



University of Washington, Seattle Services & Activities Fee Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request

Unit Leads

Maddy Laoprasert, Associate Program Director MPA Student (csfcoord@uw.edu)
Danny Arguetty, CSF Program Director (dannyarg@uw.edu)

Contributors

Karolyn Maeda, CSF Outreach and Connections Coordinator
Lorenzo McCleese CSF Grant and Project Coordinator
Lisa Dulude, UWS Office Director
UWS Office Staff & Students

2025-2026 CSF Student Committee
ASUW, Sofia Berkowitz (Co-Chair)
UWS , Clara Kreutziger (Co-Chair)
Intellectual House, Elias Plaster
GPSS, Nino Migineishvili
GPSS, Zehra Khan
ESC, Jessica Liu
OMAD SAB, Mira Menon
ASUW, Zaara Mohammed

Budget Request Highlights

In this section, please list all line items for any changes in request amount greater than \$1000, along with a short description of each line item and the amount requested. For all other changes under \$1000, please list the total summed figures in a final "miscellaneous expenses" item at the bottom. Please ensure that all the SAF funded line items below and previous SAF allocation total add up to the requested amount. Our goal with this section is to provide an overview of the current financial state, along with any changes in SAF funding that are being requested this year.

Each unit's FY27 request may only represent a maximum increase of 6% or \$38,000 over the unit's allocation for FY26 (whichever is higher in context of the unit's FY26 allocation).

While we would love to fund everyone's full request, SAF is financially constrained by the Washington State Legislature. RCW 28B.15.069 limits the amount that the Services and Activities Fee (SAF) is allowed to increase each year. For FY27, the SAF amount can be increased by a maximum of 4%. Requests beyond the maximum increase will be returned to units for corrections/updates.

Our unit's request in FY23 was **\$396,604.28** and our award was **\$396,604.28**.
Our unit's request in FY24 was **\$426,604.28** and our award was **\$406,062.00**.
Our unit's request in FY25 was **\$411,470.59** and our award was **\$411,471.00**.
Our unit's request in FY26 was **\$446,470.59** and our award was **\$420,969**
Our request for FY27 is **\$458,969**, which represents a **\$38,000** increase from FY26.

In this section, please break each increase into its own sections (e.g. wage & benefits changes, increases in current employee hours/FTE, funding new positions, etc.). Example sections have been provided (you may delete the example sections).

Wage & Benefits Increases

\$14,535

**Please note the [FY27 Preliminary Benefit Rates](#) were used to calculate employee fringe benefit rates:*

Graduate Staff Assistant Role

+ \$7,064

- This increase accounts for the allotted 10% merit increase under the UAW4121 / ASE bargaining agreement and FY27 preliminary fringe rates (forecasted to increase by 3.8%). Other areas that are subject to influence the final FY27 amount (not yet known) are tuition and associated university fees.

Professional Staff Role + **\$4,111**

- This increase accounts for the anticipated salary increase following the scheduled compensation evaluation in June 2025. The standard rate is 2% for UW Facilities (our larger organizational department). This also accounts for the increase in FY27 preliminary fringe rates (forecasted to increase by 0.2%)

Hourly Student Staff + **\$2,802**

- The fringe benefit rate is forecasted to increase by 1.0%. Additionally, merit increases (\$23/hr) were awarded to our two undergraduate employees (both entering their second year of employment).

CSF Committee Members + **\$558**

- Committee Members do not receive Fringe benefits. However, stipend increases reflect the 3% standard inflation rate.

Grant Budget Increases + **\$21,965**

We continue to receive more grant requests than we can fund. We would like to continue increasing our grant budget, as we have spent down previous reserves that have been buffering our ability to fund more projects.

Travel Increases + **\$1,500**

Restoring travel costs to our usual amount from previous years. The increase accounts for WOHESC travel/lodging costs, which takes place at UW Seattle Campus in FY26 and moves back to Oregon in FY27. Estimating 8 people, core staff and some Committee members.

Full Budget Overview & Justification

In this section, you will have the opportunity to explain your request in greater detail via the guiding question(s) below. You are encouraged to use graphs, charts, or other visual tools. Your goal for this section is to provide the SAF committee (and the public) with sufficient (and substantive) context and justification for the use of these funds.

- 1. How are expenditures distributed across the programs and/or services your unit offers? Please provide a general overview of how much spending is allocated to each category of expense, such as staffing, materials, etc., as is applicable.**

Expenditures at CSF are split across several key categories to support our mission effectively: grantmaking, personnel, and “other” (partnerships, educational resources, and programming).

Our other largest category of spending is grantmaking at around 42% of our total budget. Our grantmaking consists of three components: our large grants (projects exceeding a \$5,000 ask), mini grants (projects with an award ask at or under \$5,000), and our Resilience Seed Grants (a collaborative grant with the UW Resilience Lab for projects \$5,000). We also have some recurring grant projects that are classified as collaborative programs. This benefits smaller units who consistently apply for CSF funding by gaining access to a larger capital investment upfront (to be used across three years). Additionally, this elevates the CSF from a funder to a partner, meaning we can be more formative in developing essential services that increase the sustainability of UW’s campus. Currently, critical programs supported under this initiative are the Q Center’s Engender and Menstruation Station. In FY26, our grant spending is projected to be around \$260,000 which includes continued spending of reserves. **To date, SAF has made it possible for the CSF to award over \$4.5M to 351 student-led projects.**

The CSF personnel of Program Director, Associate Program Director, two coordinators, and an eight-person student Committee is our next largest spending category at around 40%. This core team ensures that our operations run smoothly on both the grantmaking and outreach parts of our work. Some examples of work on the grantmaking side are continual meetings with project teams, review of project proposals, fiscal setup for awarded projects, post-award project support and check-ins, and fiscal accountability of funds once projects are underway. On

the outreach side, there is continual relationship building with units and student orgs, event and program planning, evaluation and feedback, and program refinements.

Our final category of spending at around 18% is our other operating expenses that support logistics like utilities, travel, and general supplies, as well as our outreach operations with marketing, educational resources, honorariums, and event supplies.

2. Please give a summary elaborating on how SAF Funding has been used to support students *(Please refer to dollar amounts in this discussion when possible).*

- a. In what ways has SAF funding been essential to supporting your unit's on-going services and role in the university? Please provide at least one specific example of a program/service.

SAF funding has been core to CSF's services and their reach in supporting students across departments and disciplines. Since CSF's establishment in 2010, SAF funding has enabled our unit to continue equipping students with skills and resources to champion justice-centered sustainability within the UW campus and surrounding community. Over the years, CSF is grateful to have grown as not only a grantmaking unit but also a platform for resource and knowledge sharing.

Funding from SAF is what makes our grantmaking arm possible. Over the past 16 years, SAF has made it possible for us to award over \$4.5M to 351 student-led projects. These projects contribute to the University of Washington Seattle campus through implementing physical and cultural dimensions of sustainability. Since last year, we funded 29 new projects, including [Cultivating skills for ethical research collaborations with Indigenous Peoples in the environmental sciences](#), a course exploring ongoing education in Indigenous research ethics and collaboration with Tribes; [Cultural Harvest](#), which celebrates UW's cultural diversity through sharing food and stories; [Project Indoor Farm](#), which connects students to indoor farming and builds community and sustainable food systems; and [Co-designing environmental education materials in Spanish with Seattle area community organizations](#), partnering with Seattle cultural organizations seeking to create Spanish language materials at UW surrounding climate justice and resilience.

Some previous examples include [Cross-Cultural Collaboration at The Burke Meadow](#), located near the Burke Museum serves as a living exhibit of native prairie plants with cultural and ecological significance. The Q Center's [Menstruation](#)

[Station](#) program provides free and sustainable menstrual items and support services to LGBTQ+ community members, addressing financial barriers and promoting wellbeing. [Native Gardens at UW Farm](#), in collaboration with Intellectual House and other Native American groups on campus, works toward food sovereignty, community-building, and storytelling by planting indigenous plant gardens and celebrating native foods on campus. [Investigating stormwater runoff for tire derived anti-degradants from athletic fields](#) works toward understanding how UW's artificial turf fields contribute to waterway pollution and severe downstream impacts on salmon and Native American tribes whose cultural heritage is tied to salmon and these ecosystems. In addition, CSF supports vital cultural events like the [Spring Powwow](#), [KERATON](#), [TSA Night Market](#), [Somali Night](#), and so many more. Lastly, the CSF strives to be a repeat investor for flagship programs that build more sustainable systems for the University. For example, the [Salvage Wood program](#), composting systems with UW Grounds Management and Farm ([Yard Waste Composting base program](#) with additions for [Vermicompost](#)), and the [SER-UW Native Plant Nursery](#) that grows native plants to be planted across the University for increased biodiversity and ecological resilience.

The Project IF team was recently recognized with a [Husky Sustainability Award](#) for their continued work as a prominent leader making UW more sustainable – a distinction the Campus Sustainability Funds also [shares](#).

Students on campus directly benefit from these projects, representing a cyclical and regenerative contribution of SAF funds. **SAF funding** not only provides formative opportunities for student project teams to lead change through their vision of justice-centered sustainability, but **gives students the chance to build out their own path of skill development and experience in their desired disciplines.**

Through SAF's support, CSF can also generate professional development opportunities, such as chances to attend and present at conferences, for our student-run internal team and Committee. This funding has given our students the opportunity to lead workshops and poster sessions at conferences such as Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC), Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), and ECC's Diversity Leadership Conference (DLC). It has also provided our students and project teams the opportunity to speak on radio at [Rainier Ave Radio's Earth Deserves More than a Day](#), on celebrating student power and perspectives. Similar to project teams, funding for the CSF team and Committee itself supports professional development for students to hone in on their strengths and interests in bridging silos, championing narratives on justice-centered sustainability, and

making decisions that pave the way for sustainability on campus and beyond. Our Committee, which is the first student-run committee to receive stipends at UW (thanks for SAF's support), is comprised of students representing Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), The Associated Students for the University of Washington (ASUW), Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC), UW Sustainability Department (UWS), Office of Minority Affairs Student Advisory Board (OMAD SAB), Wəłəbʔaltx^w - Intellectual House (IH), and ASUW Board of Directors. This structure is built to prioritize equitable representation, decision making, and power-sharing amongst students across campus.

CSF is proud to continue expanding our education, connections, and outreach branch with the goal of reaching and connecting with more students whose backgrounds, identities, and/or disciplines are often excluded from traditional sustainability fields. This year, SAF funding has helped us focus more on partnerships and collaborations with the Q Center, Women's Center, and EarthLab. We also kicked off the year with a Project Tour connecting students with past CSF-funded project teams, as well as a Farmer's Market Tour in partnership with wəłəbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House, UW Sustainability, UW Food Pantry, Project Indoor Farm, Cultural Harvest, and the University District Farmers Market, where students got to connect with food systems groups across campus as well as local farmers and vendors in Washington State. The intentions behind these collaborations are not only for sharing knowledge and pathways for skill- and career-building, but also to connect students with folks embedded in sustainability work, with different on-campus sustainability groups and resources, and with other students interested in sustainability work through shared learning and community building. We hope to serve not only as a resource for students to build their knowledge and confidence, but also as a platform for students to share their own stories, perspectives, and knowledge around sustainability. We continue to update and refine outreach and engagement platforms such as class/RSO visits + tabling, speaker events + teach-ins, gatherings in our new space, our newsletter + [instagram](#), our website resources + [resource guide](#), our Climate Justice Library, and [our zines](#).

We are grateful to have SAF as our primary funder since 2010.

- b. How have your unit's services and programming changed over time, and how have you adapted the use of SAF funding?

The CSF is proud to have [adapted to the needs of our student body](#). We were established with a strong goal of being the student force to fund student-led projects that implemented and honored the Climate Action Plan (2009). We have updated our mission statement four times to reflect our current role in fostering not only an environmentally engaged but socially engaged university culture that promotes multidisciplinary student-led work. We created a vision statement and have updated it to communicate our role as a catalyst to unite a front of leaders across disciplines and generations to secure a just and sustainable future. We have grown our status on campus as a grantmaking group that predominantly funds environmental projects to an organization that provides key services in justice-centered sustainability through education, grants and project team support, and partnerships.

We have been able to reach new students and meet their blossoming needs to grapple with the question of our role in our future. Our generation faces many scary realities – climate change, rising inequity, and the disempowerment of the general public in shaping our reality. Climate justice, lessons in creating sustainable communities, and partnerships rooted in community-building sit at the center of our solutions, strengthening networks of knowledge- and resource-sharing and collective action. The CSF has always been a place to raise change-makers in sustainability – we offer rare opportunities to gain experience in grantmaking, serve as a project manager, and lead a team to create something innovative. Through engagement, students can challenge traditional siloes, grow confidence in their skill sets, and learn essential knowledge at the intersection of academic disciplines. Growing our mini-grant program, nurturing partnerships, and increasing our focus on engagement have been pivotal in empowering a growing collective of students who see their role in sustainability.

Additionally, we strive to be adaptive to both our emerging needs as an organization and the larger UW community. Last year, we re-entered our partnership with the [CELE Center](#) to bring 3 cohorts of undergraduate students who could help us make strides in creating an alumni hub, go through our archives to tell the narrative of our organization's history, improve accessibility and engagement of our resource guide and website, publish a [project map](#) of CSF projects on campus, as well as support our fundraising, outreach, and engagement efforts. The CELE program provides a direct pathway for students to engage with and shape the work we do. Students receive support from the CSF team through professional development and networking opportunities, mentorship, and letters of support, and they have the opportunity to continue working on their projects beyond their project term. We are also engaging more with the student body and campus partners through feedback processes, providing opportunities for

students to shape the direction of CSF beyond the current systems we have in place. This year, we released a feedback form to our committee, existing project teams, partners, and the broader student body to gauge how accessible our grant application feels. From this, we were able to adjust our grant application calendar and deadlines, as well as our process, to better fit student needs. Based on insights from the CSF Committee's participatory budgeting process (FY27), we will also explore expanding accessibility in grantmaking through outreach and engagement, so that students continue to shape the definition of "sustainability" while raising awareness to this justice-centered lens. In doing so, we aim to uplift student ideas across campus and create pathways to our resources and services, all while breaking down barriers to implementing a successful project. With our new space this year, we will be creating a regular space for students to gather, understand ways they can be or are currently involved in sustainability, share ideas and meet like-minded individuals, and uplift one another in their ideas.

We are grateful for SAF's continued support and faith in us to be a formative steward of sustainability and student interest at the UW Seattle campus – we strive to always carry this role.

- c. Are there programs/services that SAF has funded in the past that your unit no longer provides?

N/A

- d. Are you currently using your unit's allocation for new programs or services that were not originally requested as an item in your SAF budget request?

N/A

3. What is the nature of your reserves/fund balances? For what purposes do you hold reserves? How were they accrued? (Reserves/Fund balances are termed and considered differently in every unit. If you are unsure of what these terms mean or would like clarification on anything, please reach out and ask.)

Our reserves grew significantly during the bulk of the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2023) – funds were returned from projects that became nonviable due to COVID challenges, and we experienced a general decline in student interest to take on additional tasks (e.g., applying for a grant). At the beginning of FY23, we had \$408k in reserves. An 8.5-month Program Director vacancy and remaining funds from grantmaking brought our reserves to \$513,486 at the end of FY24. This was not an amount we were comfortable carrying and therefore created an aggressive spending plan in FY23 to bring our reserves down to a healthy level by the end of FY25, which we accomplished. This spending was used to supplement our funds for grant projects approved by our committee.

In combination with recouped unspent project funds and this reserve spending, in FY25 we awarded \$258,132 in grantmaking. This leaves our reserve balance at around 210k which allows us to have a five to six months buffer for operating expenses.

The CSF continues to manage its spending and reserves closely to ensure we have enough to support our financial health as an organization, position ourselves for continued financial support from SAF, and actively serve our campus and student body.

Budget Breakdown

Permissions have been explicitly granted to safvc@uw.edu and safcom@uw.edu. But everyone with UW login should have access through this [google sheet](#).

Budget				
	FY27	FY26	FY25 Actuals	Notes
SAF Funds	\$ 458,969	\$ 439,852	\$ 411,471	FY26 SAF \$420,969; capital request \$18,883
Core Funds				
Grants				
Other Student Fees		\$ 12,712	\$ 74,453	Reflects unspent funds (SAF funds) recouped from past grant awardees. These funds are allocated to new grant awards
Auxiliary Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$ 458,969	\$ 452,564	\$ 485,924	
Change From Previous FY (%)	1.42%	-6.87%		
	FY27	FY26	FY25 Actuals	Notes
Salaries & Wages				
Permanent	\$ 86,882	\$ 85,178	\$ 83,508	
Student/Temporary	\$ 111,142	\$ 104,418	\$ 124,044	For FY27: 3% inflation rate increase for 6 student Committee stipends (\$490 -> \$505 / Autumn, Winter, Spring quarter) and 2 student Committee Co-Chair stipends (\$1,200 -> \$1,236 / Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer quarter) - \$270 increase / year for 6 committee members - \$288 increase / year for 2 committee co-chairs, \$18,978 total Committee GSA role increase of 10% per union agreement \$45,520 FY26 Hourly: \$80,330.75 FY26 GSA: \$10,347.02 As expected. Two undergrad staff at \$13/hr. 19.5 week for 52 weeks (during breaks students might work more than 19.5/wk), total \$46,644 FY25 -> 26 decrease as expected due to the end of our temporary staff person's term with us
Retirement & Benefits				
Permanent	\$ 28,237	\$ 25,830	\$ 19,343	32.5% fringe rate
Student/Temporary	\$ 51,945	\$ 46,165	\$ 35,145	16.2% hourly fringe rate (\$7,556), 31.5% GSA fringe (\$14,385), GSA Tuition (\$30,000)
Supplies and Materials	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 693	Keeping funds at \$1,000 to use toward implementing regular gatherings (see budget packet). Historically have spent less than allocated in this category
Professional & Purchased Services				Moved utilities costs (previously categorized into Professional & Purchased Services) to new category
Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,897	FY25 included travel to AASHE conference in addition to WOHEC, hence higher expense, not a usual occurrence. Restoring travel costs to our usual amount from previous years. The increase accounts for WOHEC travel/lodging costs, which takes place at UW Seattle Campus in FY26 and moves back to Oregon in FY27. Estimating 8 people, core staff and some Committee members.
Utilities	\$ 515	\$ 515	\$ 515	
External Funding Allocations	\$ 164,248	\$ 260,000	\$ 258,132	CSF Grant awards to project teams. Using some recouped funds and reserves for FY26.
Capital Projects/Expenditures				
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 8,669	Keeping funds at \$12,000 to use \$3,500 of it toward implementing regular gatherings (see budget packet). Historically have been resourceful in utilizing shared resources between partnerships so have spent less than allocated in this category
Total Expenses	\$ 458,969.00	\$ 536,606.00	\$ 534,945.13	
Change From Previous FY (%)	-14.47%	0.31%		Since the COVID-19 pandemic, CSF has been spending down excess reserves accumulated due to the nature of an online environment. This explains why our total expenses exceed allocated SAF funds in FY26 and FY25.
Fund	FY27	FY26	FY25 Actuals	Notes
Unallocated				
Allocated				
Restricted				
Total Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Change From Previous FY (%)	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!		
Total Change From Previous FY (\$)	\$ 84,042.00	\$ (35,020.46)		
Total Change From Previous FY (%)	0.00%	171.44%		

Information on Other Revenues:

If you have other sources of revenue, please give an overview of those anticipated revenues (including new sources) and how you expect them to change in the coming years. If relevant, include a breakdown of services & positions funded by SAF vs other revenues.

SAF has been the CSF's reliable funding source since 2010, supporting our grants, personnel, and operational costs. Student fees are essential to our mission of directly serving UW students. SAF funding enables us to support projects focusing on the social, cultural, and justice aspects of sustainability, making our impact on campus possible. We look forward to continuing this partnership.

Your support is especially important now as in the last year the CSF has lost key additional funding sources. We no longer receive The College of the Environment's Class Gift of \$5k, lost our STF block award of \$200k, and are not being listed for the Cap-and-gown Donation Program on a regular basis. Over the last two years we have been diligent about recouping funds from projects that are no longer active and have regained over \$87k. All of these funds have been reallocated to new projects and the demand for funding continues to grow.

Finally while the CSF has been spending down reserves over the last years we are coming to a point where we no longer will have added flexibility in this way. This means that without reserve funds to allocate to our grantmaking the pool of funds available to student projects will have to shrink, which again is a shame considering that demand continues to grow each funding cycle.

Additional Questions

1. **The following questions will help us understand your unit's priorities.**
 - a. **How would you adjust your operations if you did not receive your full FY27 request? Please elaborate on the potential impact on staffing and services.**

The CSF relies on a small team to keep our operations functioning, and each position—both staff and Committee—is essential to delivering our services. If our request were funded at a lower level, our first step would be to look at our grantmaking budget to see where adjustments could be made. The size of the reduction would determine whether we need to draw more heavily from our reserve so we can continue offering students meaningful access to our funding opportunities. We have explored fundraising with UW Advancement, but progress has been limited, and given the current climate, we anticipate that this route will continue to be challenging.

We would also review other areas of spending, such as conference participation and travel, which could mean sending fewer students to opportunities like WOHESC. Partnerships would likely be affected as well. This could require scaling back collaborations with units and organizations such as the Women's Center, EarthLab, UW Sustainability, MESH, Food RSOs, and the Q Center.

While these reductions are possible, they would significantly limit the growth and learning opportunities we provide. Conferences and professional development help our Committee and staff build essential skills and connect with peers across the region. Our partnerships are equally important, broadening our reach, strengthening our programming, and helping us engage student communities who might not otherwise intersect with the CSF. Scaling back these collaborations would weaken the network of student-centered units we work alongside and reduce our ability to serve underrepresented groups effectively.

We've always made every effort to be thoughtful and conservative in our requests, asking for only modest increases over time. We hope SAF sees our continued commitment to stretching our resources while still providing high-quality support for students.

b. What if you received 4% less than your FY26 allocation? Please elaborate on the potential impact on staffing and services.

If CSF receives 4% less than our FY26 request (\$420,969), we would need to reevaluate our budget and make substantial cuts to core areas such as grantmaking, partnerships, and educational programming. We would also return to the participatory budgeting process with SAF to adjust priorities for FY27.

We would still keep our core staff and committee members and find ways to reduce spending in other areas.

SAF funding has been central to keeping our operations strong. It allows us to respond to high student demand for grants, maintain our educational resources, sustain meaningful partnerships, and support our four staff and eight student committee members. In our first grant cycle alone this year, student teams

requested nearly \$500,000—showing how essential SAF’s support is for maintaining access to impactful sustainability funding.

SAF’s investment has also helped CSF grow as a center for justice-focused sustainability. We’ve expanded student-facing resources like our Zines and Resource Guide, increased engagement through class visits, and continue building educational resources on our website to broaden access to sustainability knowledge.

Our partnerships continue to deepen because of this support. Collaborations with the Resilience Lab, Q Center, food-focused RSOs, and community groups have led to projects ranging from the Binder Collage art installation to campus planting events, fashion and sustainability programming, and food systems education. These relationships strengthen our reach and help us connect with diverse student communities.

We are also working closely with UW Sustainability on the Sustainability Action Plan update and initiatives like the Green Labs Program, as well as supporting continued expanded Earth Week programming, which were a huge success in 2025.

CSF submits a thoughtful funding request each year to ensure we can continue serving as a leader in student-powered sustainability, justice, and equity. SAF’s support remains crucial to sustaining this work, adapting to student needs, and building new avenues for engagement across campus.

c. What student services/programs are integral to your mission that you would not cut even if you received an amount less than your FY26 allocation? Why?

The Campus Sustainability Fund at UW Seattle believes campus is a living lab. We offer experiences to equip students with skills as **connectors** across silos, **project leaders** of climate solutions, **narrative-changers** that champion “justice-centered sustainability,” and **decision-makers** to lead the youth sustainability movement vital for our collective future.

Our mission prioritizes our commitment to foster experiences for students that put them as a central player in building a sustainable campus. This means access to unique grant opportunities that allow them to access funds as an undergraduate student and serve as a project manager. It means putting them in a position that fosters real-world learning and equipping them with the tools to leading solutions now. It also motivates students to show up for our community as a consistent voice that pursues justice, equitable distribution of resources, and catalyzes conversations and shared learning around what sustainability is and who belongs.

If CSF received less than our FY26 allocation, there are certain student-centered services we would not cut under any circumstances because they are fundamental to our mission. First, we would preserve our staff capacity. With only four core staff members, maintaining their hours is essential to keeping our operations functional, supporting students through the grantmaking process, and sustaining the programs that define CSF. We would also protect our student committee stipends, which ensure that leadership roles remain accessible to students from all backgrounds—not just those who can afford to volunteer their time.

These two areas form the backbone of how CSF serves students. Without them, our ability to run grants, mentor applicants, host programs, and maintain partnerships would collapse. After safeguarding staffing and committee stipends, the only area with meaningful flexibility is our grantmaking budget. We would explore carefully scaled reductions while still striving to provide strong support for student-led sustainability projects. Grantmaking is a big offering, and it is also the one part of our budget that can adjust without dismantling our core functions.

If cuts needed to go further, we would then look at programmatic elements such as educational resources and partnerships. We would try to maintain the spirit of our justice-centered educational work even in these reductions.

Any allocation below our FY26 level would significantly affect our ability to deliver the full range of programs students rely on. Even in that scenario, we remain committed to centering student needs, preserving equitable access to leadership, and maintaining the structural support that allows CSF to function as a cornerstone of sustainability education and action at UW.

- 2. If you are projecting a net deficit for your overall FY27 budget, please provide additional context for this net deficit (e.g. reallocation of carryover funds from previous fiscal years, extraordinary expenses necessary to meet operational needs, etc.) and how this might impact your operations.**
(Optional – Answer “N/A” if not relevant to your unit)

N/A

3. What is one program/service your unit would like to work towards building to enhance students' out-of-class experience at the University? How much would it cost?

One program CSF would like to build this year is a structured gathering space for students leading or interested in sustainability and climate justice projects. Through this, we hope to enrich student connection and learning beyond the classroom while also empowering students to see themselves as changemakers within the sustainability space. For example, last year's committee participatory budgeting process identified a strong interest in infrastructure projects, particularly ones that invest in the intersection between environment, culture, community care, and access. However, because infrastructure projects often require significant coordination across institutional systems, most infrastructure proposals in the past fiscal cycle came from faculty rather than students. This program would help create clearer, student-led pathways into this work. More broadly, through our outreach, we have consistently heard students express interest in leading projects alongside uncertainty around developing ideas, forming a team, writing a grant proposal, and carrying projects from idea to sustained action. Because of this, we released a feedback form through social media, in-person outreach, and partners, to shape this upcoming year of our new space and programming. The response we received reinforced the need for a monthly gathering space where students can connect, share knowledge, and learn about justice-centered sustainability. While CSF provides hands-on, continuous support for prospective and existing projects, including 1:1 support from our Grant and Projects Coordinator, grant-writing and project development are often new learning opportunities that students build over time through learning, practice, mentorship, and community.

These gatherings would provide a structured, low-barrier learning space where students can learn alongside one another and receive peer and mentor support as they think about justice-centered sustainability and develop their projects. The gatherings would bring together students at different stages, including those who are interested in learning about sustainability and meeting like-minded peers, those with early ideas, current CSF-funded teams, past grantees, and partners involved in sustainability work. It would also provide a way for our staff to be in relation with the broader student body, helping us better understand student needs, hopes, interests, and strengths. The focus would be on knowledge-sharing and learning, project scoping, team-building, collaboration, accessibility, partnerships, budgeting, and long-term sustainability. Content would be shaped by student feedback and lived experience, centering peer learning and relationship building rather than prescriptive instruction. By creating shared learning and connecting space outside of individual grant applications, the space would strengthen students' capacity, skills, confidence, and sense of belonging in sustainability work at UW.

CSF could pilot this program for approximately \$3,500, covering honorariums, stipends, and materials for the academic year. This would cover the costs of our monthly gatherings, including community partner honorariums, student facilitator

stipends, materials and convening costs, and accessibility supports. This investment would be a huge enhancement to students' out of class experience, reflecting student feedback and needs in making our programming and services more impactful to students at UW Seattle campus. Historically, we have been resourceful in our materials spending and in utilizing shared resources between partnerships. Therefore, we have spent less than allocated in this category and will be using the difference toward these gatherings.

Other things CSF would explore are further investing to nurture even stronger partnerships with campus partners like the Q Center, MESH, EarthLab, wələbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House, UW Sustainability, ECC, and food systems groups like ASUW Food Co-op, UW Food Pantry, Project IF, and Cultural Harvest. This would further decrease barriers to sustainability engagement, especially among students who may not traditionally see themselves in the sustainability conversation. For example, we are continuing collaborations with the Q Center this year to create a weeklong series of programming focused on our relationship with ourselves and the land. We will be working with UW Farm to create a space in nature for healing and joy through the act of connecting with our environment. The goal is to continue investing in the resilience of these communities through cultivating affirmative spaces of belonging and inclusion. This partnership hopes to raise awareness of sustainability's relevance across communities and disciplines (e.g. sustainability of queer and trans joy and healing) and demonstrate the inherent intersectionalities within sustainability.

4. How does your unit ensure that student fees do not subsidize non-student, academic, research, and other costs that are the primary responsibility of the University and its colleges?

The CSF's bylaws ([section 4.4](#)) clearly state that we cannot use our funding to cover academic coursework, research, facilities maintenance, or other University-related costs. As a student-led and student-funded organization, the CSF is committed to supporting student-driven initiatives. Each year, our new committee members are oriented to these bylaws, ensuring they understand and uphold them in their stewardship of the fund. New committee members are guided by current/previous committee members and staff who pass down institutional and historic knowledge on topics such as bylaws, which provides continuity and support for future committee members. If a proposed project could be funded by other sources, our committee helps connect the project team to the appropriate outlets.

The CSF was established to fund innovative projects that fall outside the typical scope of University operations, providing distinct opportunities for students to reaffirm themselves as changemakers while directly benefiting the UW community through their unique lenses. We focus on supporting projects that go beyond the usual boundaries of the University, whether that means exploring new concepts, pushing the limits of interdisciplinary work, or developing something that might not emerge within the typical University structure. For every project, we work closely with relevant partners to ensure we are funding work that is not already covered by the University or its departments. On top of this, we provide ongoing support for team leads to ensure their projects successfully build upon

sustainability initiatives and impacts on students beyond what the University can offer. This approach helps us avoid duplication and encourages complementary, forward-thinking initiatives.

In addition to supporting student-led projects, we aim to use CSF funding to inspire further investment from the University in sustainability. Sustainability involves considering the long-term impact of each project – whether it's meant to benefit a handful of students for one year or create something that can offer ongoing benefits for future generations of UW students.

The CSF is deeply grateful for the opportunity to fund student initiatives at UW. This responsibility is something our staff and committee take seriously, and we continuously reflect on how our funding requests and operations can maximize the impact of our funding from SAF. Our goal is to honor the trust of the student body by ensuring that CSF funds are directed toward student-led projects that directly benefit the UW Seattle campus.

5. What active roles do students and their views play in your unit's decision making?

Students are the primary decision-makers within the Campus Sustainability Fund. Our student-led committee is made up of representatives from eight organizations across campus: Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), The Associated Students for the University of Washington (ASUW), Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC), UW Sustainability Department (UWS), Office of Minority Affairs Student Advisory Board (OMAD SAB), Wəłəbʔaltx^w - Intellectual House (IH), and ASUW Board of Directors (Director of Campus Partnerships, non-voting). Our committee meets regularly and holds decision-making power over participatory budgeting, grant review, funding decisions, and the overall direction of CSF. Students collectively advise, shape priorities, and determine how resources are allocated, grounding their decisions on broader student needs, interests, values, and lived experience. Two of our committee members serve as Committee Co-Chairs, holding weekly meetings with members of the core team and acting as liaisons between the committee and CSF operations. In this role, they help ensure day-to-day work stays aligned with committee priorities and values.

CSF's work is carried out by a small core team of three students and one professional staff member. The student team includes two undergraduates serving as the Grant and Projects Coordinator and the Outreach and Connections Coordinator, and one graduate student serving as the Associate Program Director. Our Program Director, a professional staff member, supports student leadership by providing institutional and historical knowledge, administrative and budget support, long-term strategic guidance, and general stability and continuity across leadership transition shifts, opening up capacity for students to lead with confidence. The core team is responsible for much of CSF's day-to-day work and plays a key role in implementing student priorities. Together, they support our grantmaking processes, working closely with project teams and applicants to help ensure funding processes are accessible and supportive. They act as a bridge

between the student committee, funded projects, and the broader student body, translating committee decisions into implementation while bringing feedback and lived experiences back into decision-making spaces. Beyond grantmaking, the team also leads outreach, engagement, partnerships, and relationship-building across campus and the greater Seattle area. This includes collaborating with student organizations, departments, classes, and community partners; sharing knowledge and pathways beyond UW; coordinating educational and community-building events; visiting classes, RSOs, and attending partner events; tabling to share services, engage, and receive input on student needs and interests; managing communications with UW students and partners through newsletters, social media, and visual storytelling; and gathering student feedback to inform programming and services through surveys and face-to-face engagement. Across all of this work, the core team helps ensure CSF remains student-centered and responsive.

CELE students contribute to CSF's decision-making by expanding the ways student perspectives are integrated beyond formal leadership roles. Through their outreach, engagement, relationship-building, and access work, CELE students help us understand and implement student needs and priorities. Their perspectives inform CSF's building toward accessible, relevant, and engaging programs and services, and are regularly shared with the core team to help shape outreach and engagement, programs, resources, projects, and grants. In this way, CELE students support us in providing a feedback and accountability bridge between the broader student body and CSF leadership, making sure decisions are informed by lived student experiences across campus.

6. How are you utilizing the SAF logo? In what ways do you spread awareness of your affiliation with SAF? Attach an example if applicable.

We use the SAF logo in our project portfolio on our website as well as on the pages that talk about our vision and mission and our apply for funding page. Periodically we also [post on instagram](#) on key program elements like participatory budgeting, which included a shout out to our funders.

We also inform project teams applying for funding that our primary source of funds is SAF and student fees. It's important they understand this context as it shapes how our Committee evaluates their project – our Committee member training focuses on the obligation they hold to be responsible stewards of student funds (from SAF) and to support projects that yield a strong positive impact on the UW student body.



7. When projecting out 1-3 fiscal years, what challenges, if any, do you foresee for your unit (policy changes, financial, etc.)? How could SAF be helpful in navigating these challenges? (Optional – Answer “N/A” if not relevant to your unit)

Looking ahead 1–3 fiscal years, we anticipate several challenges that will shape CSF’s ability to meet growing student demand. Each year, we receive an increasing number of strong, high-impact project proposals that far exceed our annual allocation. Without additional stable funding, we will continue facing difficult tradeoffs that limit how many student-led sustainability initiatives we can support.

A key structural challenge is the loss of our previous block award from the Student Technology Fee, which once covered technology-related portions of CSF projects. Without this support, more pressure shifts to our SAF allocation, tightening our ability to fund diverse sustainability work across campus.

While we have explored the possibility of establishing our own sustainability fee in the future, the current national political climate, ongoing policy shifts, and the financial strain students are already experiencing—paired with broad wariness around fee increases—make it unlikely that we will pursue this option in the near term. Our priority is ensuring that any long-term funding model is equitable, community-supported, and does not place an undue burden on students.

In this context, SAF’s partnership is more important than ever. SAF can support CSF by helping connect us with key players, advising on long-term funding strategies that are financially viable, and continuing to provide stable support as student project demand grows. With SAF’s guidance, we can better navigate these challenges while ensuring UW students continue to have meaningful access to sustainability funding, leadership opportunities, and hands-on educational experiences.