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July 28, 2022

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RE: College-Focused Rapid Rehousing

The attached report highlights efforts to address students' basic needs insecurities within the CSU system through funding provided in the Amended Budget Act of 2019, Senate Bill 109. Fourteen of twenty-three campuses submitted a proposal for funding in the fall of 2019 and seven were allocated monies in early 2020 to enhance their current basic needs efforts, with a specific focus on expanding external partnerships to extend the reach of support for students who are housing insecure or homeless. Now in its second year of implementation, an eighth campus was added to the pilot.

Across the eight campuses receiving funding for rapid rehousing, partnerships with community-based continuum of care agencies experienced in providing rapid rehousing support extends the reach of the campus' existing basic needs supports. Efforts include comprehensive case management support such as, but not limited to, emergency grants to secure housing or prevent the imminent loss of housing, utility assistance, financial

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

CSU Report: College-Focused Rapid Rehousing

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literacy, and academic and personal support. Taken together, the partnership between the campus-based housing liaison and agency-based case manager ensured the support of 1,598 housing insecure students. Long-term impacts of the program include a decrease in student homelessness, increase in wellness, and long-term housing stability to facilitate retention and persistence to graduation.

The amended Budget Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 109) requires the CSU to prepare this systemwide report for the budget committees of the Legislature by July 15, 2022.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Eric Bakke, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations at (916) 445-5983.

Sincerely,


Steve Relyea (Jul 28, 2022 12:32 PDT)

Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

SR:dr

Full report posted to <https://www.calstate.edu/legislative-reports/>

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California State University
College-Focused Rapid Rehousing
A Report Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2019 (SB 109)
July 27, 2022

Summary

This report highlights efforts to address students' basic needs insecurities across the twenty-three campuses of the California State University (CSU) system. Campuses participated in a competitive application process in fall of 2019 to apply for \$6.5 million in recurring funds made available through the amended Budget Act of 2019 (SB 109). This Act requires the CSU to provide a report on an annual basis, including information on the use of the funds. Report variables include the number of housing coordinators hired, the number of students served by each campus, the distribution of funds by campus and a description of the types of programs funded. Other relevant outcomes may also include the number of students who were able to secure permanent housing, and whether students receiving support remained enrolled or graduated.

The systemwide project is known as "College-Focused Rapid Rehousing" (RRH). Resources were allocated to campuses for the purpose of developing and enhancing programs and services for students who face challenges with housing instability and homelessness. RRH requires that CSU campuses establish ongoing partnerships with community organizations that have a tradition of providing wrap-around services and rental subsidies to those experiencing homelessness. The seven inaugural campuses selected for the program were awarded funding based on their demonstrated need, strength of their formalized partnership(s), campus readiness for program implementation, planned use of the funds in an efficient manner and an articulated method for evaluation of program impact. During the second year of program implementation, an additional campus was added to the pilot bringing the total number of participating campuses to eight. Resources were allocated to the external partners identified by the awarded campuses to support homeless or housing insecure CSU students. Despite continued challenges related to implementation during the pandemic, in its second year the program served 1,598 students (a forty-two percent increase from the first year of program implementation, which served 1,127 students) of which 262 students enrolled in the RRH program (a thirty-four percent increase from the first year of program implementation, which enrolled 146 students in the RRH program).

Background and Overview

The success of college students can be derailed when they face uncertainty in meeting their basic needs. In concert with its multi-year strategic effort to support student success, known as Graduation Initiative 2025, the CSU identified the promotion of student engagement and wellbeing as one of six guiding pillars to increase retention and graduation. This pillar includes implementing numerous out-of-classroom supports (including basic needs services) and stipulates that, in conjunction, campuses should:

1. Ensure services are easy for students to identify, locate and access;
2. Ensure that campus communication messages normalize the use of services as a strategy for student success;
3. Employ efficient and consistent methods of communication campuswide to ensure services are widely known and easily referred to; and
4. Work to identify and secure ongoing resources over time to sustain services to support student success.

The CSU has been proactive and innovative in using the funding allocated via SB 109 to support campus

efforts via expanded external partnerships to augment the reach of available campus-based programs and services, promote sustainability of our efforts and meaningfully impact students’ lives.

Distribution of Funds by Campus

In the second year of program implementation, a total of \$6,949,091 was distributed to eight campuses and their external partner agencies. The additional funds beyond the \$6.5 million provided by the legislature were a result of cost savings in Year 1. Three campuses each formed partnerships with two external partner agencies. The total amount of funds distributed to campuses was \$1,760,000. The total distribution to external partners was \$5,189,091. Campus-based allocations and planned external partner allocations are summarized below.

CAMPUS	CAMPUS ALLOCATION	EXTERNAL PARTNER(S)	PARTNER ALLOCATION	TOTAL CAMPUS & PARTNER ALLOCATION
Chico	\$ 220,000	Chico Housing Action Team	\$ 192,696	\$ 859,091
		True North Housing Alliance	\$ 446,395	
Long Beach	\$ 220,000	Jovenes, Inc.	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
Northridge	\$ 220,000	Jovenes, Inc.	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
Pomona	\$ 220,000	Jovenes, Inc.	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
Sacramento	\$ 220,000	Lutheran Social Services	\$ 325,000	\$ 870,000
		Sacramento Self-Help Housing	\$ 325,000	
San Diego	\$ 220,000	Home Start, Inc.	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
San Francisco	\$ 220,000	3rd St. Youth Center Clinic	\$ 325,000	\$ 870,000
		Lyric Center for LGBTQ Youth	\$ 325,000	
San José	\$ 220,000	Bill Wilson Center	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
Total Campus Allocation				\$ 1,760,000
Total External Partner Allocation				\$ 5,189,091
TOTAL ALLOCATION				\$ 6,949,091

Contextualizing College-Focused Rapid Rehousing: Funding Criteria and Requirements

A competitive systemwide Request for Proposals process (RFP) was issued in September 2019 with an application due date of early November 2019. The RFP highlighted the College-Focused Rapid Rehousing program funding goals. The funds were to be used to:

1. Connect students with community case managers who have knowledge and expertise in accessing safety net resources;
2. Establish ongoing emergency housing procedures, including on-campus and off-campus resources; and
3. Provide emergency grants that are necessary to secure housing or to prevent the imminent loss of housing.

Fourteen of the twenty-three campuses submitted a funding proposal. The RFP process resulted in the selection of seven CSU campuses to participate in the program from 2020-2023. These seven original campuses are: Chico, Long Beach, Pomona, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and San José. As a result of residual funds upon the conclusion of the first year of the program, an eighth campus was added

to the pilot: Northridge. Each campus demonstrated need amongst its students and identified at least one local, external housing provider with the capacity to build a college-focused rapid rehousing program. Campuses described the strategies they will use to ensure that funding is targeted to those students with the greatest level of need and included a detailed plan for a partnership with a local housing agency to help with the placement of students into mid- and long-term housing.

Three of the seven campuses are working with two external partners each. The partners include: Chico Housing Action Team; True North Housing Alliance; Jovenes, Inc. (working with three campuses); Lutheran Social Services; Sacramento Self-Help Housing; Home Start, Inc.; 3rd St. Youth Center Clinic; Lyric Center for LGBTQ Youth; and the Bill Wilson Center. To facilitate institutionalization of efforts on the campuses, funding was allocated to support the hiring of dedicated housing liaisons to work collaboratively with the external partners. These staff facilitate program outreach and identification of students who meet the RRH program criteria. Working in partnership with their external partners, the housing liaisons provide timely linkages to campus-based resources that provide ongoing social and academic supports.

The campus and external partner agency partnerships are summarized below. This chart also includes the name that each campus has given to their iteration of the RRH program.

Campus	Agency Partner	Program Name
Chico	True North Housing Alliance	Chico State Basic Needs Rapid Re-Housing
	Chico Housing Action Team	
Long Beach	Jovenes, Inc.	Rapid Rehousing Program
Northridge	Jovenes, Inc.	CSUN/Jovenes Rapid-Rehousing Partnership
Pomona	Jovenes, Inc.	College-Focused Rapid Rehousing
Sacramento	Lutheran Social Services	Rapid Rehousing Program
	Sacramento Self-Help Housing	
San Diego	Home Start, Inc.	SDSU Rapid Re-Housing Program
San Francisco	Lyric Center for LGBTQ Youth	PATHS: Providing Assistance to Housing Solutions
	3rd St. Youth Center Clinic	
San José	Bill Wilson Center	Rapid Rehousing Program

Campuses that applied for these funds demonstrated that they have taken concrete steps to create a formalized on-campus and/or off-campus emergency housing procedure for students who are in a housing crisis. In addition, campuses addressed how they will continue to support an emergency aid program for students experiencing a housing crisis and how this program is disseminated on their campus. Finally, campuses addressed in detail how they will assess the programs and services to measure the progress and/or impact they are having on student success. Evaluation efforts included tracking whether students receiving support maintained permanent housing and remained enrolled in school and/or completed their degree.

Description of Programs/Activities Funded

To support students experiencing housing insecurity, campuses and external partner agencies are actively involved in many of the following funded activities to meet the unique needs of the student population:

- Program development (i.e., systems, forms, program strategies)
- On-campus/campus-community outreach and promotion of RRH program (i.e., website development, campus emails)
- Assessment of students for participation in RRH programs

- Housing students in emergency on-campus housing
- Providing one-time funds for housing assistance
- Referrals to on-campus resources (not housing related)
- Referrals to non-housing community resources/services (including Medi-Cal, Vision Screening)
- Referrals to community housing partners for RRH program
- Referrals to alternative housing resources (not RRH placement)
- On-campus case management support
- Case consultations with all staff partners
- Case management support (i.e., educational planning, financial planning)
- Providing mental health support (i.e., therapeutic care)
- Vocational support (job search resources, résumé development, mock interviews, career/job exploration, hands-on paid work experience)
- Negotiating landlord/tenant leases (i.e., master lease, individual leases)
- Supporting participants' move in efforts to housing (i.e., provide support while student moves personal property into home)
- Group activities (i.e., house meetings or social gatherings)
- Conflict mediation (i.e., roommate, landlord)
- Providing exit planning support
- Providing Temporary Emergency Housing - Hotel Voucher
- Research and development of future housing inventory
- Outreach and relationship building with potential housing partners (i.e., property owners, landlords, rental companies)
- Media coverage or promotion (i.e., news or press coverage) of RRH program

Number of Coordinators Hired

In the first year of program implementation, nine new staff members were originally hired to support the implementation of the College-Focused Rapid Rehousing Program. Due to the variability of existing staff members and staff capacity on the campuses, each campus created new staff positions to meet their student and programmatic needs. To continue to meet needs during the second year, these positions remained, and an additional six positions were created at the campuses. Among the eight campuses, at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) staff member serves as a Rapid Rehousing Liaison/Coordinator. Sample titles/roles for the staff members include: Case Manager, Housing Stability Coordinator, Rapid Rehousing Liaison, and Rapid Rehousing Coordinator. These individuals are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the RRH program who focus on academic success, serve as liaisons with the community agency partner, and ensure goals of the program are being met.

In addition to these critical staff members, campuses also employ staff members to support administrative/clerical functions of the program. Campuses also rely on the continuous support of existing campus staff members, who primarily serve within basic needs and care services, health promotion and wellness, financial aid, and similar student affairs offices. These cross-campus partnerships are integral to the success of the program, and highlight the intricacies involved in providing support to students experiencing housing insecurity. Across the campuses, approximately nine FTE time was redirected as in-kind support towards the RRH program.

In the first year of program implementation, the external partner agencies also hired thirteen new staff members to support RRH. During the second year, these positions continued to be maintained, and an additional five positions were created at the agencies. These staff members work in partnership with the

campus RRH program liaison with whom they meet regularly to discuss student engagement and progress, serve as leads in assisting students to secure housing and provide wrap-around holistic case management. Sample titles/roles for agency staff members include: Housing Locator/Navigator, Youth Advocate, RRH Team Lead, Program Director, Housing Specialist, Case Manager, and House Leader.

In addition to these critical staff members, the agencies also employ staff members to support administrative/clerical functions of the program. Agencies rely on the continuous support of existing staff members, who primarily serve within case management, housing navigation, human resources, data analytics, and financial operations. Approximately six FTE time was redirected as in-kind support towards the RRH program.

Number of Students Served

From July 1, 2021, through June 10, 2022, 1,598 students engaged with RRH program staff across the eight campuses. The chart below summarizes the number of students served per campus, the number of students referred to the external partner agency, and the number of students who fully enrolled into the RRH program.

Campus	# Students Searching for Housing Support	# Students Referred to External Partner Agency	# Students Who Enrolled into RRH Program
Chico	427	27	22
Long Beach	56	39	17
Northridge	75	10	8
Pomona	113	69	23
Sacramento	95	44	33
San Diego	585	28	27
San Francisco	206	31	31
San José	41	41	35
	1,598	289	196

The campuses piloting the program engage with housing insecure students in a number of ways, and staff provide various levels of support to students depending on each individual’s unique needs. Although 1,598 students expressed some level of housing insecurity when engaging with program staff, a majority were best served with temporary and immediate rental assistance or placement in temporary emergency housing. Students provided with this level of support are also connected with other campus resources, including financial literacy, access to the food pantry, and CalFresh application assistance. As a result, students are receiving holistic support as they continue their educational journey.

Students generally engage with campus staff first; these staff members then determine whether a student can be best served by the external agency partner. This involves a general initial intake process created in partnership with each external agency partner. After students are referred and a “warm” hand-off is completed, the staff at the external agency partner conduct a more thorough intake process to evaluate the needs of each student. This process is more involved and particular attention is paid to ensure that each student’s wellbeing is prioritized.

Not all students who are referred to the external partner agency ultimately enroll into the RRH program for a number of reasons. Most often, non-participation was the result of a determination made that a student may benefit from other services/programs outside of the RRH program (e.g., temporary financial assistance to pay rent). In rare instances, some students may be fully eligible to enroll into the RRH program and benefit from its services but may decline to do so for various personal reasons. Such reasons

include students feeling most comfortable in their current living situation (if they are “couch-surfing” or living in their vehicle) or feeling that they are not in need of support. The unique situation of each student varies, but the staff at the campuses and external partner agencies make every effort to ensure that students are aware of the housing resources available to them if they choose to participate.

Relevant Outcomes and Successes

In its second year, the RRH program experienced success in supporting housing insecure students. The CSU looked for outcomes related to the number of housing insecure students supported as an indicator of program success. In less than one year, the eight campuses piloting the program supported 1,598 students (a forty-two percent increase from the previous year), and 195 were enrolled into the RRH program (a thirty-four percent increase from the previous year). There are a number of reasons for this increase, with the most important reasons listed below:

- Increased outreach and promotion of the program which has resulted in increased referrals to program staff;
- Increased housing costs which continue to create significant challenges for students; and
- Addition of an eighth campus to participate in the pilot program.

Listed below are selected media coverage articles about the program during the second year:

- [Chico State Helps Feed Students Through Basic Needs Program](#)
- [‘My Car is My Home:’ The California Students with Nowhere to Live](#)

Summarized below are the number of students who enrolled in the RRH program in Year 2 and either remained in school or graduated. Also listed is the number of students who moved into permanent housing.

Campus	# Students Who Enrolled into RRH Program	# Students Still Enrolled in School ¹	# Students Who Have Graduated ²
Chico	22	15	6
Long Beach	17	21	10
Northridge	8	7	1
Pomona	23	23	31
Sacramento	33	27	4
San Diego	27	18	5
San Francisco	31	24	7
San José	35	27	13
	196	162	77

¹ Figure includes students who were enrolled into the RRH program in Year 1 and still remained enrolled in school during Year 2 of program implementation.

² Figure includes students who were enrolled into the RRH program in Year 1 and graduated in Year 2.

The second year of program implementation presented numerous opportunities to strengthen partnerships and service delivery. Communication between campus and agency staff continued to be strengthened, and clearer protocols were established to streamline student support. In addition, stronger partnerships were developed with community organizations, including those that provide health and wellness services and those that focus on supporting unique populations (such as women, parents, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community). Across the partnerships, there have been improved application and screening processes, significant collaboration with campus partners, and enhanced communication

between basic needs units and agency partners. Through the COVID-19 pandemic and significant political unrest, RRH students have remained focused on their academics, willing to collaborate with staff and fellow students when challenges arise, and open to utilizing RRH as an opportunity to enhance all areas of wellness. The second year of program implementation has presented a unique opportunity to make the RRH program more student-centered, equitable, and trauma-informed. Overall, there have been wider campus efforts to centralize and prioritize student basic needs, pointing to the success of coordinated outreach and promotion.

The Chancellor’s Office commends the campuses and external partners for their efforts to adjust the high-touch RRH program to hybrid operations, particularly during a time when each campus had unique protocols for in-person and virtual supports. As was the case during the first year of program implementation, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact all areas of the RRH program. For example, the pandemic continues to pose challenges in identifying students in housing crises and linking them with the assistance they need. Although initial plans included in-person events and physical marketing materials, campuses continue to adjust communication and marketing strategies to our hybrid environment.

For the past two years, there was consistent staff turnover across the partnerships. This had numerous impacts resulting in significant cost savings at some campuses and agencies when responsibilities were shifted to other individuals. Across the board, there were also significant costs savings as a result of campuses utilizing Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding when supporting students. These funds were meant for the very same students that the RRH program is designed to support and were oftentimes used first when supporting students as a result of the federal government’s substantial investment. As such, the Chancellor’s Office has an opportunity to look carefully at these cost savings and make adjustments to funding allocations as deemed appropriate and necessary.

Despite these challenges and more, the RRH program facilitated 99 students moving into permanent and safe housing (a 34 percent increase from the previous year). In addition to this success, the campus and external agency partnerships have ensured that many students have safe and affordable housing during the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this difficult time, students enrolled in the RRH program were empowered to prioritize their studies without jeopardizing their health and wellbeing.

Campus	# Students Who Moved Into Permanent Housing ³
Chico	16
Long Beach	13
Northridge	3
Pomona	11
Sacramento	3
San Diego	13
San Francisco	16
San José	24
	99

³ Figure includes students who enrolled in the RRH program in Year 1 and remain enrolled during Year 2.

Impact and Importance of RRH

A total of 1,598 students experiencing housing insecurity sufficient to threaten their ability to remain engaged in their academic pursuits were served by the Rapid Rehousing Program and connected with

immediate resources. Of these, 262 students enrolled in the program and 99 students secured permanent, safe housing during the second year of program implementation. Seventy-seven students achieved their dream of earning their college degree in the 2021-22 academic year, an accomplishment that will forever change their lives and positively impact their communities.

The state's financial support for the creation and implementation of the RRH program in the California State University advances the mission of our Graduation Initiative 2025. As this work moves forward, the CSU will continue to support more students through this program so that they can persist in their academic journey to graduation. Future RRH reports will include multi-year graduation data as well as longitudinal evaluation efforts to support the investment made by the State of California in the academic persistence and wellbeing of CSU students.