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July 15, 2021

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RE: College-Focused Rapid Rehousing

The attached report highlights efforts to address students' housing instability, homelessness, and related basic needs insecurities within the CSU system through funding provided in the Amended Budget Act of 2019, Senate Bill 109. Fourteen of 23 campuses submitted a proposal for funding in the fall of 2019 and seven (7) 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.

Across the seven 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 including, 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, academic and personal support. Taken together, the partnership between the campus-based housing liaison and agency-based case manager ensured the support of 1,127 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, 2021.

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

Sincerely,



Steven Relyea (Jul 15, 2021 10:58 PDT)

Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

SR:dr

Full report posted to <https://www.calstate.edu/legislativereports/>

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California State University
College-Focused Rapid Rehousing
A Report Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2019 (SB 109)
July 15, 2021

Summary

This report highlights efforts to address students' housing instability, homelessness, and basic needs insecurities across the 23 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 articulated method for evaluation of program impact. Resources were allocated to the external partners identified by the awarded campuses to support homeless or housing insecure CSU students. Despite multiple challenges related to implementation during the pandemic, in its first full year the program served 1,127 students of which 146 students enrolled in the RRH program.

Background and Overview

The success of college students can be derailed when they face uncertainty in meeting their basic needs (CSU Comprehensive Study of Student Basic Needs, January 2018). 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 a number of 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 campus-wide 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 through 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

A total of \$6,079,091 was distributed to seven campuses and their external partner agencies. Three campuses partnered with two external partner agencies. The total amount of funds distributed to campuses was \$1,540,000. Total distribution to external partners was \$4,539,091. Additionally, \$420,909 was allocated to program operations at the Chancellor’s Office. 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
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
Chancellor’s Office (Program Operations)	\$ 420,909			\$ 420,909

Total Campus Allocation	\$ 1,540,000
Total External Partner Allocation	\$ 4,539,091
Total Program Operations (CO)	\$ 420,909
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$ 6,500,000

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 23 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 campuses are: Chico, Long Beach, Pomona, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco and San José. Each 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 two 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
Pomona	Jovenes, Inc.	College-Focused Rapid Rehousing - Jovenes Inc. Partnership
Sacramento	Lutheran Social Services	Low Income Student Housing (Rapid Rehousing)
	Sacramento Self-Help Housing	
San Diego	Home Start, Inc.	SDSU Rapid Re-Housing Program
San Francisco	Lyric Center for LGBTQ Youth	Providing Assistance to Housing Solutions (PATHS)
	3rd St. Youth Center Clinic	
San José	Bill Wilson Center	SJSU Cares 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 other on-campus resources (not housing related)
- Referrals to community housing partners for RRH program
- Referrals to alternative housing resources (not RRH placement)
- Referrals to non-housing community resources/services
- On-campus case management support
- Case consultations with all staff partners
- Case management support (i.e. educational planning, financial planning, job search assistance)
- Providing mental health support (i.e. therapeutic care)
- 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)
- Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week activities
- Media coverage or promotion (i.e. news or press coverage) of RRH program

Number of Coordinators Hired

To support the implementation of the College-Focused Rapid Rehousing Program, nine new staff members were hired. 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. Among the nine campuses, at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) hire serves as a Rapid Rehousing Liaison/Coordinator. Sample titles/roles for the new 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 and 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 positions, some campuses also hired new 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 seven FTE time was redirected as in-kind support towards the RRH program.

To support this new initiative, the external partner agencies also hired new staff members to support students. In total, 13 new staff members were hired. These new 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 the new staff members include: Housing Locator/Navigator, Youth Advocate, Case Manager and House Leader.

The campuses and external partner agencies deserve commendation for hiring new staff members

during the unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The addition of the new staff members allowed the campuses to fully implement the RRH program and begin to serve students. However, supporting housing insecure students extends beyond these new individuals; indeed, it takes a large community of caring professionals to meet students' needs.

Number of Students Served

From July 1, 2020 through May 14, 2021, 1,127 students engaged with RRH program staff across the seven 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	Student Population (Fall 2020)	# Students Searching for Housing Support	# Students Referred to External Partner Agency	# Students Who Enrolled into RRH Program
Chico	16,630	239	36	26
Long Beach	39,359	53	53	38
Pomona	29,704	78	57	28
Sacramento	31,451	69	21	18
San Diego	35,578	256	17	7
San Francisco	27,075	135	9	9
San José	33,025	297	43	20
	212,822	1,127	236	146

The campuses piloting the program engage with housing insecure students in a number of ways, and staff provide various levels of support to students dependent on each individual's unique needs. Although 1,127 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 provided with other campus supports, 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 a number of 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 first year, the RRH program experienced great 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 seven campuses piloting the program supported 1,127 students, and 146 were enrolled into the RRH program. Listed below are selected media coverage articles about the program:

- [SJSU Announces Initiatives to Help Homeless Students](#)
- [San Jose State University announces initiatives to tackle student housing shortage](#)
- [Chico State Partnering Up To Help Homeless Students](#)
- [Chico State Basic Needs receives grant to aid unhoused students](#)
- [Basic Needs Program assists CSULB students facing housing insecurity](#)
- [Homeless college students in California brace for more uncertainty](#)
- [University programs help students facing housing crises](#)

Summarized below are the number of students who enrolled in the RRH program 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 Who Disenrolled from RRH	# Students Still Enrolled in School	# Students Who Have Graduated
Chico	26	4	17	5
Long Beach	38	0	29	9
Pomona	28	2	22	4
Sacramento	18	1	17	0
San Diego	7	0	7	0
San Francisco	9	0	9	0
San José	20	0	18	2
	146	7	119	20

Select reasons for disenrolling from the RRH program included the following:

- Student encountered safety issue and moved to another city;
- Student was able to sustainably support themselves; or
- Student was able to sustainably support their own housing situation.

The Chancellor's Office commends the campuses and external partners for their efforts to pivot the high-touch RRH program to virtual operations. The pandemic impacted all areas of RRH from the beginning of planning stages to moving students into housing units. The pandemic made it more difficult to identify students in housing crises and link them with the assistance they need. Initial plans included in-person events and physical marketing materials; as a result, campuses were required to pivot to virtual communication and marketing strategies when shifting to remote work modalities. In some cases, this impacted campuses' abilities to identify, locate and enroll housing insecure students for the RRH program. Campus and agency partners worked diligently to ensure that students had living quarters adherent to social distancing guidelines and that each residence had dedicated space in the event that someone needed to be quarantined. This affected the overall numbers of students able to be housed in each unit. The pandemic also impacted participation in the program, as each student had to provide documentation for a negative COVID test upon entrance into the program prior to moving into a unit. In addition to housing-specific adjustments, some campuses were challenged in hiring new staff due to hiring freezes imposed by the campus related to the pandemic.

Despite these challenges and more, the RRH program facilitated 74 students moving into permanent and safe housing. 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. With the pivot to primarily virtual instruction, some students were able to live further away from their home campus. In the case of San Francisco State, this allowed students enrolled in the RRH program to live in more affordable communities. The partnership between the campuses and external agency partners continues to be strengthened, and momentum continues in preparation for the start of the second year.

Campus	# Students Who Moved Into Permanent Housing
Chico	8
Long Beach	27
Pomona	11
Sacramento	1
San Diego	4
San Francisco	7
San José	16
	74

Impact and Importance of RRH

The 1,127 housing insecure students who engaged with RRH staff were supported with resources and services that met their immediate basic needs. This level of support has been key to the success of many students. As this work continues, the CSU will continue to support more students so that they continue their educational journey and graduate. In early June 2021, Jovenes, Inc., who is the external agency partner for both Cal State Long Beach and Cal Poly Pomona, hosted a virtual graduation celebration for graduates of its RRH program. During the ceremony, students expressed their sincere appreciation for the campus and agency staff members who provided support—it was clear that the program and the support it provided to the graduating students was critical for their success.

The state’s financial support for the creation and implementation of the RRH program in the California State University advances the mission of Graduation Initiative 2025. A total of 1,127 students experiencing housing insecurity sufficient to threaten their ability to remain engaged in their academic pursuits were served by the Rapid Rehousing Program. Of these, 146 students enrolled in the program and 74 secured permanent, safe housing. Twenty of these students achieved their dream of earning their college degree in the 2020-21 academic year, an accomplishment that will forever change their lives and impact positively the lives of their communities. All of these accomplishments reflect the mission of the CSU and Graduation Initiative 2025 to increase the number of students achieving a college degree. 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 and the CSU in its students. As shared by staff members at San Diego State, “...in [their] first year, [they] have been able to develop a programmatic structure for RRH where communication between [their] program and [the] partner agency is streamlined, roles are clear and defined, and staff are committed to assisting students in need, despite the challenges [they] faced.” From the inception of the program, there has been “excellent communication and willingness to solve problems creatively,” as shared by a staff member at Lutheran Social Services (external agency partner to Sacramento State). Indeed, it is this collaborative and creative spirit that will ensure that students continue to benefit from the College-Focused Rapid Rehousing program and continue to realize their full potential when they are provided with the resources that they need to graduate from college.

Resources

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