

**FY2016 New One-Time Requests**

Cougars in Recovery (CIR), the collegiate recovery community at the University of Houston, is requesting a Student Service Fees One-Time New Request for FY2016 in the amount of \$35,399. This funding will be used to pay the salary of a program coordinator for the remainder of FY2016.

CIR was founded by a volunteer who has served as the program coordinator in a voluntary capacity since the program's inception. In February of 2014 a full-time program director was hired. The Cougars in Recovery program is growing at a rapid pace. At the close of the spring, 2014 semester CIR was serving fourteen students. There were thirty-two students on the roster at the end of spring, 2015. Currently fifty students are being served by the Cougars in Recovery program, with new applications received weekly.

The Association of Recovery in Higher Education, the national association for collegiate recovery communities, classifies communities based on the number of students served. CIR is listed as a large recovery community with fifty students in abstinent recovery who are actively involved in supporting others in the community and on campus. According to the Association of Recovery in Higher Education, best practices state that the staff to student ratio within a community should be 1:25. The addition of a second paid staff member will allow CIR to better serve the community meeting the individual needs of its members as they bridge the gap between their recovery and higher education.

A detailed line item budget is included on the FY2017 Budget Request Form.

**FY2017 Base Augmentation Request**

Cougars in Recovery respectfully requests an augmentation to the FY2017 base budget to include a second paid position in the amount of \$53,099. This augmentation is critical in supporting CIR staff to best meet the needs of an ever growing population of students. CIR believes that open enrollment is needed to ensure that UH students are able to join the program and begin receiving recovery support throughout the academic year. No student with a true desire to live in recovery while working toward a degree at UH will be turned away.

The Association of Recovery in Higher Education, the national organization for collegiate recovery communities, delineates best practices for supporting students in recovery. These practices include having a dedicated staff with a 1:25 staff to student ratio; dedicating physical space to the recovery community; offering recovery protection and having a community of students who offer support to each other. All of these practices are implemented in the University of Houston's collegiate recovery program. As such, the program is becoming a recruitment tool for the university; sought out by students who desire access to recovery support as they strive to earn their college degrees. Students are transferring to the University of Houston from other schools across the country including Texas Tech University, Cornell University and Sewanee University of the South, to participate in the Cougars in Recovery program.

With a current population of fifty students, two full-time staff members are required to fully implement the program according to best practices in the field. This base augmentation will allow CIR to function with two full-time positions, a program director and coordinator. Together these individuals will work to guide students in recovery through their college experience while maintaining their sobriety.

A detailed line item budget is included on the FY2017 Budget Request Form.