

SUBJECT	AMS Food Bank
MEETING DATE	11/27/2020
MOTION	
PREPARED BY	Lucia Liang and Ian Stone
DOCUMENTS	1. Budget Funding Request Form

DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has become a larger than usual issue. As evidenced in our usage statistics for the Food Bank (Annex A), as well as in the fact that *another, separate initiative* had popped up on campus to address food insecurity (<https://ca.gofundme.com/f/ubc-foodbank-for-students>), students are in dire need of food and supplies. Some of the hardest hit are graduate students: with an already abysmally low income for their work (https://bog3.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/11/0_2019.12_Graduate-Students-SocietyPres.pdf), and more likely to have dependents that they must provide for (in comparison to undergraduates), we have been seeing these students at the AMS Food Bank at disproportionate levels. While the AMS Food Bank continues to provide service to as many as we can, our food purchasing budget cannot keep up with demand we have been seeing, especially for expensive items such as child diapers, formula, etc. Thus, we have identified that the AMS Child Care Bursary Fund, which was set up “to provide subsidies to Active Members for childcare expenses” but has a large sum sitting idle, can be used to help subsidize the purchase of food and childcare supplies for AMS members in need.

More specifically, we aim to make use of the fund to purchase supplies

requested by individual families (a related example of how we would do this is outlined in Annex B), and “deliver” them to these families at the recently-established Community Food Hub at Acadia Park Residence.

BENEFITS Reputational, Financial, Sustainable, Social	Many graduate students in the UBC Faculty of Education, and other faculties, live in residence. They have limited funds, and are isolated from their families. They are employed in jobs on campus that during the COVID 19 crisis are not operating. As a result, some students do not have the funds to purchase food they need. <i>As a normal foodbank is not possible given the closure of the campus and the requirement for social distancing, this fund is intended to be an efoodbank.</i> The fund will provide emergency relief to graduate students experiencing food insecurity. As professors in the Faculty of Education at UBC concerned about our students, the fund will be managed by Dr. Shapka, the director of graduate programs, and Dr. Katz, a faculty member in Special Education. We will be providing students with food hampers once a week. There are no administrative fees, all donations will go directly to students.
RISKS Financial, Operational, Reputational	Potential risks for the allocation of this funding might consist of: Money not being used for its intended purpose. Mitigated by: as current operators of the AMS Food Bank, we have existing procedures to ensure all funds allocated for purchasing is account for, as well as accountability mechanisms to ensure that Council + AMS Executive are kept up to date on usage and spending in the department. Through the Student Services Manager, updates are made on usage to Council biannually, and through Quarterly Reports, spending information is provided to Council each financial quarter.
COSTS Financial, Resources, Lifecycle	\$58,500
TIMELINE Implementation Timeline	This community hub initiative came about as a response to COVID-19 and the disruption it caused to jobs. While it appears that a vaccine is on the way, it will still take much longer for economic recovery to occur more robustly, and thus we would like to liberally plan to operate the Community Food Hub (and thus purchase increased supplies for families) until January 2022.
CONSULTATION Internal & External Groups	Student Services and the Finance Committee
