



Funding Request Form FY2025

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department:

Student Life

Program, Service or Operation Requested:

Critical Incident Response Team

General Description:

Request for increased operation budget for the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)

Request Type:

Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:

UAF Other

General Questions

How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?

The Critical Incident Response Team was created in the 1990s to help support student needs and provide a university representative to coordinate student support through critical incidents. With a large university community of approximately 72,000 students, Texas A&M and the Division of Student Affairs realize that crises, or critical incidents, will occur and that these crises can have a significant effect on individual students and the larger community. Such critical incidents will require an effective and timely response. This nine-member team, staffed from the Division of Student Affairs, is on call 24/7, 365 days a year to help students on and off campus. Members are activated through University Police Department dispatch and respond in person to calls for assistance. CIRT responds to apartment/housing fires/gas leaks/etc.; vehicular accidents including those involving bicycles, pedestrians, or other devices (long boards, hover boards, etc.); medical emergencies (heat exhaustion, illness); and mental health crises. CIRT Team members serve as liaisons to police, medical staff, friends, and family members.

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

- Division Strategic Priority Well-being
- 6.1 Integrate holistic wellbeing practices in programs, services, and facilities.

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

As the campus population has increased, along with inflation the costs of CIRT have also increased. Their current budget for the past 15 years has included a \$24,000 UAF allocation from VPSA and a \$40,000 allocation from Student Life. Budgets have exceeded expenses:

FY21 \$67,410 spent (\$44,710 on wages)

FY22 \$55,405 spent (\$49,000 on wages)

FY23 \$68,382 spent (\$50,000 on wages)

A significant portion of the budget includes wages/benefits and phone stipend. The remainder of the budget is used for direct student support: putting family members in hotels, supplying immediate needs like toiletries or textbooks in the case of an apartment fire, etc.

It has become apparent that we need to free up some of the money from the Student Life allocation for additional student support dollars.

What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?

CIRT runs a two person a week team – a primary and a secondary responder. To help reduce wages CIRT moved to a SAS staff support model for Winter Break and Summer Break meaning the above wages represent only a one-member team on the four weeks between fall finals and the start of the spring semester and the full summer term.

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

Currently conducting focus groups with former and current CIRT members to better understand the training and support needs of the staff. Additionally, this fall will be implementing a student survey and family survey to better understand the impact the crisis response had on each student's experience.

Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.

Staff positions are typically not funded through sponsorship or fundraising or any soft funds

Total Estimated Cost

Funding Description	Amount
CIRT Wages/Benefits/Phone Stipends	\$24,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$24,000