

Example Application: Carolina Parents Council Grant Awards

Below is a completed example of the 2026–2027 Carolina Parents Council Grant Awards Application. This example is designed to help applicants understand the level of detail and tone expected when completing the form.

Program Manager Information

Program Manager First and Last Name: Jennifer Asouzu

Program Manager Title: Associate Director

Program Manager Department/Organization: New Student & Family Programs

Program Manager Email: jasouzu@unc.edu

Program/Event Information

Name of Program/Event: Carolina Connection Circles

Is this program/event new to UNC? Yes

Will it occur one time? No – it will occur once each semester.

Has this program/event previously received grant funding from the Carolina Parents Council? No

Has your department/organization previously received grant funding from the Carolina Parents Council? Yes, 2023

Program/Event Summary (250 words)

Carolina Connection Circles is a peer-led program designed to strengthen the sense of belonging among first-year and transfer students. The initiative pairs new students with trained upper-class facilitators who lead small-group discussions throughout the semester focused on transition challenges, academic success, and well-being. Each group meets four times during the fall semester in informal, welcoming spaces on campus such as the Student Union and outdoor courtyards. Sessions feature guided reflection activities, community-building games, and campus resource spotlights. The goal is to provide students with a consistent support network and early connection to university resources. Through this initiative, New Student & Family Programs aims to reduce the isolation and disengagement often reported by new students during their first semester and to enhance their sense of belonging at Carolina.

Program/Event Goals, Objectives and Value (500 words)

The primary goal of Carolina Connection Circles is to foster a sense of belonging and connection for first-year and transfer students. Objectives include improving awareness of campus resources, building peer-to-peer connections, and reducing transition-related

stress. The program supports undergraduate students in their first semester, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds or out-of-state. Students benefit from a consistent peer group and a trained facilitator who models effective help-seeking and engagement behaviors. The program addresses the need for structured, small-group environments that help students navigate both academic and social aspects of campus life. Through evaluation surveys, students report increased confidence in accessing resources and stronger identification with the Carolina community. The long-term value lies in cultivating retention and satisfaction among new students, aligning directly with UNC's mission to foster student success.

Program/Event Timeline

- August 2026 – Recruitment and training of peer facilitators
- September–November 2026 – Small group sessions (4 total)
- December 2026 – End-of-semester reflection and evaluation
- January 2027 – Adjustments for spring semester groups
- February–April 2027 – Spring small group sessions
- May 2027 – Program evaluation and reporting

Collaborating UNC Departments/Organizations

Student Wellness, Center for Student Success, Carolina Housing, and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Measurement of Success

Success will be measured through pre- and post-program surveys assessing student belonging, satisfaction, and awareness of campus resources. Attendance data and facilitator reflections will also be collected to assess engagement. Key success indicators include at least 80% participant satisfaction and improved self-reported belonging scores compared to baseline.

Budget Information

Total Program/Event Budget: \$6,000

Below is an itemized estimate of program costs:

Expense Category	Description	Estimated Cost
Facilitator Training Materials	Printing, handouts, name tags, notebooks, pens for 20 facilitators	\$800
Program Supplies	Games, reflection cards, signage, markers, and activity kits	\$600

Marketing and Promotion	Posters, social media graphics, and small branded table tents	\$400
Room Reservations/Setup	Facility fees for multipurpose rooms (if applicable)	\$500
Evaluation and Assessment Tools	Qualtrics survey license and analysis support	\$500
Facilitator Appreciation	Educational book or professional development item for facilitators	\$300
Contingency	Unexpected supply needs or replacement costs	\$700

Total Estimated Cost: \$4,800

Portion of Budget Requested from the Carolina Parents Council: \$3,500

Minimum Amount of Funds Needed to Make the Program/Event Possible: \$2,000

Funds from the Carolina Parents Council would primarily support the facilitator training materials, refreshments, and evaluation tools. Remaining costs would be covered through departmental funds and co-sponsorships from campus partners such as the Office of Student Wellness.

Justification of Funding and Sustainability

Carolina Parents Council funds are needed to cover facilitator training materials, meeting supplies, and refreshments that help create welcoming spaces for discussion. Without this support, the program would be limited to a smaller pilot group. Sustainability will be achieved through collaboration with existing student staff, integration into peer leader training, and pursuit of co-sponsorship from campus partners. Once established, materials and training modules will be reused annually to maintain program consistency.

Acknowledgements

I acknowledge that, if selected, Grant Awards cannot fund tangible giveaways with no educational purpose, capital expenses, funding flow-through for other non-profit organizations, and salaries/stipends. I also acknowledge that, if selected, a representative from my program/event is available for an in-person interview on February 20, 2026.