RESOLUTION 2021-005

A RESOLUTION FOR CHILD CARE AND DEPENDENT ASSISTANCE FOR ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS

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Sponsor: Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article II Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and

WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students or its appointed representative(s) have the power to act as an advisory agent on behalf of graduate students on all matters brought before personnel, committees, or agencies of The Ohio State University involving the interest of graduate students as established in Article III Section 3 of the CGS Constitution; and

WHEREAS the current grant-funded child-care assistance program at Ohio State (Child Care Assistance Means Parents in School, CCAMPIS) prioritizes undergraduate students, leaving graduate students to be considered only if funding is available1; and

WHEREAS only U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible for CCAMPIS, thus excluding international students from access to childcare funds1; and

WHEREAS the number of graduate students care providers (including students who have a partner or dependant with disabilities) is unknown due to the failure of the university to collect such data; and

WHEREAS, according to communication with Assistant Vice Provost of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Jacquelyn C.A. Meshelemiah, a survey conducted by The Office of Student Life in 2018 reported that 16.3% of graduate students (74 out of 454 respondents) reported being financially responsible for dependent children; and

WHEREAS the CGS demographic report for the 2019-2020 academic year showed that 10% of the delegate body had children2; and

WHEREAS, as of September 16, 2020, according to communication from Interim Chief of Human Resources Officer, Kimberly Shumate, JD, 98 graduate students requested childcare-related accommodations due to COVID-19, totaling 14% of all requests; and

WHEREAS the current minimum GA stipend is $17,280/year; and

WHEREAS the cost of full-time childcare tuition for an infant at Ohio State's Child Care Program is $215/week, meaning that a one-income household is spending 65% of its income on childcare3; and

1 https://odi.osu.edu/ccampis
3 Tuition at the Ohio State Child Care Program is calculated on a sliding scale based on the family's household income, the number of days enrolled, and the age group of the child. The tuition scale can be found here: https://hr.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/ccp-tuition-schedule.pdf
WHEREAS childcare tuition is even more expensive at the other centers run by Ohio State, the Nisonger Center and the Schoenbaum Family Center; and

WHEREAS not all graduate students receive a Graduate Associateship position and may actually have a lower income than the minimum stipend; and

WHEREAS, as per communication with Don Fuzer, director of the Ohio State Child Care Program, the center does not reserve slots for graduate students and has a waitlist time of approximately 15-18 months, with an average waitlist of 600-700 children a year; and

WHEREAS having childcare and dependent assistance will encourage graduate students to choose consistent and high-quality care for their dependents and enable them to complete their degrees in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS childcare and dependent assistance will allow graduate student to better focus attention on both familial and academic responsibilities, such as participating in conferences and other professional development events, and devoting time to their research; and

WHEREAS offering childcare and dependent assistance aligns with Ohio State's values of supporting underrepresented students through diversity, inclusion, access, and affordability; and

WHEREAS when compared to comparable institutions, Ohio State falls behind in offering childcare assistance to its graduate and professional students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students advocates that The Ohio State University establishes financial assistance funds to cover childcare and dependent care costs for its domestic and international graduate students; and

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these financial assistance funds be in an amount competitive to benchmark institutions child or dependent, and also cover expenses incurred as a result of academic and professional pursuits such as conference participation (travel or virtual), other professional development events, and fieldwork; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the maximum age of the child should be in accordance with where the student parent and their child live and that state's regulations about what age a child can be left alone at home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that assistance should be based on financial need and open to all graduate students regardless of household income, with preference given to households with incomes less than $75,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students encourages Ohio State's Child Care Program to increase the capacity of the center to meet the need; and

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4 Tuition for an infant at Nisonger center is $315/week (https://nisonger.osu.edu/clinics-services/child/early-childhood-education-programs/prospective-parents/), and at Shoebum Family Center tuition for an infant is $1,146/month (https://earlychildhood.ehe.osu.edu/school/ tuition/)

5 Research shows students of color are more likely to be student parents than their White or Asian counterparts (cf. Miller, K., Gault, B., Thorman, A.; 2011).

6 Check Appendix for details.

7 If the state does not stipulate an age, such as is the case in Ohio, the maximum age of a child should be 12 years old.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students encourages Ohio State's Child Care Program set aside at least one third of their slots per year for student parents, with the remaining slots filled by children of faculty and staff; and 

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that assistance for childcare not be limited to centers run by The Ohio State University; and 

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students advises the university to create a paid leave fund to cover expenses and care related to childbirth and family illness; and 

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate encourages the Graduate School to establish a dependent care fellowship to relieve students from their GAship duties and allow them to have the ability to pursue academic research while caring for their dependents; and 

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff to distribute this resolution to all proper leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University and its partners.

Approved: Yes/No

Date: __10/2/20___

Stephen J. Post, President
The following institutions offer different types of childcare and dependent assistance, as can be seen below:

- The UCLA Graduate Education has a donor-funded scholarship for students with dependents of up to $5,000.
- The University of Michigan offers multiple kinds of assistance: The Rackham Graduate School offers a $750/year grant for graduate students traveling with children under the age of 6 to attend conferences, workshops, meetings, or other academic events to cover the costs of transporting the dependent. The University of Michigan also offers childcare subsidies for children up to 12 years old, offering up to $3,028 for one child, $4,439 for two children, and $5,852 for three or more children per semester.
- Michigan State University also offers different types of assistance: The College of Engineering has a one-time $2,000 grant to assist in childcare costs for those with children 0-12 months. Michigan State University also offers domestic students a childcare grant of $1,000 per child per semester to cover childcare costs. In addition, the graduate student government at Michigan State University offers $500-$1000 per semester to students who are not eligible for the MSU Child Care Grant (mostly international students).
- The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities has a childcare assistance grant of $1,500 per semester.
- Pennsylvania State University has a subsidy program through CCAMPIS and student fees; the amount awarded depends on numerous factors (income, number of children, ages, etc.), but covers up to 75% of childcare costs for full-time students.
- The University of Washington offers childcare assistance of up to $2,700 per quarter.
- The University of Wisconsin-Madison has a childcare tuition assistance program that usually covers 30-40% of childcare costs per term.
- The University of Arizona offers childcare subsidies of up to $2,000 per year per household for children 0-12 years old.
- The University of Iowa has a childcare subsidy program for students of up to $340-$120 (depending on age of child) per month per household.

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8 [https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/#/view-record/997/0](https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/#/view-record/997/0)
9 [https://rackham.umich.edu/funding/funding-types/graduate-student-professional-travel-with-children-grant/](https://rackham.umich.edu/funding/funding-types/graduate-student-professional-travel-with-children-grant/)
10 [https://finaid.umich.edu/child-care-subsidy/](https://finaid.umich.edu/child-care-subsidy/)
11 [https://www.egr.msu.edu/graduate/childcare-grant](https://www.egr.msu.edu/graduate/childcare-grant)
12 [https://finaid.msu.edu/ccgrant.asp](https://finaid.msu.edu/ccgrant.asp)
13 [https://cogs.msu.edu/resources/funding/cogs-childcare-endowment/](https://cogs.msu.edu/resources/funding/cogs-childcare-endowment/)
15 [https://hr.psu.edu/child-care-subsidy](https://hr.psu.edu/child-care-subsidy)
17 [https://occfr.wisc.edu/financial-assistance/uw-madison-students/child-care-tuition-assistance-program-cctap/](https://occfr.wisc.edu/financial-assistance/uw-madison-students/child-care-tuition-assistance-program-cctap/)
18 [https://lifework.arizona.edu/programs/childcare-choice/student](https://lifework.arizona.edu/programs/childcare-choice/student)
At Purdue University, the graduate student government offers grants of up to $1,000 per household per semester for children 12 and under\textsuperscript{20}. For reference, there is a range of 23-42 applicants per semester, and eleven $1,000 awards are granted per semester.