



**Date:** April 9, 2025

**To:** Barnaby Peake, Director, Associated Students, Inc.

**CC:** Dena Florez, Office Manager of Administration and Services

**From:** James Goodrich, Children's Center Director

Children's Center Report on the Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center – Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

Associated Students, Inc. funding year to date has been used to support 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 7% of the Children's Center Operational Budget. Grants for low-income students make-up 65% of funding, parent fees 23% and the General Fund and IRA constitute the remaining 5%

**Fall ASI Allocation:** The \$70,389.50 allocated for fall semester 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 childcare 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 childcare while they attend classes. Secondary benefits are an exemplary, nationally accredited 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 priority for enrollment at the Children's Center. The Center enrolls over 100 families each semester. Of these families, student parents consistently make up the highest percentage of enrollment.

**Observation and Training:** For the fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters over 125 students have used the center for a total of over 5000 hours of observation and training (CHDV and Nursing and Kinesiology).

Additionally, the Center has employed approximately 48 CSULA students to work as student assistants.

### **C. SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS**

**Child Care Tuition Assistance:** Of particular concern to the Center is making sure that childcare services are available for low-income student parents. Associated Student funding is used to support our general operation 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. Beginning fall 2024, 90% of student parents received a subsidy for up to 100% of their childcare 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 \$65,000 for the CCFP grant, which will provide for 60% of the cost of the food program. ASI funding is used for 2.5% 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:**

The Center continues to ensure a high-quality program for CSULA students by maintaining NAEYC Accreditation, which has been in place since 1992. In addition to Accreditation, the Center received a 5-Star rating from Quality Starts Los Angeles (QSLA), which is managed through the Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE). The continues to be in good standing with all required regulatory agencies and has received commendation for its efforts in maintaining a high-quality program for children and families. 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, enrollment each semester, student priority and reduced fees for students all add considerably to program costs. ASI funding is used throughout the budget to support the Center in maintaining a childcare program that is designed for students and offers the quality of services that CSULA 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 and 1:4 for toddlers.
- Flexible scheduling: Student parents enroll for part or full days in any combination needed to meet their class, study and work schedules.