

Food insecurity has been a problem on college campuses. At least one in three college students have some level of food insecurity. To address this issue on the University of Houston campus, the Cougar Cupboard opened its doors January 2020 as a Food for Change (FFC) Market site in partnership with the Houston Food Bank (HFB). This partnership allowed students to apply for the food scholarship program through the HFB. To be eligible for the scholarship program, students must enroll as a part-time or full-time student during the semester they would like to receive food. Serving just under 80 students a week before the pandemic, the cupboard growing significantly serving close to 800 students a week and a total of 4,350 students signed up for the program.

Currently the Cougar Cupboard is housed in the UH Wellness office inside the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center building on the University of Houston campus. Staff have evaluated the storage and the current and future usage of the cupboard location determining that the sustainability of the cupboard, it is necessary to re-locate into a new bigger facility. In locating a potential space, consideration of accessibility for everyone, the flow within the space and ease of parking and delivery of food were key points in determining the perfect space. A co-sponsorship with UH Wellness Cougar Cupboard and Student Housing and Residential Life (SHRL) has helped secure a new location that benefits both departments and establishes a formal working relationship and collaboration to help residents with nutrition education and essential life skills programming.

The proposed relocation site is located on the corner of the SHRL University Lofts building previously housed by University Parking located on Martin Luther King Blvd. This prime location would benefit both SHRL and Cougar Cupboard as it can become an actual storefront for the cupboard and a central place for housing to get emergency food for students in need. However, the space is not operational to meet the temperature standards set by the Houston Food Bank. We have secured a feasibility study to determine what is needed to adequately cool a specific area of the new space to satisfy the requirements. The study is attached for reference. The amount requested per the report is \$130,000 to add a new HVAC that will allow for operating the existing and future equipment.

**DSAES Strategic Initiative**

- **Student Success: Champion exceptional opportunities and services to support all UH students.**
  - SS 2: Expand diverse experiences on exploration and education while identifying and meeting the needs of our student population through supportive, inclusive environments.
  - SS 3: Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes.
- **Division Cohesion: Create and foster a cohesive division identity, culture and community.**
  - DC 4: Foster collaborative divisional processes focused on common goals.
  - DC 5: Promote and create initiatives that support a healthy work/life balance while contributing to division success.
- **Resources: Evaluate, actively pursue, and leverage resources to enhance the UH experience.**
  - R1: Evaluate resources to identify opportunities for efficiency, improvement, and transformation.
  - R2: Pursue and develop resources to address identified gaps and needs.
  - R3: Leverage and adapt resources in innovative ways to increase effective utilization.
- **Partnerships: Forge and strengthen partnerships to expand our reach into the university and greater community.**
  - P1: Educate and empower campus partners to be our advocates.
  - P2: Enhance students’ educational experience by expanding partnerships with academic affairs.
  - P5: Promote alumni engagement and support for division initiatives in cooperation with Advancement.

<b>FY23 OT Funding Request</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
<b>Professional Service</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>
<b>Shop Support</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
<b>Project Contingency</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>