

## Report on CSU Actions to Support Students Facing Food and Housing Insecurity

February 2018

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In 2015, California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White commissioned a snapshot study, *Serving Displaced and Food Insecure Students in the CSU*, to gain a clearer picture of the prevalence of food and housing insecurity on campus. The study results highlighted that – similar to other public higher education institutions across California and the nation – far too many CSU students struggle with food and housing insecurity.

Following the release of the initial findings in 2016, the CSU launched its comprehensive *Basic Needs Initiative*. This initiative is tasked with identifying and implementing solutions to support students' basic needs, with a focus on food and housing insecurity. Newly released research from CSU campuses will further inform our efforts moving forward.

We are pleased to report that all 23 CSU campuses have taken a number of actions to address food and housing insecurity, reaching thousands of students in need of assistance.

*All 23 CSU campuses:*

- Designate a point of contact responsible for basic needs' services and programs;
- Operate a food pantry or food distribution program; and
- Offer CalFresh application assistance to students.

*In addition, a majority of campuses:*

- Provide meals to students through a meal sharing or meal voucher program;
- Make fresh fruit and vegetables available to students through campus gardens, food pantries, farmers' markets and other programs;
- Provide short-term emergency housing for students (either on campus or vouchers for off-campus housing);
- Offer emergency grants or loans to students in need of support;
- Provide a web-based comprehensive list of food and housing resources available to students;
- Utilize a case manager model or crisis response team to connect students in need with available programs and services;
- Launch fundraising campaigns in support of students' basic needs; and
- Work with vendors, food banks and other community organizations to maximize their impact on students.

The following lists represent campus actions specific to addressing students' basic needs, particularly food and housing. While these lists provide a thorough overview, they are in no way exhaustive – either in the campuses participating in each action or in listing all the ways campuses are supporting students.

## Providing Resources for Students Facing Food Insecurity

Following the snapshot survey, all 23 CSU campuses placed a tremendous focus on meeting the immediate – and diverse – needs of their students, particularly providing access to food through pantries, distribution programs, meal sharing programs, meal vouchers and campus gardens. Longer-term interventions include assisting students with signing up for CalFresh and developing the infrastructure to allow students to use Electronic Balance Transfer (EBT) funds on campus.

For example, in November 2017 alone, California State University, Northridge served 518 students, 175 of whom were first-time visitors. During that same month, the pantry received more than two tons (4,112 pounds) of donated food.

Action	Campuses
Opened a food pantry or food distribution program	Bakersfield Channel Islands Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Humboldt Long Beach Los Angeles Maritime Monterey Bay Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San Luis Obispo San José San Marcos Sonoma Stanislaus
Food pantry opening in 2018	San Marcos Sonoma
Restaurants and/or stores on campus accept EBT	Humboldt Long Beach Pomona San Francisco San José
Restaurants and/or stores on campus accept EBT ( <i>in development</i> )	Northridge

Meal sharing program enables students, faculty and staff to donate meals from their dining plan for students in need	Bakersfield East Bay Fresno Fullerton Long Beach Maritime Monterey Bay Sacramento San Luis Obispo
Meal sharing program enables students, faculty and staff to donate meals from their dining plan for students in need ( <i>in development</i> )	Channel Islands Humboldt Los Angeles Northridge Pomona San Bernardino San Francisco San José Sonoma Stanislaus
Meal voucher program provides free, hot meals to students in need	Fresno Long Beach Monterey Bay San Bernardino San Diego San José San Luis Obispo Stanislaus
Campus garden provides students with access to fresh fruit and vegetables	Fresno Northridge San Bernardino San José
Campus garden provides students with access to fresh fruit and vegetables ( <i>in development</i> )	Bakersfield

Fresh fruit and vegetables available to students through food pantries, farmers' markets or other farm-to-campus programs	Chico East Bay Fresno Fullerton Humboldt Long Beach Los Angeles Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos Sonoma
Fresh fruit and vegetables available to students through food pantries, farmers' markets or other farm-to-campus programs ( <i>in development</i> )	Bakersfield
Offers CalFresh application assistance to students	Bakersfield Channel Islands Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Humboldt Long Beach Los Angeles Maritime Monterey Bay Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San Luis Obispo San José San Marcos Sonoma Stanislaus

Conducts outreach and promotion encouraging students in need to sign up for CalFresh	Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Humboldt Long Beach Los Angeles Monterey Bay Northridge Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos Sonoma
Connects students with available food from catered events on campus	Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Humboldt Long Beach Sacramento San Diego San José

## Providing Resources for Students Facing Housing Insecurity

A majority of CSU campuses offer support to students in need of emergency housing, typically through short-term, on-campus housing. Several campuses assist students with security deposits or leases to help them secure long-term housing.

At California State University, Fresno, for example, two rooms are reserved for students in need of emergency housing. These students are provided a room for up to two weeks, during which a case manager works with them to develop a future plan and connect them with resources.

Provides short-term, on-campus emergency housing	Channel Islands Chico Fresno Fullerton Long Beach Los Angeles Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos Stanislaus
Provides short-term, on-campus emergency housing ( <i>in development</i> )	Dominguez Hills
Provides students with vouchers for emergency housing at local hotels	Chico Sonoma
Provides students with vouchers for emergency housing at local hotels ( <i>in development</i> )	Northridge
Provides funding for security deposits to transition students in need of housing into long-term options	Chico Northridge San José
Serves as a co-signer on lease agreements	Chico
Serves as a liaison between housing insecure students and local rental companies	Humboldt San José
Serves as a liaison between housing insecure students and local rental companies ( <i>in development</i> )	East Bay

## Providing Financial Support

More than 75 percent of CSU undergraduates have their tuition fully covered by non-loan aid. But beyond federal, state and instructional financial aid programs, the majority of CSU campuses also offer financial support to students who find themselves in an emergency, including food and/or housing insecurity. Additionally, campuses have successfully launched fundraising campaigns to engage the broader community in supporting students' basic needs.

For example, at CSU East Bay, the campus and Associated Students, Inc. worked together to establish a campaign to solicit donations from the community in support of students' basic needs. In the first year of implementation, more than \$160,000 in donations were secured, as well as 1,822 meal swipe donations, 1,900 donated items and \$4,500 in emergency aid.

Action	Campuses
Provides emergency grants to students	Channel Islands Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Long Beach Los Angeles Northridge Sacramento San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos
Provides emergency grants to students ( <i>in development</i> )	Bakersfield
Provides emergency loans to students	East Bay Los Angeles Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San José San Luis Obispo
Provides emergency loans to students ( <i>in development</i> )	Bakersfield

Engages in fundraising campaigns specifically aimed at raising funds to support basic needs' resources	Bakersfield Channel Islands Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Los Angeles Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San José San Luis Obispo
Hosts financial literacy workshops for students	Dominguez Hills Fresno Los Angeles Northridge Sacramento San Diego San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos
Coordinates with faculty, staff and students on fundraising efforts aimed at supporting students' basic needs	Bakersfield Chico East Bay Fullerton Northridge Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San José Stanislaus

## **Increasing Awareness of Available Resources**

Providing access to food, housing and financial support is only one part of the puzzle. Campuses are taking action to ensure students are aware of the resources that are available, both on- and off-campus. While websites are the primary method for sharing this information, campuses are also turning to mobile apps and social media to alert students to available resources.

For example, at California State University, Fullerton, students are able to access a campus webpage to view a list of resources. Additionally, the campus has implemented *Titan Bites*, an app that notifies students via text message of available food at department-sponsored events. The number of students receiving food through this program averages approximately 15 per event.

Action	Campuses
Provides information about resources from a booth on campus	Bakersfield San José
Developed a website with information regarding on-campus and off-campus resources	Channel Islands Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Long Beach Los Angeles Maritime Monterey Bay Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos
Developed a website with information regarding on-campus and off-campus resources ( <i>in development</i> )	Bakersfield Chico Northridge Pomona San Francisco
Mobile app, text program, website or social media alerts informing students when there is free food available on campus	Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton San Diego San José
Mobile app, text program, website or social media alerts informing students when there is free food available on campus ( <i>in development</i> )	Bakersfield Sacramento San Bernardino San Marcos

## **Connecting Students with Programs and Resources**

There are two primary models of care that campuses use to connect students with programs and resources addressing food and housing insecurity. Half of our campuses use a case manager, others have developed a crisis response team to assist students and several campuses use a hybrid of both approaches.

For example, San Diego State University has an Economic Crisis Response Team comprised of staff, administrators, students and faculty from across the campus. This response team provides immediate assistance to students struggling with food or housing insecurity, typically within 24 hours of being contacted.

Provides a single point of contact, or case manager, to connect students facing food or housing insecurity with available resources	East Bay Fresno Fullerton Long Beach Los Angeles Monterey Bay Sacramento San Bernardino San Francisco San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos
Crisis response team connects students facing food or housing insecurity with available resources	Fresno Long Beach San Bernardino San Diego San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos

## **Collaborating with Internal and External Partners**

To best serve students, campuses are collaborating with internal and external partners, including faculty, staff, students, vendors, local food banks and other community organizations. This approach allows campuses to maximize their impact and reach as many students as possible.

For example, San Francisco State University partners with the SF-Marin Food Bank to provide additional resources for students. Each week, the food bank provides 8 to 16 products to SFSU students, including 6 to 10 fresh produce items, one grain item and one protein item.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Campuses</b>
Designated a point of contact on campus for basic needs resources	Bakersfield Channel Islands Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Humboldt Long Beach Los Angeles Maritime Monterey Bay Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San Luis Obispo San José San Marcos Sonoma Stanislaus

Developed a committee to review available resources and advance additional strategies to meet the basic needs of students	Bakersfield Channel Islands Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Long Beach Los Angeles Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos Sonoma Stanislaus
Developed a committee to review available resources and advance additional strategies to meet the basic needs of students ( <i>in development</i> )	Northridge
Works with vendors, local food banks and community organizations to maximize benefit to students	Bakersfield East Bay Fresno Humboldt Long Beach Los Angeles Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Francisco San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos Sonoma Stanislaus

Member of the College and University Food Bank Alliance	Bakersfield Channel Islands Chico East Bay Fresno Humboldt Los Angeles Monterey Bay Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Francisco San José San Marcos Sonoma
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## Providing Additional Support

Campuses go above and beyond traditional methods of support to reach students where they are and provide the tools they need to be successful. At California State University Maritime Academy, for example, a program allows graduating students to donate their uniforms to students in need.

Action	Campuses
Provides clothing for students in need, including interview-appropriate clothing, uniforms (when necessary) and seasonal necessities	East Bay Fullerton Maritime Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos Sonoma
Provides cooking classes and recipes to students to build a stable of healthy and inexpensive meal options	Fresno Humboldt Northridge Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San José
Provides cooking classes and recipes to students to build a stable of healthy and inexpensive meal options ( <i>in development</i> )	Bakersfield
Provides hygiene products or kits to students in need	Bakersfield Channel Islands Chico Dominguez Hills East Bay Fresno Fullerton Long Beach Northridge Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San José San Luis Obispo Sonoma Stanislaus

Holds awareness campaigns to educate the campus community and reduce the stigma surrounding food and housing insecurity	Bakersfield Humboldt Long Beach Northridge Sacramento San Bernardino San José San Luis Obispo San Marcos
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## **Conclusion**

The CSU's commitment to the success of our 480,000 students means addressing barriers to student success both inside – and outside – the classroom. This report is a snapshot of many of the numerous actions that CSU campuses are taking to support students' basic needs, particularly food and housing insecurity.

As a national leader in studying and addressing these issues in higher education, we remain deeply committed to our mission, vision and values and look forward to identifying new opportunities, deploying best practices and expanding programs on every campus to best serve current and future generations of students in the California State University.