

Date: March 29, 2016
To: Intef W. Weser, Director
Associated Students, Inc.
From: Patricia Ramirez-Ulloa, Director
Children's Center

Report on the Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center – Winter 2016

ASI funding year to date has been used to support the ongoing operation of the Center with an emphasis on the areas of program availability, program quality and program support for low-income student families. The target population for this project is Cal State L.A. student parents.

A. Use of Funding

Funding Sources: ASI, Inc., funding constitutes about 8% of the Children's Center Operational Budget. Grants for low-income students make-up 56% of funding, parent fees 26% and the General Fund and IRA constitute the remaining 10%

Winter ASI Allocation: The \$41,737 allocated for Winter 2016 quarter was used throughout the program to support the general operation of the Children's Center. Associated Student financial support allowed the Center to provide an affordable, high quality child care program for student parents. ASI funding provided for tuition reduction for student parents, excellent teacher/child ratios, needed equipment, supplies and hot meals for children. 100% of ASI funding will be used by year-end.

B. Program Availability

The primary benefit Cal State L.A. students receive from our program is child care while they attend classes. Secondary benefits are an exemplary early care and education program for the children who attend and for CSLA students to use for observation, child study and research assignments. Student employment that advances student career goals is an additional benefit.

Student Enrollment: CSLA students are always given first priority for enrollment at the Children's Center. This academic year the Center has enrolled 133 families through Winter Quarter. Of these 56% were student families. The specific enrollment was 74 CSLA student parents, 32 faculty/staff.

Observation and Training: This winter 2016 quarter 56 students have used the center for 1,761 hours of observation and training and 40 visitors have come to view the Center for training and information. Additionally the Center employed over 40 CSLA students to work as teacher assistants.

C. Support for low-income student parents

Child Care Tuition Assistance: Of particular concern to the Center is making sure that child care services are available for low-income student parents. Associated Student funding is used to support our general operation in order to offer reduced rates to all CSLA student families. In addition, the Center has been awarded several grants to serve low-income children in our program. This winter 96% of student parents received a subsidy for up to 100% of their preschool costs through these grants.

Child Care Food Program: The Center provides hot meals for all children at the Center, free of charge. This program is made possible with a continuing grant from the California Department of Education Child Care Food Program (CCFP), and the support of the ASI. This year we will receive about \$61,000 for the CCFP grant, which will provide for 60% of the cost of the food program. ASI funding is used for 5% of the remaining cost. These combined sources make it possible to provide hot meals without an increase in child tuition. The benefit of this program component is overwhelmingly positive. The meals we provide are exceptionally nutritious and, for some families, represent the only balanced meals their children may receive.

D. Program Quality:

Associated Student funding makes it possible for us to offer a program that meets the needs of student parents. Providing for low teacher/child ratios, flexible schedules, quarterly enrollment, student priority and reduced fees for students all add considerably to program costs. ASI funding is used throughout the budget in order to support the Center in maintaining a child care program that is designed for students and offers the quality of services that CSLA students deserve and can be proud of. Funding is used to support the following quality areas:

- Classroom supplies and equipment so that children are given the materials they need to learn.
- Staffing. The Center maintains a 1:7 adult/child ratio for preschool and a 1:3 ratio for infants.
- Flexible scheduling. Student parents enroll for part or full days in any combination needed in order to meet their class, study and work schedules.