervise and train students who are willing and able to be involved in our programming. All students benefit from a healthy campus environment, and we do all of this with only 2.0 FTE staff, student employees, and student volunteers, but the demand is increasing each year. The use of a graduate student (funded one time for this year) to assist us has been critical in two ways. First, it has allowed us to meet some of the needs outlined above. Second, it has given us staffing that allows for greater attention to our peer programs.

We are requesting this year that the one time funding of a graduate student to help us to address alcohol, other drugs, and violence prevention last year, be made a base funded position. This individual would assist us in coordinating alcohol, drugs, and violence prevention activities on campus and would help us in coordinating our three student groups that address these and other issues. Having a graduate student designated for this purpose would allow the program to grow and continue to document the effectiveness of programming. Although there is a trend nationally to have a full time AODV staff member, we realize resources are tight this year. We are hopeful a graduate student can help strengthen programming while not placing an undue burden on the SFAC budget. We also believe this is supporting students as it provides money to a student, thus student money returning to students. We believe with the increasing AODV issues affecting college campuses, the increasing residential campus community at UH, and the growing demand of the Wellness staff to coordinate and implement AODV issues, it is a justified request. We appreciate the long standing support of the committee and hope our commitment to accountability will allow you to give this request strong consideration.

Salary & Benefits	\$14,400
Admin Charge	\$ 1,080
REQUEST:	\$15,480

Base augmentation request to cover increase in administrative charge for 2011-2012 (FY 12)

REQUEST	\$4,855
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Total Base Augmentation Request 2011-2012

TOTAL REQUEST	\$20,335
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UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

**University of Houston
Wellness**

One Time Funding Request

Fiscal Year 2010-2011

One time request to cover increase in administrative charge for 2010-2011 (FY 11)

REQUEST \$4,855