Cañada College

Program Review - Annual Update

Undocumented Community Center

Mission

1. How does your program align with the college and district mission?
The **Undocumented Community Center (UCC)** aligns with the College and District missions by promoting equity, access, and student success for all students, particularly those who are disproportionately impacted or racially minoritized. The Center provides essential services, including free immigration legal clinics with translation support for students and their families, guidance through the matriculation process (such as AB 540 and 6 or Fewer units Non-Resident Tuition Fee Waiver), and assistance with the California Dream Act and scholarships. The UCC also supports programs like the Unlocking Futures Fellowship (UFF) and offers workshops, resource sharing, and community connections to remove barriers to education. By providing these services, the UCC fosters student empowerment, critical thinking, and an appreciation for diverse perspectives, fully reflecting the College and District's commitment to access, equity, and inclusive student success.

Program Description

2. Provide a brief description of your program, what does your program do and who does your program serve?
The Undocumented Community Center (UCC) is a dedicated safe space for undocumented students, students from mixed-status families, and allies. The UCC can assist with issues including AB540 admissions, 6 or Fewer units Non-Resident Tuition Fee Waivers, DACA, and the California Dream Act. The Center also provides information and resources on scholarships, clubs, immigration services, food pantry and community resources.

Undocumented members include individuals who do not have legal status and may have one or more of the following:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- AB540 status
- California Dream Act Application (CADAA)
- Eligibility for the 6 Units or Fewer Non-Resident Tuition Fee Waiver

This includes individuals from countries or regions outside of the U.S., as well as visa holders, refugees, and asylum seekers. Participants may be of any ethnicity, race, gender identity, or age group and may also be members of special programs such as EOPS, PSP, TRIO-SSS, CWA, Puente, and others.

At a glance:
- 6 out of 10 are female
- 6 out of 10 are residents of another country
- 3 out of 4 are Hispanic / Latino

Looking Back: Accomplishments and Challenges (Suggested word limit 400)

3. Describe major accomplishments since the last program review cycle.
1. Districtwide Collaborations

1. Monthly Undocu-Coalition meetings designed to develop a District-wide plan for supporting students detained by ICE and their families
2. Active participation at District Flex Days, including Undocu-Ally trainings

2. Program Coordination

    1. Offers translation assistance for Free Immigration Legal Clinic
    2. Assists with the matriculation process, including AB 540, 6-Unit or Fewer Nonresident Tuition Fee Waiver, and the California Dream Act

3. Unlocking Future Fellows

    1. Completed the third year of the fellowship, providing up to $7,500 yearly to remove barrier for undocumented students in the San Mateo County Community College District

4. Expanded Legal Services

    1. Continued and expanded the free immigration legal clinic to meet growing student and their family needs
    2. Received additional funding from the CCCCO to expand legal clinics, center supplies and activities and additional services

5. Cultural and Community Events

    1. Continued annual Migration Celebrations
    2. Participated in Dia de Los Muertos events in collaboration with Student Life and the Cultural Center
    3. Contributed to Latinx Heritage Month programming and Undocumented Student Action Week activities

6. Partnerships and Student Support

    1. Collaborated with SparkPoint to assist food-insecure students through food grants, emergency funds and housing supports.
    2. Partnered with Financial Aid, including a dedicated technician funded partially by the UCC, to support undocumented students with the California Dream Act and other resources.

4. Describe major challenges since the last program review cycle. How have these challenges contributed to the expansion or continuation of equity gaps?

1. Changing Immigration Policies:

    1. Increased detentions by ICE both in state and out of state have led to increased fear and anxiety within our campus community as this affects undocumented students and staff including those from mixed-status families.
    2. Our legal partners inform us that detentions will escalate before the end of the year.
    3. Frequent shifts in immigration policy have created uncertainty for undocumented and mixed-status students, increasing anxiety and the need for up-to-date information and support.

2. Limited Capacity:

1. With a small team (1.0 FTE), it has been challenging to meet the growing demand for one-on-one student support, classroom visits, event planning, and coordination of legal clinic services.

3. Evening and Working Student Accessibility:
    1. Many students who work or have family responsibilities in the evenings face barriers to accessing in-person services. However, due to staffing, supporting evening students has been a challenge.
4. Lack of awareness of Services:
    1. Some students remain unaware of the UCC's resources and support, particularly those who are new to the campus or hesitant to seek help due to immigration concerns.

5. Please list the goals you worked on during the previous program review cycle and describe any progress towards achieving those goals?
Support Student Leadership:
The UCC is committed to empowering students to take leadership roles and actively engage with the campus community. Leveraging our Unlocking Futures Fellowship program and hosting focused events that foster engagement, build community, and reinforce the UCC's mission as a safe and supportive space, have increased the UCC's visibility across campus.

Expand and Enhance Free Immigration Legal Clinics:
In response to ongoing changes in immigration policy, we have expanded the availability of our free legal immigration clinics to include trusted external partners.

Build and Strengthen Community Partnerships:
We plan to deepen collaborations with local high schools to support outreach and assist undocumented students with matriculation. Additionally, we created new partnerships designed to strengthen our ties to the broader community, aligning with the college's mission of equity, access, and community engagement.

Impact of Resource Allocations Process (Suggested word limit 250)

6. Describe the impact to date of previously requested resources (staff, non-instructional assignment, equipment, facilities, research, funding) including both resource requests that were approved and were not approved.
The $5,000 in ongoing funding originally requested to expand Undocumented Community Center (UCC) operational activities was approved as a one-time expenditure. This funding has allowed us to expand programming, strengthen campus and district-wide collaborations, and provide additional educational resources to students, staff, and faculty.

With these resources, we have been able to:

- Expand immigration education and awareness: Provide a district wide "Know Your Rights" presentation during District Flex Day, offering staff and faculty updates on immigration related issues and available resources.
- Strengthen our annual Migration Celebration: Expand programming by incorporating guest speakers and presentations, creating additional opportunities for students and families to access relevant information and support.

- Increase campus and district-wide collaboration: Strengthen partnerships with other programs and departments to expand outreach, coordinate services, and connect undocumented students and mixed-status families with additional resources.
- Expand Undocumented Student Success Week: Develop weeklong programming that includes educational presentations, community-building activities, and opportunities for students to engage with campus and community partners.
- Increase visibility and access to services: Create more opportunities for students to learn about UCC services, immigration-related resources, and available student success programs. Although the funding was approved as a one-time expenditure rather than ongoing support, it has demonstrated the impact that consistent operational funding could have on the center's ability to sustain and expand programming. Continued funding would allow the UCC to maintain these partnerships, offer more frequent educational opportunities, and respond to the evolving needs of undocumented students and mixed-status families.

7. How have these resources (or lack of resources) affected disproportionately impacted students/clients?

Our undocumented community faces increased fear and anxiety and the UCC provides a safe space for undocumented allies to share their experiences, demystify misinformation and access resources. With over 75% of our campus community identifying as Latinx (according to PRIE), the impact on our campus community is only heightened as is demonstrated by both the increase in demand for legal clinic appointments.

The $5000 one-time funding received last year allowed the UCC to create a welcoming and supportive space for our undocumented community and carry out year-round activities when facing the most difficult times for our undocumented community. Activities included:

- Holding Know Your Rights Trainings
- Delivering outeach and inreach on Undocumented resources
- Educating our campus and external community on immigration and undocumented resources Expanding legal clinics
- Hosting community building events and activities including
    - Art reflection workshops
    - The District-wide Migration Celebration
    - Latin Heritage Month activities
    - and the yearly Undocumented Student Support Weeks promoted by the CCCCO

Non-Personnel Item (2026 - 2027)

Requested Year
2026 - 2027

Program Requesting Resources
Undocumented Student Center

Item Requested
7500

Item Description
The Unlocking Futures Fellowship (UFF) is a paid, student-focused leadership and professional development initiative offered through the Undocumented Community Center. The Fellowship provides leadership development, professional development and mentorship for undocumented and AB540 students.

With guidance from their mentors, students select their own service projects and complete approximately 10 hours per week earn up to $7500 per academic year (fall and spring semesters). Fellows design and implement their own service projects aimed at removing educational, professional and personal barriers for undocumented students. At the end of the year, fellows share their final presentation at the UFF Symposium. These fellowships support undocumented students who would otherwise not have the ability to earn income due to their immigration status.

For the past two years, the Undocumented Community Center (UCC) at Cañada College has awarded two (2) Unlocking Futures Fellows (UFF). With the current state to the political landscape, we need more than ever to support undocumented students in making sure their time in our district is met with opportunities such as the fellowship and a option to generate more income when their option are limited expanding this would allow us to help support undocumented students . In addition it has become increasingly difficult for our undocumented students to afford to live in San Mateo County, especially due to the high cost of living. Expanding to serving three UFFs would allow an additional student to be able to afford to stay in school and complete their educational goals.

Program Goals this Request Supports
To empower undocumented and AB540 students through tailored leadership development, professional growth opportunities, and dedicated mentorship to foster academic success.

Status
New Request - Active

Type of Resource
Non-Instructional Expenses (over $5,000) e.g., equipment

Cost
7,500

One-Time or Recurring Cost?
Recurring Cost

Critical Question: How does this resource request support closing the equity gaps as identified in the current SEAP plan?
This funding is specifically designed to close the equity gaps experienced by undocumented students. Due to their immigration status, eligible students are unable to work in the U.S. Many must rely on family for support or sacrifice their living conditions. Many come from mixed status families who themselves are struggling financially so this fellowship helps the student to stay in school, complete their academic goals

and even helps to support their families who may be mixed status families and / or struggling financially themselves. Aside from supporting their multi-generational families, the Fellowship supports to student with the $7500 annual award, provides mentorship for leadership development and provides the students with an opportunity to work on a project that directly impacts undocumented students.

Critical Question: How does this resource request support LatinX, AANHPI, and Black and African American students?
LatinX, AANHPI, and Black and African American students are all eligible to be an Unlocking Future Fellow (UFF) since eligibility is based on immigration status, not ethnicity. Eligibility is based on being either and undocumented or AB540 student. To date, all four of Cañada's students have been LatinX while Districtwide, UFFs have included LatinX and AANHPI students.

Map Request to College Goals and Strategic Initiatives

Which of Cañada College's Goals does this resource request support?
Student Access and/or Success and/or Completion
Equity-Minded and Antiracist College Culture
Community Connections

Which of Cañada College's Strategic Initiatives does this resource request support?
Make registration easier
Connect students to the academic program(s) and classes they need
Ensure students (particularly part-time students) experience a sense of belonging and connection to the College that helps them persist and complete
Improve the financial stability of students
Create and sustain an inclusive and/or antiracist and/or equity-minded campus culture
Better share what Cañada offers
Be the best college choice for local high school students
Strengthen K-16 pathways and transfer
Help students explore and find employment in fields of their choice
Help meet the basic needs of Cañada students and other community members
Manage resources effectively
Support innovative teaching that creates more equitable and antiracist learning environments
Provide adequate access to technology

Non-Personnel Item (2026 - 2027)

Non-Personnel Item (2026 - 2027)

Requested Year
2026 - 2027

Program Requesting Resources
Undocumented Community Center

Item Requested
$5000 to provide sustainable covering for the increasing demand for the Legal Clinic

Item Description
The UCC is requesting $5,000 in ongoing funding to support covering the rising cost and growing demand for legal consultations for students.

The Cañada College Legal Clinic has delivered free legal consultation on immigration topics to our students and community for about 11 years. The changing political landscape has escalated misinformation around the rights of members of the undocumented community. Trump's second administration has only elevated

fear and anxiety within the undocumented community during a time where resources for our undocumented individuals are more and more scarce.

This past August, Cañada College joined Skyline and CSM in having one of our students detained by ICE. We have seen increased detentions at SFO and unfortunately, we expect detentions to increase in the Bay Area within the next 40 days. This funding will increase our Legal Clinic capacity so we can:

- Educate our students and their families on determining how safe air travel is for them
- Establish family emergency plans
- Identify what they should do if during an ICE encounter.
- Provide additional immigration updates through Flex Day and campus workshops tailored to both students and the community.
- Share information for asylum seekers, TPS and refugees

Over the years, the cost of running the Legal Clinic has increased due to rising salaries, step increases and COLA. The Undocumented Community Center's goal is to support our high-need, disproportionately impacted undocumented community with the opportunity to meet their personal and academic goals so they can find meaningful and fulfilling jobs. We do this by supporting student success, retention and persistence.

Program Goals this Request Supports
Student Access, Success and Completion, Equity-Minded and Antiracist College Culture, Community Connections

Status
Continued Request - Active

Type of Resource
Non-Instructional Expenses (under $5,000) e.g., printing services, printing, supplies, etc.

Cost
5,000

One-Time or Recurring Cost?
Recurring Cost

Critical Question: How does this resource request support closing the equity gaps as identified in the current SEAP plan?
This resource request supports closing the equity gap by providing increased access to legal consultations for undocumented and mixed-status individuals. By providing free, accurate and timely information, often in their language, individuals save time, money and frustration. Additionally, if more complicated and lengthier legal support is needed, our attorney makes referrals to trusted pro-bono and low cost legal partners thereby saving already under-resourced individuals from spending unnecessary money, frustration and time. These services are all performed in a caring and welcoming environment where students feel supported and valued. These services are even more needed now due to the changing political landscape and current detentions occurring at sister colleges state-wide.

Critical Question: How does this resource request support LatinX, AANHPI, and Black and African American students?
This resource request supports Latinx, AANHPI, and Black and African American students by expanding access to programs and services that benefit all disproportionately impacted students. While the Undocumented Community Center primarily serves undocumented and mixed-status students, our work intentionally includes students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, as being undocumented

transcends identity and ethnicity. Increased funding will also allow the center to expand access to legal consultations for both domestic and international students.

Map Request to College Goals and Strategic Initiatives

Which of Cañada College's Goals does this resource request support?
Student Access and/or Success and/or Completion
Equity-Minded and Antiracist College Culture
Community Connections

Which of Cañada College's Strategic Initiatives does this resource request support?
Make registration easier
Ensure students (particularly part-time students) experience a sense of belonging and connection to the College that helps them persist and complete
Improve the financial stability of students
Create and sustain an inclusive and/or antiracist and/or equity-minded campus culture
Better share what Cañada offers
Be the best college choice for local high school students
Strengthen K-16 pathways and transfer
Help students explore and find employment in fields of their choice
Help meet the basic needs of Cañada students and other community members
Manage resources effectively