



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SUCCESS

200 Kerr Hall, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

June 27, 2022

Director Sara Radoff  
Services for Transfer and Re-entry Students (STARS)  
Student Success and Equity

Re: Equity in Mental Health Funding Allocation for Renaissance Scholars

Dear Sara,

I am writing to confirm the allocation of one-time funds that will be made to the Renaissance Scholars Year Round Housing program in response to the proposal you submitted to the Equity in Mental Health funding call. Thank you for your time and engagement with the proposal process. An allocation has been made for the Renaissance Scholars Year Round Housing Program, and this letter is to notify you of the details of the allocation as well as next steps.

**Background:**

Health equity is the ability for everyone to have a fair and just opportunity to thrive and be well. This includes removing systemic barriers as described by the social determinants of health, a set of conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age that influence health inequities. Given the direct link between student wellness and academic success, student mental health support serves is integral in reaching the university's goals of producing more degrees and eliminating gaps. UC invited all stakeholders to develop programs and services to meet student's needs by ensuring each campus provides prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services via the Equity in Mental Health Funding Plan.

The University of California has developed an [Equity in Mental Health Funding Plan](#), which supports universal prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for students. The plan uses an allocation methodology that takes into account the base level of support required at each campus, an Equity Index (i.e., accounting for the mental health needs of underrepresented and food- and housing-insecure students) and enrollment levels.

The monies for the Equity in Mental Health Funding initiative were made available via The Budget Act of 2021 (California Assembly Bill 128), which includes \$15 million in ongoing funds to address student mental health needs at the University of California.

UCSC was allocated the following funding amounts for the initiative:

- Campus Baseline Prevention and Early Intervention (Tier III): \$450,000
- Collaborative Wellbeing Programs (Tier II): \$398,000
- Holistic Treatment and Recovery (Tier I): \$342,000
- TOTAL: \$1,190,000

**Proposal Process:**

Per the directive from UCOP, an advisory committee was created and comprised of “chief diversity officers, student health directors, counseling and psychological services directors, health promotion directors, recreation directors, housing directors, basic needs managers, care directors, students, faculty and other staff”, to help advise on how the campus would invest the new fund source. The role of the committee was to develop a rubric to review and evaluate funding proposals, initiate a funding call to eligible units, assess submitted proposals, and to make recommendations that were approved by Chancellor Larive, former interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Baszile, and Associate Vice Chancellor Register (Budget, Analysis, and Planning).

The committee has completed its work, the recommendations were approved at a campus level and UCOP level. **Following the disbursement of on-going funds, the committee determined that there were sufficient one-time funds to make additional allocation of one-time funds. The Renaissance Scholar Program will receive two years of one-time funds in response to its proposal.**

**Allocation:**

The following allocation will be made to STARS for the Renaissance Scholar Program. Funding will be transferred on a one-time basis at the beginning of each fiscal year. Please contact Director Denise Ilarina when you are ready to discuss the transfer of funds for FY 23 to your unit’s operating budget.

**Summary of Funding Commitment:**

**STARS - Renaissance Scholars Year Round Housing**

Effective	Description	One-time	Tier
FY23	Housing costs for Renaissance Scholars	\$135,040.00	II
FY 24	Housing costs for Renaissance Scholars	\$135,040.00	II
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$270,080.00</b>	

*Tier 1: Holistic Treatment and Recovery*

*Tier 2: Early Intervention and Collaborative Well-being Programs*

*Tier 3: Comprehensive Universal Prevention and Wellness Programs*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Director Ilarina ([dtoni@ucsc.edu](mailto:dtoni@ucsc.edu)), or Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Lucy Rojas ([larojas@ucsc.edu](mailto:larojas@ucsc.edu), 831-239-9330).

Thank you again for your engagement in—and contributions to—the campus's efforts to improve equity in mental health services and outcomes for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy A. Rojas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "L" and a decorative flourish at the end.

Lucy A. Rojas  
Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff

cc: Special Adviser Barker  
Director of Finance Ilarina  
Administrative Specialist Keller  
Associate Vice Chancellor Williams