

Application No. SP070

Q1. Applicant Information

Name (first and last)	Nikhita Sundarapandian
Email address	aggiehousedavis@gmail.com
Phone number (xxx) xxx-xxxx	(805)404-5278
Name of Department/ Unit/ Student Organization	Aggie House
What is your role or position within the Department/ Unit/ Student Organization?	Treasurer

Q2. Event/ Program Information

Name of the Event/ Program	Aggie House
Date(s) of Event (include the year; must take place in 2024-25 academic school year)	2021-present
Location	214 A St, Davis CA 95616
Estimated # of UC Davis students that will attend/ benefit from program	110+
TOTAL event/ program budget (\$x,xxx)	~\$100,000
Funding request amount from COSAF (Student Programming Fund) (\$x,xxx)	\$40,000

Q3. Please provide a detailed description and purpose of the event/ program.

Aggie House is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) on campus that is an operating transitional housing shelter for UC Davis (UCD) students facing housing insecurity and homelessness; our mission is to ensure that students don't need to compromise on their basic needs. Since its opening in Fall of 2021, Aggie House has remained entirely student-led and student-run, externally supported by our community.

Our main goals are to: (1) provide shelter, food, financial education, case management services, and community for residents of Aggie House, (2) equip the Aggie House staff with the necessary resources and connections to positively impact the lives of Aggie House residents, and (3) promote advocacy and garner support for students experiencing housing insecurity. The premise of Aggie House evolved from existing models established at UCLA and the University of Southern California (USC), and Aggie House is now in collaboration with these student shelters under a parent organization Student Movement of Justice and Opportunity (Student MOJO). StudentMOJO has provided us with insurance, a financial account, additional personnel, and overall support (i.e. for finances, case management, etc.) as they have experience in creating student housing and working in the basic needs movement. Aggie House seeks to provide a safe and stable place for students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity to stay for up to one full year. The shelter is able to comfortably host 9 student residents at one time. Aggie House receives 100+ applications per year for residency and has successfully housed 40+ residents. Our intake process consists of an initial application followed by an in-person interview, wherein case managers will consider several factors such as financial need and requested length of accommodation of each applicant. We accept students to the shelter based on availability and demonstrated need. From our experience, we expect future residents to take approximately 1-2 quarters to find stable housing, giving us a range of 9-36 residents per year. Once accepted to live at Aggie House, students are accompanied by a rotation of student-volunteer shelter staff overseeing the logistics of the shelter, similar to the role of a resident advisor in the dorms. To ensure a safe environment, residents will be subject to search of items upon arrival, and will agree to strict policy guidelines that will be enforced by shelter staff. These safety measures are similar to those implemented at the existing shelters at UCLA and USC. During their stay, Aggie House residents have access to a variety of resources to ensure that all their basic needs are met. We provide residents with food, which our student volunteers will budget for, purchase, and prepare for residents each night and morning. Most importantly, our case management system - with expertise in social work and members of the Aggie House Board - works extensively to meet residents' needs and resolve their housing struggles so they may transition to permanent, stable housing during their stay. Social Case Management focuses on assisting residents in seeking government aid, academic and professional resources, financial aid, apartment hunting, and external mental health resources. Moreover, now that Aggie House is under Student MOJO who has experience in creating and operating shelters, we have access to their resources including their own case management team to build upon our own. Alongside these primary case managers, Aggie House has partnered with multiple external bodies at UC Davis to assist student residents. Aggie House already has a strong partnership with the Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center on campus, through which students can obtain housing vouchers, dining passes, and other case management services like assistance in finding new housing. We have check-in meetings with them often to discuss updates of Aggie House as an organization as well as resident-related/case-management inquiries, referrals, etc. With the advice of our parent organization, we're currently establishing an advisory board of local UCD faculty and community leaders to assist our organization with their expertise (i.e. in social work, finance, legal matters, etc.). As stated above, one of the goals of Aggie House is to be a pillar rooted in the Davis community for basic needs advocacy and support. Over the last year, we've placed great emphasis on building our presence and involvement in the community, collaborating with members of the housing division in the City of Davis, organizations with similar missions (i.e. Davis Community Meals and Housing, HOPE at Davis, ASUCD Senators' Housing and Transportation Committee, LGBTQ+ Center at the UC Davis Student Community Center, etc.), and joining the Davis Homeless Alliance. We recognise the beauty and need for community partnerships to keep our non-profit organization thriving and support the unhoused Davis population at large. Similarly, we want to be more connected to our actual community members and have begun tabling at the Downtown Davis Farmers Market, featuring on local news channels (i.e. CBS News), and creating promotional videos with Aggie Studios to build our online presence. In taking up more space in the community, we bring greater visibility to the basic needs challenges our students face everyday. Our organization is currently located at The Belfry, a 501(c)(3) located in Davis. Aggie House was previously located at Cal Aggie Christian Association, but we made the decision to move last year after rent prices increased by \$20,000. The Belfry offers an ideal location for our student residents right between campus and Downtown Davis. The organization has converted one of their townhouse units, which has four/five bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living area, and a kitchen facility, into the transitional housing shelter.

Q4. How will the requested funds be utilized to support this event/ program?

The requested funds will be used for a variety of items including groceries, toiletries, household supplies, furniture, and other vital items. Based on our expenses from previous years and the annual budgets of our model shelters at UCLA and USC, we expect that grocery costs will amount to an approximate \$30,000 annually. We hope that we will be able to provide three nutritional meals per day for each student rather than the two we currently provide, thus causing an increase in our grocery budget. We expect that toiletries, furniture, and other household items will require about \$10,000. Additionally, due to the large budget of this project (which will hopefully change as we're talking with ASUCD senators about purchasing a house in coming years) and instability of grant funding (which has been our primary revenue source), in our next year of operations, we will need to start charging monthly resident fees of \$250 (or pay-what-you-can) to afford our rent and operations at large. We are working diligently to greatly overshoot our fundraising goals and build substantial reserves so that we won't need to actually use these fees and may return them back to our residents at the end of their stay. The grant funding of the Student Programming Fund would enable us to offer completely free meals and housing for our residents.

Q5. Please enter estimated attendance for the following groups.

Staff

6. Aggie House has been in close partnership with the Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center; their office has been immensely supportive of the project, and we have regular meetings updating them of the work we've been doing as well as discussing case management-related business and rehousing situations regarding residents.

Faculty

3 to 4. As advised by Student MOJO, we hope to soon create an advisory board to assist our operations and provide guidance to the support we offer residents, and this will very likely include faculty from UC Davis because we would like to keep our organization as grassroots as possible. We are currently in the process of choosing faculty from different disciplines (particularly with expertise in social work and housing insecurity) who would be potentially interested in assisting.

UC Davis Students

100. We have had approximately 140 student volunteers within our organization to complete day-to-day maintenance tasks, from intake, to grocery shopping and cooking, to budgeting, to conflict management. We plan on maintaining roughly 60 student volunteers each quarter. An addition of up to roughly 40 students annually will be residents of Aggie House.

Other (please specify and include number)

20. Because Aggie House is hosted by The Belfry, the staff and board of their organization assist in our project's goals through volunteerism and guidance. Furthermore, several other congregations and community organizations in the area, such as the Davis Korean Church and Episcopal Church of St. Martin, have expressed interest in becoming involved in the project through various avenues of support such as fundraising.

Q6. Who is the target audience of the event/ program? (e.g. students, program participants, users of a specific service)

The target audience of the program in terms of residency is UC Davis students who are experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. According to the 2017 University of California Global Food Initiative Report, homelessness is defined as a lack of stable or reliable housing (e.g., living on the street, in vehicles, motels, campgrounds, single-occupancy facilities, or couch surfing in other people's homes for temporary sleeping arrangements, transient housing and overcrowding, and when cost of housing relative to income is overly high) during any time point during the school year. However, homelessness differs from the more general term "housing insecurity," which includes "a broader set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utility or the need to move frequently" (Goldrick Rab and colleagues, 2017). Students experiencing these circumstances are welcome to apply to Aggie House, and would be admitted after a consideration of several factors such as financial need and requested length of accommodation. The target audience in terms of volunteers are UC Davis students who are interested in assisting in their community, developing leadership skills, and learning about how to develop creative solutions to social injustices in our communities.

Q7. What program, activity, or service will be provided? (e.g. six-week training program, instructional class or activity, structured community program that exposes students to new ideas and experiences)

As laid out above, the primary services we provide to residents include: (1) full-time housing for up to one quarter of the academic year, (2) three fully prepared meals per day, (3) case management for housing, physical, and mental health, and (4) community building. In certain cases, we're also able to budget for Transitional Moving Funds and are able to financially support our residents in their journey to stable housing (i.e. paying off debt to a previous landlord, the security deposit, a U-Haul rental, etc.) On the other hand, for volunteers, the goal of Aggie House is to empower social justice leaders, philanthropists, and innovators. Student volunteers will have the opportunity to become involved in a community working towards a socially responsible goal, and we hope to instill a sense of leadership, purpose, and passion with which our volunteers will leave the program. At the end of the day, Aggie House is a welcoming, safe space for students to thrive in. The nature of living together (including volunteers' overnight shifts) in a common space is conducive to community building on a fundamental level, but we strive to be even more intentional. A primary activity that has been emphasized for the development of inclusivity is community building. This occurs through various events such as socials with residents & volunteers alike, nightly dinners in which residents and volunteers will have the chance to interact with one another, and house meetings for residents to talk and bond in their living space. Additionally, we plan to implement community service opportunities for residents and shelter staff, which will be facilitated by Aggie House and external organizations. In fact, many old residents become volunteers and leaders at Aggie House.

Q8. What will be learned?

Residents have the opportunity to learn about how to best address their personal needs and goals through the advisory nature of case management. Weekly meetings between residents and their assigned case manager are required, and topics that social case managers will assist residents with may include, but are not limited to: seeking access to outside counseling support, applying for government aid, managing finances, accessing on-campus academic support, applying for employment, and finding permanent housing. During their time with a case manager, we expect that residents will acquire new skill sets that will last beyond their stay at Aggie House. Volunteers will learn about housing insecurity and homelessness as it relates to education, mental health, and overall health through hands-on experience and involvement in the resident community. Our organization currently has 60-70 student volunteers, who work in various capacities at the shelter. Students have the opportunity to volunteer as overnight shelter staff, assist in management of shelter budget and logistics, and plan and host community events. Student volunteers gain experience with non-profit work, leadership, large-scale event-planning, and community outreach. Finally, our work and presence will work towards eliminating the miseducation around homelessness and housing insecurity. Communities carry great shame around this issue and consequently treat it as taboo to discuss, but the reality of the situation is that California single handedly accounts for 34% of the country's homeless population and 52% unsheltered individuals in the country (Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2021). The situation is too dire to not talk about, and in removing the stigma and normalizing these discussions, our community can come together to support one another and do better. The same way we were established, inspired by the other shelters, we hope to incite that same inspiration and be an open-source model that other universities can learn from and build upon in the context of their own communities. Our TikTok (@aggie_house) has a following of roughly 80,000 followers and through this wide outreach, we've been contacted by folks in Santa Cruz, Canada, and the East Coast who want to replicate our model at their own campuses, successfully increasing advocacy and awareness of students facing housing insecurity across the state, nation, and continent.

Q9. How will the learning be shown or what does the learning look like? (e.g. demonstrated knowledge of course material, change in behavior, a practiced skill, a task achieved)

Learning for residents will be shown through successful transition into stable housing and holistically healthy lifestyles. We will follow-up with past residents on a consistent basis once their transition to stable housing has been accomplished. We will begin with monthly check-ins for the first quarter after move-out, and transition to quarterly check-ins once the stability of their housing and health has been demonstrated through these check-ins. For volunteers, we will measure the success rate of our mission to educate students on the topic of housing insecurity through surveys that are conducted upon arrival and departure from the program. These surveys will demonstrate the impact of their experience in Aggie House on volunteers' perceptions of housing insecurity. They will allow us to measure changes in the level of knowledge and skills that volunteers have in relation to student housing insecurity over the course of participation in our program. Additionally, state and national-level learning will be shown through communication with other academic institutions that would like to replicate our model in their own communities. Just as UCLA's Bruin Shelter set a precedent for USC's Trojan Shelter, which in turn set a precedent for Aggie House, we are confident that our program will have ripple effects for college students beyond UC Davis, and future shelters will be developed across the nation stemming from this model. In fact, students at UCSC, UCSD, and UC Berkeley have begun to formulate and create their own transitional housing shelters at their respective schools. Learning throughout the UC Davis campus community will be demonstrated through outreach to other organizations and efforts to publicize the goals of the program and the issue of student housing security. Through development of our organization's partnerships with offices on campus such as the Basic Needs Center, the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, administrators, staff, and faculty, the campus community will learn more about how the university can best assist students in accessing basic needs services. The data we collect about basic needs as a program can in turn be used by similar programs on campus such as the ASUCD Pantry, the AB540 Center, the International Center, and Aggie Compass.

Q10. How does the event/ program provide services that are of growing interest to students? (if applicable)

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many students faced unprecedented financial, academic, and social challenges that still carry rippling effects to this day. Many students have experienced setbacks in their savings and education having been forced to work to support their families, leaving people in situations like struggling to pay rent, stuck in leases that they cannot afford to uphold, facing mental health crises, struggling with the effects/rigor of virtual learning, and more. Similarly, the post-pandemic housing market has experienced "unprecedented rises in housing prices and rents" (Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, 2023); we've seen this housing crisis reflected in our own backyard with students camping outside leasing offices overnight during winter and spots filling up on the first day they're available. Thus, a transitional housing shelter is absolutely vital to Davis students who were most heavily impacted. Although the Basic Needs Center offers emergency housing services, these programs are limited by a restricted number of spots, and our program is not only flexible but also seeks to create additional services and spaces that students can utilize. Furthermore, the sustainability of this program will serve the needs of students for years to come, as the issue of housing insecurity cannot be expected to disappear from our campus community in the near future. Furthermore, our organization expects that there will be a large target audience for shelter staff as well. In recent years, the UC Davis campus has had a growing focus on provision of basic needs, in large part due to the advocacy and voices of students on campus. The ASUCD Pantry, Student Emergency Relief Aid Fund, DREAMer scholarship, and more have been examples of student-led initiatives. Due to this increased awareness of the lack of available basic needs services, as well as the support of administrators and faculty who are engaged in these issues, Aggie House hopes to garner student attention and support that will lead to a large pool of volunteers. We believe that students are interested in assisting their campus community and helping their peers, and that this program will provide them with a unique opportunity to work hands-on in advocacy and organization. Our volunteer interest form and application have both garnered over 100 responses, highlighting the interest that our student body has in basic needs advocacy. As mentioned above, many residents choose to volunteer at Aggie House after their stay as well. We currently have roughly 60 volunteers and we predict that this number will stay stable if not grow over the upcoming years.

Q 11. How does the event/program foster diversity, equity, and inclusion? (if applicable)

At its core, this project serves a community of students that are far too often excluded and overlooked by our campus community. Alongside the material difficulties that come with being homeless - from safety concerns to difficulty accessing food, mental health, and other resources, students experiencing homelessness face high levels of stigma that make meeting basic needs even more difficult. This project would both increase access to resources for homeless students and reduce stigma surrounding homelessness through community-building activities, thus increasing inclusion of the homeless community on our campus. Further, housing insecurity is often more prevalent among certain populations of students. According to the 2017 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey, certain communities of students that tend to be more affected by homelessness than their counterparts include: underrepresented minorities, international students, LGBTQIA+ students, transfer students, individuals with low socioeconomic status, independent students, and former foster care youth. Several alarming examples were displayed by the 2017 UCUES survey, which revealed that about 6% of URM students reported having experienced homelessness, compared to about 3-4% of Asian and White students. Additionally, students who identify as LGBTQIA+ were twice as likely to experience homelessness than their non-LGBTQIA+ identifying counterparts. Homelessness was notably highest among independent students, with 10% reporting having experienced homelessness. As mentioned prior, California is single handedly responsible for a large proportion of the homeless and unsheltered populations of the nation at large. These statistics demonstrate that a transitional housing shelter would serve the needs of minority student populations that are often overlooked in our campus community, as well as the overall community. Our organization will stress the importance of the UC Davis Principles of Community, and embrace all students, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, mental health, gender, or any other identities. Our organization believes that this commitment to inclusivity will also be beneficial for student volunteers, who will have the opportunity to not only join a community of diverse student volunteers, but will also have the chance to interact with and assist residents. This peer-to-peer model will help to foster connections, empathy, and understanding between students.

Q12. How does the event/ program provide crucial services to students? (if applicable)

According to a Housing Affordability and Insecurity Survey conducted by ASUCD and GSA, nearly 7% of UC Davis students surveyed were homeless at some point during the 2017-18 school year, and approximately 2% spent time living in their car or another place not intended as housing. If this is representative of the UC Davis population at large, this could mean that over 2,000 students are affected by housing insecurity in any given year. The University of California report also found that average UC GPA was highest for undergraduate students who did not experience food insecurity and homelessness, and lowest for students who experienced both food insecurity and homelessness. It can be reasonably hypothesized that these differences in GPA and students' learning outcomes are a result of the stressors that accompany housing insecurity and homelessness. Aggie House would work to address these opportunity gaps by providing students experiencing housing insecurity with the basic necessities of shelter, food, and case management support. This would allow students to focus on their academic and professional priorities, while simultaneously working to transition into permanent stable housing.

Q13. Has your Department/ Unit/ Student Organization put on this event in the past?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

Q14. Please provide the following information on the previous event(s).

Event date(s) (Month(s)/ Date(s) / Year)	Fall 2021 - present
Location	216 A St, Davis; 433 Russel Blvd, Davis
Total attendance	200+

Q15. How was the success of the event measured?

Aggie House officially opened in September 2021 and has successfully housed 45 residents since, providing them a roof over their heads and two meals each day. We've supported 39 of those residents to successfully transition out of Aggie House and into permanent housing programs (i.e. Aggie Compass Rapid Rehousing). At the end of each month, we will be sending a Follow-Up Basic Needs Assessment. By comparing the Initial Basic Needs Assessment provided before the resident entered Aggie House and the Follow-Up Basic Needs Assessment after transition, our team plans to evaluate the progress of each resident and the Aggie House program as a whole. Additionally, we have been successful in spurring engagement from the local Davis community and the greater population. Over the past year of recruitment, we have garnered interest from the UC Davis student population; we received over 100 applications and were able to successfully train over 60 student volunteers on volunteering operations while also involving them in basic needs advocacy and education; we plan to recruit even more in future quarters. Through our continuous outreach, many community members and local organizations have reached out expressing their enthusiasm in aiding students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity; some have shown interest in helping our team locate resources for our residents while others have generously donated necessities such as furniture, appliances, and food. We have been interviewed by multiple agencies, including The California Aggie and CBS News Sacramento. Multiple organizations, such as the Freda B. Runyon Foundation and Humanity Beyond Barriers, have supported us via donations. Larger grants like the Student Programming Fund help ensure our program can continue to serve UC Davis students for years to come.

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM COSAF | 2024-25

Name of Event/Program:

Aggie House

Name of Department/Unit/Student Organization:

Aggie House

Program Date(s): 2021- present

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	SUB-TOTAL
FACILITY: Room Rental, Room Set-Up, Equipment Rental, Audio/Video		
1.	The Belfry Townhouse Rent	\$ 54,000.00
2.		\$ _____
3.		\$ _____
4.		\$ _____
5.		\$ _____
6.		\$ _____
		\$ 54,000.00
FOOD: Refreshments, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (include estimated cost per person)		
7.	Groceries for Meals for Residents	\$ 30,000.00
8.		\$ _____
9.		\$ _____
10.		\$ _____
11.		\$ _____
12.		\$ _____
		\$ 30,000.00
PERFORMERS, GUEST SPEAKERS, HONORARIA		
13.	Club Socials	\$ 300.00
14.		\$ _____
15.		\$ _____
16.		\$ _____
17.		\$ _____
18.		\$ _____
		\$ 300.00
PUBLICITY/MARKETING: Flyers, Posters, Advertising, Mailing, Printing		
19.	Aggie Studios Promotional Video	\$ 0.00
20.	News Features	\$ 0.00
21.	Davis Downtown Farmers Market Tabling	\$ _____
22.		\$ _____
23.		\$ _____
24.		\$ _____
		\$ 0.00
SUPPLIES: Decorations, Online Tools, Software, Licenses		
25.	Supplies/Facility Costs for Maintaining the House	\$ 10,000.00
26.	Transitional Moving Funds	\$ 1,000.00
27.		\$ _____
28.		\$ _____
29.		\$ _____
30.		\$ _____
		\$ 11,000.00
TRAVEL: Transportation, Parking, Lodging		
31.		\$ _____
32.		\$ _____
33.		\$ _____
34.		\$ _____
35.		\$ _____
36.		\$ _____
		\$ 0.00

Total Event/Program Budget:	\$ 95,300.00
------------------------------------	---------------------

Total Amount Requested From COSAF:	\$ 40,000.00
------------------------------------	---------------------

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES: Income, ASUCD, Dept & Club Contributions

1.	Innovations Grant	\$ 50,000.00	
2.	Resident Fees	\$ 21,000.00	*would ideally like to not accept money from residents if we can make up the funding elsewhere
3.	Crowdfunding	\$ 5,000.00	
4.		\$ _____	
			\$ 76,000.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

Please Enter Total Event/Program Budget:	\$ 95,300.00
Less Other Fund Sources:	\$ 76,000.00
Less Amount Requested from COSAF:	\$ 40,000.00
Balance (if any):	\$ -20,700.00