



# PROPOSED SAFEUT FUNDING REALLOCATIONS

HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
STAFF: SEÁN C. FAHERTY

ISSUE BRIEF

## SUMMARY

The University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute (UNI) is a component of the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics (UUHC). UNI offers mental and behavioral health services and patient-centered care to treat all aspects of the individual essential to achieving balance in mental health.

UNI is also home to the SafeUT application. The Utah Legislature created the statewide School Safety and Crisis Line in 2015 (SB0175). The app has the following capabilities:

- Tips - Concerns (weapons, bullying, self-harm, drugs etc.) that are immediately sent to both SafeUT staff and the school to evaluate;
- Chat - Therapeutic dialogue through texting with a SafeUT Licensed Crisis Worker; and
- Call - Therapeutic dialogue through a phone conversation with a SafeUT Licensed Crisis Worker.

In addition to SafeUT, UNI provides Crisis line, Warmline, and Mobile Crisis Outreach Team services 24/7 out of its Crisis Contact Center in Downtown Salt Lake City.

In 2019, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General released an audit report on UNI that can be found here:

[https://le.utah.gov/audit/19\\_02rpt.pdf](https://le.utah.gov/audit/19_02rpt.pdf)

The audit included a number of recommendations related to the Institute and the programs that it administers. For this Committee's consideration, the Analyst recommends a number of reallocations of funding for the SafeUT program.

As the chart below shows (Appendix from the audit report), over the past 5 fiscal years, the funding for the SafeUT app and its support has increased quickly and we recommend gathering all of these costs together into the SafeUT Operations line item at the University of Utah:

**Appendix**

<b>Appropriation Source</b>	<b>Recipient<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>
<b>2015 General Session</b>					
SB175	UNI	SafeUT	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
<b>2017 General Session</b>					
SB2	UNI	SafeUT	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000
<b>2018 General Session</b>					
HB2 Item 69	UNI	Market SafeUT		\$175,000	\$175,000
HB 370	DSAMH	Crisis response trainings	-	\$250,000 *	-
HB3 Item 42	DSAMH	Expand crisis line services	\$477,700 *	-	-
HB3 Item 72	AG's Office	Administrative costs	-	\$1,300	\$1,300
HB3 Item 187	DOH	Medicaid waiver (crisis medical codes)	-	\$530,000 *	\$1,060,000
HB3 Item 192	DOH	Medicaid waiver (crisis medical codes)	-	\$295,000 *	\$590,000
HB3 Item 207	DSAMH **	Expand crisis line services	-	\$2,380,000	\$2,380,000
HB3 Item 208	DSAMH	Five new MCOT teams	-	\$2,595,000	\$2,595,000
HB3 Item 261	USBE	Suicide prevention trainings		\$275,000	\$275,000
HB3 Item 261	UNI	SafeUT	-	\$500,000	\$500,000***
HB3 Item 275	Senate	Mental Health Crisis Line Commission participation	-	\$1,600	\$1,600
HB3 Item 287	House	Mental Health Crisis Line Commission participation	-	\$1,600	\$1,600
<b>2019 General Session</b>					
HB 373	UNI	SafeUT	-	-	\$1,270,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,177,700</b>	<b>\$7,704,500</b>	<b>\$9,549,500</b>

Source: Auditor Generated

\* Signifies one-time appropriations and appropriation adjustments.

\*\* DSAMH contract with UNI to expand crisis services. It is anticipated that UNI will receive \$1.9 million of this amount in fiscal year 2020.

\*\*\* In the 2019 General Session, HB373 changed the intended use of this appropriation amount from expanding SafeUT in institutions of higher education to operational support for the SafeUT app.

These reallocations would allow the Legislature to have a better picture of the operational expenditures for the app in making future policy decisions.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Analyst recommends the following reallocations:

- \$150,000 from the UofU Education and General line item and transfer it to the UofU SafeUT Operations line item (SB 175, 2015 GS);
- \$550,000 from the UofU Education and General line item and transfer it to the UofU SafeUT Operations line item (SB 2, 2017 GS); and
- \$175,000 from the UofU Education and General line item and transfer it to the UofU SafeUT Operations line item (HB 2, 2018 GS).

The Analyst also recommends including intent language in the final appropriations bill directing the University of Utah to report on funds transferred from the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, or the State Board of Education to the SafeUT program to show the complete picture of funds available for App support. Final language to this effect will be included in the motions packet in our last meeting.