

# EXAMPLE

## CAP Transportation Project – Parents Council Grant Awards Application

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**Title of Event/Program:** CAPS Transportation Project

**Description (100-word limit):** The Transportation Project will provide free transportation services for students to access referral appointments for off-campus counseling and other psychological services. Many students do not pursue CAPS referrals due to limited access to affordable, timely, and easily accessible transportation options. To solve this issue, the Transportation Project will most likely partner with Lyft, an on-demand transportation company, to offer students free transportation to these off-campus appointments. If we do not partner with Lyft, we will pursue partnerships with ZipCar and P2P service vans. Facilitating access to mental health appointments will support and improve mental health of students.

**Timeline:** We have been working on this transportation project since May 2018, and we have been conducting outreach since then. This semester we have met multiple times with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Transportation and Parking (T&P) to identify the best way to provide transportation for students to off-campus health appointments. We will introduce a survey into campus health at the beginning of next semester that will gauge various aspects of student-reported access and barriers to transportation to off-campus mental health appointments. We will also spend next semester working out the finite details with CAPS, T&P, and the transportation service. We anticipate the program beginning in Fall of 2019. We have a meeting scheduled on January 4th with relevant parties such as CAPS, T&P, and UNC's legal services to discuss surmounting the legal barriers we have previously faced with using Lyft. We will track use and feedback of the transportation after implementation to address any obstacles that arise.

**Goals/Objectives:** All students should have access to transportation for their off-campus referral appointments. This program will eliminate many of the barriers to maintained mental health care that students, especially first year students, often encounter by allowing them to travel to and from their appointments without additional financial stress of transportation. In doing so, it will improve access to mental health providers and long-term mental health outcomes for UNC students.

**Collaboration:** We will collaborate with Counseling and Psychological Services to identify and target the students in need of transportation support. We will also partner with the department of Transportation and Parking to generate and incorporate our transportation program into their Transloc Rider app. We will most likely partner with Lyft to provide transportation services for students; however, if this partnership is not possible we will pursue a partnership with the P2P service vans and ZipCar. An anonymous donor has been identified through CAPS who is interested in contributing financially to this project, but we hope to first demonstrate that a pilot program works.

**Theme:** Safety & Wellness

**Student/Community Impact - Part 1:** Because the majority of mental health services are outsourced from CAPS to off-campus providers, the need to develop a comprehensive plan to provide students with transportation is necessary. There are multiple barriers that inhibit people from seeking mental health treatment, and removing transportation from that list would promote pursuing and maintaining treatment for students who need it. By developing a free and convenient transportation plan for students, more students will thus have the ability to seek mental health support. Furthermore, students will be more academically and socially successful if they are more holistically healthy.

**Student/Community Impact - Part 2:** If limited financially, we would initially like to target first year students because they are required to live on campus and are also not allowed to have a car on campus. However, we would ultimately like to expand the program to all students, especially those living on campus. Students who live on campus are often the most in need of CAPS services, with the least ability to figure out alternative transportation options. If the program ends up having a notable positive input we may decide to extend it to all student at UNC. The program has the potential to assist all ~4,500 first year students and ~8,500 students who live on campus, but will only assist those who seek help through CAPS and face transportation problems. Additionally, poor mental health outcomes disproportionately affect students of color on college campuses in the U.S, so this program could especially benefit students of color.

**Is this a new or existing program/event?** New

**Is this a one-time or continuing program/event?** Continuing

**Describe how the overall success of the proposed program/event will be measured:** We will measure the success through self-reported data from students before and after program implementation and after program use. Additionally, we will look at data revealing use of the program. We will also look at Campus Health satisfaction scores.

**Explain why Parents Council funds are necessary for this program/event:** The Transportation Project is a new and innovative program that will support undergraduate students. While we have identified an anonymous donor, we will receive more support when we can demonstrate that this program works. Additionally, the UNC's Administrative Mental Health Task Force is very supportive of this idea, but is more likely to be able to generate sustained funding for this program once it demonstrates success.

**Detail the TOTAL budget amount for the program/event:** While we are still working out the total budget amount for this program, the total budget will differ based on what population of students we focus on. If we focus on solely first years, the total budget will be less than if we focus on all residential students. However, we are predicting the total budget of the program for one year to provide transportation for all on-campus students to be \$5,000. A majority of this money will be spent directly on transportation for students to off-campus therapy. Given that most of the off-campus therapy locations are within Chapel Hill and Carrboro, we anticipate that the average cost of rides would be between \$6-\$10, so a sizable amount of students should be able to feasibly and sustainably use this program. Additionally, a portion of this cost will be directed towards program implementation and other IT costs, though because Transportation and Parking already has an app these costs will not be significant.

**Detail the PORTION OF THE TOTAL budget amount requested from the Parents Council:** We are requesting \$5,000 from the Parents Council to fund this program for the first year. The more funding we receive, the more transportation we will be able to provide for students and the greater our data collection about the program will be.

**What is the minimum amount of funds needed to make this program possible?** We believe we could get a small version of this program running and be able to collect sufficient data with \$2,000.

**Has your department or organization ever received Parents Council funds before? If yes, when, how much, and for what purpose?** The Mental Health Task Force of the Executive Branch of UNC-Chapel Hill Undergraduate Student Government is a new task force in Student Government and has never received a Parents Council grant. We have also asked other committees throughout Student Government about their interactions with the Parents Council and do not believe that Student Government has received a Parents Council Grant in recent years.

**Provided the program/activity is successful, how do you anticipate sustaining it financially in the future?** If this program is successful, we anticipate sustaining it financially in the future through a couple of different ways. Dr. Allen O'Barr, Director of CAPS, has identified an anonymous donor who is interested in financially contributing to this program. Additionally, CAPS may be able to allocate money or secure funding for the program through the UNC system once we demonstrate the positive results of the program. The Administrative Mental Health Task Force, overseen by Dr. Christi Hurt, the Interim

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, has expressed support for this program. If the Transportation Project demonstrates success, they may help us in securing funds to sustain the program. Furthermore, if we pursue a partnership with Lyft that is especially lucrative over an extended period of time, it is possible that they might subsidize prices for our program, thus making this program more affordable.