

FY 2024-25

## HESSR Funding Proposal

<b>Unit Name:</b>	<b>WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER</b>
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**A. DEPARTMENT NARRATIVE "PROGRAM PLAN"**

- **Mission Statement:**

(This is currently under revision and will be finalized by Fall 2024.)

The WRC's mission, vision, core values, and guiding principles are noted below:

Mission

The UCR Women's Resource Center (WRC) is a multipurpose department engaging students, staff, faculty, and community by promoting gender equality, awareness, inclusivity, and proactive response around issues that intersect with gender.

Vision

Through its programs and services, the WRC will connect research, experiential learning, and practical application from a social justice lens.

Core Values

As a results-oriented department, the WRC values integrity, activism, excellence, and gender equity.

Guiding Principles

The WRC is guided by its core values, modeling, taking risks, communicating, and making a difference in:

- Gender Equity
- Student Service
- Retention and Graduation
- Empowerment
- Education & Awareness
- Campus & Community Partnerships Safety

- **Program Description:** a. *Please list each of your programs and/or your major activities/services for your department and give detailed information that describes your department.*

## Overview / Major Activates

Campus-based women's centers have existed nationally since the 1960s and are still being established on college and university campuses to address gender equity issues. These organizations also reflect the unique cultures of their institutions and time. Like its counterparts, the UCR Women's Resource Center functions as a resource and safe space for women (and others). Founded in 1973, the WRC is an action-oriented space that provides educational programs, speakers, and other services for women. With a feminist/political focus, it historically offered information on legal issues, medical care, welfare, prison reform, LGBT rights and responsibilities, and sexual health (including birth control, family planning, sexual harassment, and rape). Since our programs are student-driven, the WRC grows to embrace the ever-evolving needs of UCR students.

## Programs/Services

### 1. Program/Service: Community Engagement

WRC's community engagement programs and services strive to enhance student's sense of belonging. We create opportunities to promote well-being, reflection, and friendship.

**WRC Open House Programs & Unity Hour** – Usually held at the beginning of the quarter, these programs help introduce UCR students to the WRC and see the resources and programs we offer.

**De-Stress Programs** – This series helps students reconnect and destress right around midterm and final season. Students let their creativity flow as they create a new project.

**Sappho's Circle** - Sappho's Circle is a weekly discussion group led by WRC professional staff for all queer-identified women to build community and learn about their sexualities tomorrow.

### 2. Program/Service: Campus Safety

**Campus Safety Escort Service (CSES)** – One student's efforts to walk his friends safely across campus during the 1974-1975 academic year eventually developed into the service we know as CSES. This safety service plays an integral part in the well-being of the campus community. With a "buddy system" for a foundation, volunteers escort UCR community

members to their car, classroom, residential hall, or campus apartment. Escort volunteers complete individual interviews, undergo background checks and Livescans, and engage in mandatory training. To make themselves easily noticeable and offer a sense of protection and identification, they wear bright yellow uniforms, tote police-monitored radios, and employ flashlights. Individuals may dial the dedicated phone number for service/transport by one of our escorts.

**Self-Defense Classes** – To further contribute to campus safety and student well-being, CSES works collaboratively with the UCR Student Recreation Center (SRC) to host self-defense classes each quarter. In addition to learning physical safety techniques and relevant laws, the self-defense classes aim to empower UCR community members and reduce vulnerability.

**CSES Cart** – Over 20 years of service, CSES first started using a GEM cart to transport UCR community members. This enabled CSES escorts to increase their efficiency by helping them cover more distance and help more people in a shorter time. The GEM has been a vital tool for the CSES team.

**Campus Safety Information Sessions** – To ensure students are familiar with the safety resources, CSES works with campus partners (CAPS, SWIFT, UCPD, etc.) to host quarterly Campus Safety Information Sessions. These sessions keep UCR students up to date with the resources we offer and to maintain our relationships with our campus partners.

### **3. Program/Service: Parent Scholars**

Parent scholars encounter unique challenges compared to non-parenting students (e.g., balancing school demands and childcare). Many have communicated a need for additional resources, services, and community-building opportunities. WRC has a long history of supporting parent scholars and is committed to helping this community thrive.

**Lunch & Learn Series** – Services supporting parent scholars are spread across campus and can be hard to find. To help parent scholars navigate campus resources, the WRC hosts Lunch & Learns. Each program highlights a different campus resource.

**Family-Friendly Programs** – Opening programs to families of students makes our programs more accessible for parent scholars. To embrace the whole student, we must embrace the family. Therefore, WRC regularly hosts family-friendly programs.

**Family Graduation** – The graduation ceremony recognizes graduating parent scholars and their families. The annual program features lawn games, a family-friendly dinner, and an opportunity for graduates to thank their families. Each graduate gets a graduation stole recognizing that they are a parent scholar.

### **4. Program/Service: Sports, Fitness & Nutrition**

WRC organizes programs with the Student Recreation Center (SRC) and UCR Athletics to encourage wellness, promote community building, and support women's athletic teams.

**Hour of Power** – This is a female-friendly fitness group promoting fitness. During weeks 2-10, WRC works with a female trainer at SRC to learn new exercises. This series encourages movement and creates a safe space for students to explore the gym.

**Supporting Women's Athletics** – WRC attends some home games to support women's athletic teams. We also encourage students to attend games with us.

**Healthy Eating Series** – WRC hopes to introduce quarterly cooking classes and pop-up pantries during the 2024-2025 academic year. We look forward to collaborating with Cooking Well and R'Pantry.

### **5. Program/Service: Student Empowerment**

Student empowerment programs focus on helping students to feel strong, independent, and confident. To do this, WRC holds informative programs on everything from career-building to financial literacy. These programs also aim to help students feel confident about post-grad life.

**Graduate Mentorship Program** – This program pairs undergraduate students with graduate students to help aid the undergraduate students in their application process for grad school. This service helps build relations and promote professional development.

**Lunch & Learn Series** – We provide lunch while students enjoy presentations from various UCR departments (e.g., Career Center, Financial Wellness, and Grad Division) to help aid their career and future goals.

**Grad Cap Decorating Social** – To celebrate UCR graduates we offer supplies to help them decorate their caps for graduation and build connections with fellow soon-to-be UCR Alumni.

### **6. Program/Service: Women's Health**

WRC women's health programs educate and encourage students to learn about their bodies and health. Programs cover topics such as sexual health, menstruation, abortion access, and reproductive justice.

**R'Bodies: A Women's Health Lecture Series** - This series of educational presentations highlights various women's health topics (e.g., breast, pelvic, and sexual health). We invite on- and off-campus presenters.

**Period Party** – This program celebrates sustainable menstrual products and teaches students about the environmental impact of one-time use menstrual products.

**Research** – WRC strives to conduct research in this area.

### **7. Program/Service: WRC Lounge & Basic Needs Items**

Initially designed as a rest-and-relaxation spot, the lounge is also a multifunctional space for students to study, work on the lounge computers, and warm up lunch. The WRC offers free blue books and scantrons. We also provide free basic needs supplies including condoms, lube, dental dams, one-time-use menstrual products, and pregnancy tests.

- **Strategic Vision: Discuss your short-term (2024-25) plans and major program goals that will use HESSR funds:**

The HESSR budget allowed the WRC to increase programming by 67% in the 2016-2017 school year. We have steadily maintained these programs each year since. We are grateful for these funds and the opportunity they have provided us to engage with and educate the campus community about gender equity.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the WRC will work to accomplish the following goals:

1. Secure one more professional staff member to lead and guide WRC's mission and history.
2. Provide a diverse and inclusive array of student-driven programs to meet the evolving needs of our campus.
3. Further develop our WRC Strategic Plan with attention to the university's strategic plan and the VCSA Strategic Plan.
4. Maintain efforts (e.g. coalition building, more co-sponsorships) that will bring increased numbers of students, staff, faculty, and community members to our events.

The Highlander Empowerment Referendum funds help WRC accomplish its goals. We are committed to continuing our work in creating a diversity of programming and outreach. As we move forward into the 2024-2025 academic year, we will continue assessing current programs and updating resources (e.g. website, social media, and lounge space). Our HESSR funds will primarily be used to support programming and student salaries.

Otherwise, the funds will be geared toward professional development and supplies for the WRC Student Lounge.

- **Challenges: Identify obstacles that need to be overcome and/or need to be met.**

WRC's greatest challenge is that it continues to be understaffed. We are still recruiting one more professional staff to support our efforts and services.

- **Please provide information on any recent evaluations your unit may have had. What recommendations were made, and what actions were taken in response to the recommendations.**

Upon request, we can provide assessment information on some WRC programs and services offered during the 2023-2024 academic year.

## **B. BUDGET QUESTIONS**

- **Describe any SSFAC budget requests below. Departments may not duplicate budget requests for SSAF and RSAC.**

We did not request any SSFAC funding for this cycle.

- **How many FTE positions are currently open? Which if any of the positions are newly created? Why was there a need to hire additional staff? What expanded services are provided by the new hires?**

We still need to hire one Student Life & Development Specialist 3 at 1 FTE. This is not a new position.

- **Additional information or clarification you would like to provide the committee on your department's Budget plan:**

N/A

### **C. Funding Proposal and Narrative**

List below each use of funds you propose, following the guidelines put forth by the Referendum:

The Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum will allow the seven departments to better meet undergraduate students' needs by providing:

- Increased co-programming with student organizations and student-led initiatives, including funding and advising
- Staffing to assist students in finding support and resources
- Support for conference hosting and conference travel
- Support for Common Ground Collective projects & collaborative initiatives with the ASUCR Diversity Council
- Peer mentoring and peer education programs support



- More resources in each student program office and center, such as student computer support and educational materials
- Operational support for student services programs as described above, as the costs of campus services continue to increase

- **Overview: Any Information you would like to provide the committee on this year’s proposal.**

Since WRC continues to be understaffed, we still have not finalized our mission statement. We look forward to finalizing our department’s mission statement and goals with our growing team in Fall 2024.

In addition, we are assuming \$100,000 in Referendum fee income. This amount may decrease if undergraduate enrollment drops.

Fund Amount	Short Description
\$38,000	<p><b><u>Student Assistant Wages &amp; Benefits</u></b>            These funds help WRC hire student workers who will participate on at least one of our seven committees, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Campus Safety</li> <li>● Community Engagement</li> <li>● Creative Team</li> <li>● Parent Scholars</li> <li>● Sports, Fitness, &amp; Nutrition</li> <li>● Student Empowerment</li> <li>● Women’s Health</li> </ul>

<p>\$30,000</p>	<p><b><u>WRC Mission-Driven Programs &amp; Collaborations</u></b>  WRC identified six areas of concentration for the 2024-2025 academic year, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Campus Safety</li> <li>● Community Engagement</li> <li>● Parent Scholars</li> <li>● Sports, Fitness, &amp; Nutrition</li> <li>● Student Empowerment</li> <li>● Women’s Health</li> </ul> <p>We invite student organizations, campus partners, and the community to collaborate with us. This may include marketing for programs and services.</p>
<p>\$8,300</p>	<p><b><u>WRC Student Lounge &amp; Basic Needs Supplies</u></b>  These funds will cover basic needs supplies including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Condoms</li> <li>● Dental dams</li> <li>● Lube</li> <li>● Pregnancy tests</li> <li>● Menstrual products</li> </ul> <p>We also use these funds to supply blue books, scantrons, printing paper, cleaning products, and other items to help maintain our safe space for students to study, relax, and create community.</p>
<p>\$17,500</p>	<p><b><u>S&amp;E Staff Support &amp; Professional Development</u></b>  These funds will cover conferences, workshops, supplies, and other training opportunities for professional staff. This amount should be \$5,000/FTE, which totals \$17,500 for 3.5 FTE.</p>
<p>\$500</p>	<p><b><u>Diversity Council Support</u></b>  These funds support the work of the Diversity Council by funding food for meetings, retreats, and to launch projects important to the group’s mission.</p>
<p>\$200</p>	<p><b><u>RSAC Support</u></b>  These funds support the work of the RSAC by funding food for meetings, materials, and any other expenses related to the group’s work.</p>

\$1,500	<b><u>RSAC Student Stipend</u></b> We greatly value the work of our RSAC representative, as the HESSR funding enables our department to achieve our goals in a way that would not be possible without this money. RSAC Representative Stipend – funds to pay the RSAC representative \$500 per quarter for their service.
\$4,000	<b><u>VCSA Assessment Fee</u></b> This is a required fee assessed based on 3.7% of HESSR income from the previous fiscal year. This is an estimate because we do not yet know the amount of HESSR income for 2024-25.

**Total = \$100,000**