

CSJ ABSO FY19 Budget Appeal

CSJ ABSO provides students across campus with low to no-barrier opportunities to get involved with service and social justice work on campus and beyond. We engage over 900 students in weekly programming and countless others through one time service and training events, while simultaneously impacting thousands of community members. Our programming ranges from academic support and mentorship for young people to human rights advocacy to support for those experiencing homelessness or serious health conditions to large scale fundraising for cancer research or other social justice causes and much more. Our organizations help foster student leaders while also providing essential support to communities in need.

That said, our programming depends on the funding provided through the FinApp process. Last year, we received \$173,750.00 from FinApp which was then allocated across 35 student organizations. For FY19, we will be supporting 42 organizations—an increase of 20%. We've also been receiving an average of 3 or more additional organizations through the New Club Development process each semester, so following that trend, we'll receive 6+ new organizations throughout FY19. Additionally, our NCD groups are extremely successful—in the past three years, I can only think of one group that hasn't completed the process and it was due to internal leadership issues. There is a significant and growing demand for service and social justice programming on campus and the only outlet through which students can express those interests and grow in the social justice field is through CSJ ABSO organizations.

At our FY18 Budget Weekend, we received \$303,655.28 in requests and funded approximately 78% of those requests. The budget request we submitted only covered the same level of allocation that we received last year plus additional funding for our new organizations—it didn't include any additional budget inflation, new initiatives, or expansion of programming. Our current draft allocation is a \$750 reduction which, in combination with a 20% increase in groups, would signify major cuts to our organizations and, as a result, reductions in programming and opportunities for student involvement. It isn't a question of not being able to expand, it's a question of being able to run basic programming, to continue to provide opportunities to students, and to have the positive impact we have on the community.

CSJ ABSO adheres to an extremely detailed set of funding guidelines. We require groups to provide us with estimated attendance (both of Georgetown students and community members) when making requests as well as a detailed breakdown of expected costs. We have different standards of funding based on the type of event and limits on how many times each type of event can be held per semester. We frequently partially fund events if we feel that the request is unrealistic. We even require notification from groups if they decide to change their food provider or make other small alterations to their programming. We have an incredible amount of oversight when it comes to our groups and are responsible when it comes to our funding. For example, a recent board-wide discussion covered the nutritional value of different food options (and their associated costs) within mentorship programming in the juvenile justice system.

Furthermore our programming is unique in that it doesn't just impact the Georgetown community. We provide amazing opportunities for students to learn, grow, and lead, but we also have a real impact in the DC area and beyond. Without adequate funding, not only will our immediate student body be hurt, but also those that we serve as kids and families lose access to our programming and support.

As a board we are both fiscally responsible and mission driven. Our organizations do amazing work, but can only do so with FinApp support. As a result we are requesting \$184,250 which would be an additional \$11,250 in allocations. This figure allows for the allocation from last year plus \$1,500 per new group--the average request from past NCD groups--accounting for the loss of one group since the submission of our application. This allocation will allow us to support our current programming and the new groups that have been accepted to the New Club Development process.