

Hunger and Homelessness Policies in Higher Education

April 26, 2018



Meeting Agenda

- **1st Presenter: Jessica Bartholow**
 - Western Center on Law & Poverty
 - Q & A
- **2nd Presenter: Barbara Duffield**
 - Schoolhouse Connection
 - Q & A
- **CO Updates**



**COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER
CALIFORNIA POLICY SOLUTIONS**

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A PRESENTATION BY:

JESSICA BARTHLOW

THE WESTERN CENTER ON LAW &
POVERTY



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SEARCH

Profile: Jessica Bartholow

By [Laura Zink](#)

November 18, 2004

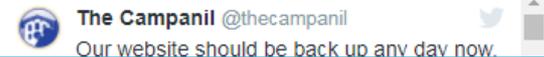
Mills College Weekly

During a team ride to an away game for the Mills Volleyball team in the early nineties, Jessica Bartholow realized just how wide the class gap can be. She heard her teammates talk about how hard it was to believe that there were people who made less annual income than the price of tuition at Mills. What those students didn't realize was that Bartholow's family was among those ranks.

When Bartholow entered Mills as a freshman in the fall of 1990, her family couldn't afford a place to live. She paid for Mills with a combination of aid and scholarships, including a CalGrant, a PellGrant, a Supplementary Education Opportunity Grant, a Bank of America Scholarship, a Mills Scholarship, federal loans and a work-study job.

Her mother, father, and sister lived in a camper, the kind on the back of a truck, in a KOA campsite when Bartholow started living in the dorms at Mills. Economic drawbacks that she faced in her

Tweets by [@thecampanil](#)



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COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION RESPONDS

California's Legislature Responding to College Student Hunger

- ❑ AB 1930 (Skinner, 2014) – CalFresh Student Rules
 - Federal Rule Says Students (>1/2 time) ineligible unless:
(a) Federal Exemptions (b) State Established Programs
 - AB 1930 establishes list of programs exempt & verification process
- ❑ AB 1747 (Weber, 2016) Increased Access to CalFresh, EBT & Meals
 - Requires RMP Application for Colleges in Participating Counties
 - Codifies practice of allowing public colleges & universities to participate in the State's CalFresh Outreach Program
 - Establishes (unfunded) fund for College Food Banks Partnerships

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@HungerActionCA @CAFoodBanks #CALeg #RealCollege



COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION RESPONDS

California's Legislature Responding to College Student Hunger

- ❑ AB 453 (Limón, 2017) – Hunger Free College Campus Funding
Gives all three sectors \$2.5 Million. Campuses must have a campus food pantry or regular food distribution on Campus and must make information about SNAP application on Campus. UCs & CSUs must also offer meal plan donation option.
- ❑ AB 214 (Weber, 2017) Increased Access to CalFresh, EBT & Meals
 - Clarified RMP Policies
 - Defines “half-time.”
 - Codified AB 1930 Workgroup policies ACL 18-27 (April 2, 2018)
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/ACL/2018/18-27.pdf>

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COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER WHAT'S NEXT

California's 2018 College Hunger Agenda

- Hunger Free College Campus Funding – Budget Request
 - Additional money for colleges certified Hunger Free
- AB 1894 (Weber) CalFresh, EBT & Restaurant Meals at all CSUs
- AB 2297 (Arambula) CalFresh benefit increase
- SB 1275 (Stern) Plan to End College Hunger (PACH)

2018 Federal College Hunger Agenda

- H.R. 1276 (Adams) – Closing the Meal Gap
- H.R. 3875 (Lawson) – College Student Hunger Act
- H.R. 3577 (Costa) – SNAP Employment & Training

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GET THE FACTS: FACTSHEETS ON ANTI-HUNGER LEGISLATION AVAILABLE ONLINE



Responding to the College Hunger Crisis

*New laws to prevent hunger from undermining college success
among low-income College students in California*

New research has emerged showing a high prevalence of food insecurity and hunger on California's College campuses. According to a recent report, the number of food banks springing up at university and college campuses is on the rise.ⁱ According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness.^{ii iii} ^{iv}In a survey recently conducted by the University of California Regents, it was found that one in five University of California (UC) students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition.^v Furthermore, nationwide lab reports show that half of all community college students are struggling with housing and/or food insecurity.^{vi}

Available at: <http://wclp.org/resource/california-laws-to-address-college-student-hunger-feb-2018/>



PARTNERSHIPS: TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS AND GET THE JOB DONE



Policy solutions that work for low-income people

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THANK YOU!

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QUESTIONS?

Key Homelessness Policies in Higher Education



SchoolHouse
Connection

Overcoming Homelessness Through Education

CSU Basic Needs Webinar
Presented by Barbara Duffield

ABOUT SCHOOLHOUSE CONNECTION

SchoolHouse Connection is a national nonprofit working to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Searchable Q&A pdupree@fullerton.edu
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
- Guest perspectives
- E-newsletter
- Social media/FB/Twitter



**SchoolHouse
Connection**

Youth homelessness is a broad challenge.

- 4.2 million youth and young adults, ages 13-25, experience homelessness on their own over the course of a year
 - At least 700,000 adolescents (ages 13-17) – 1 in 30
 - 3.5 million young adults (ages 18-25) – 1 in 10
- Much Larger than HUD Point in Time and K-12 School Data
 - Captures out-of-school youth; does not rely on school identification
- **In follow up interviews: 29% of young adults were enrolled in college or another educational program while homeless.**

<http://voicesofyouthcount.org/>

Higher Education and Homelessness: Key Policies

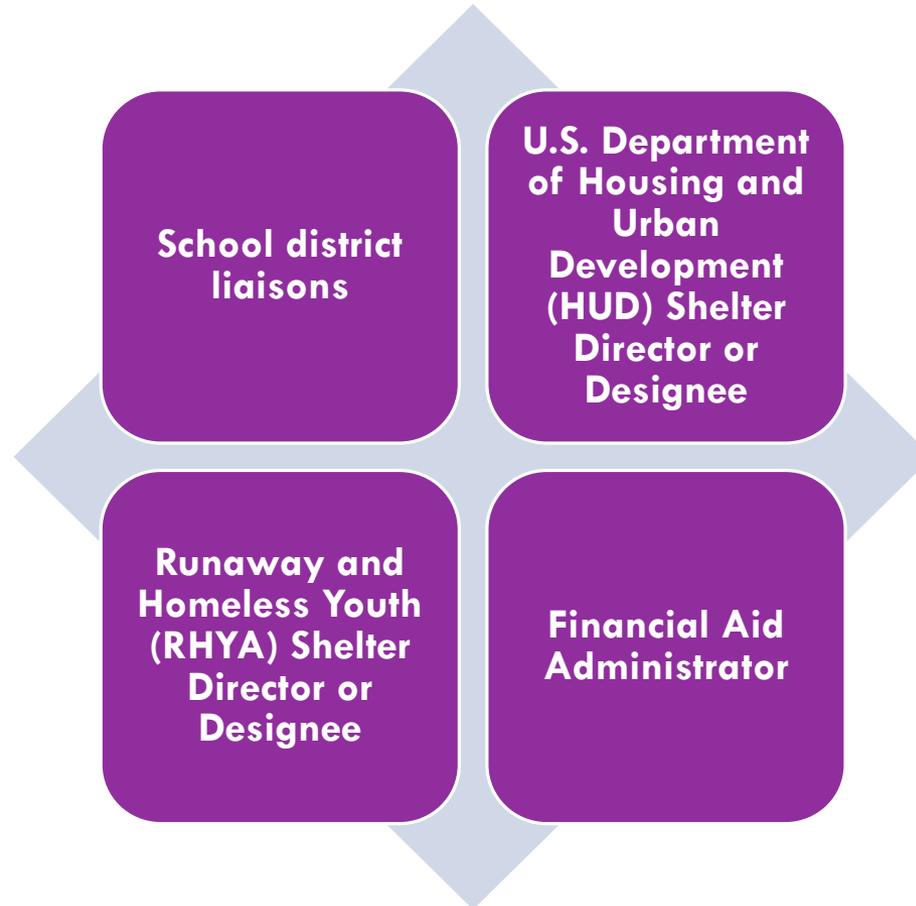
1. Financial aid reform for homeless youth
2. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homelessness Assistance reform
3. Federal budget

QUICK REVIEW: FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT ACT (FAFSA) AND HOMELESSNESS

- Unaccompanied homeless youth, and unaccompanied youth at risk of homelessness, fill out the FAFSA as independent students
 - **Unaccompanied:** Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
 - **Homeless:** Living arrangement meets the M-V definition of homeless
 - **At risk of homelessness:** When a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.



Higher Education Act: Who Can Make a Determination of UHY Status



FAFSA Determinations for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Timelines

- Must be determined to be unaccompanied and homeless after July 1 of the prior year (i.e., July 1, 2017 for the 2018-2019 application)
- **New Guidance from ED: local liaisons have the option to make subsequent year determinations for UHY *if they have access to the information necessary to make such a determination***
- See question Q-2 at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716.pdf> for more information

Government Accountability Office Report: Access to Federal Financial Assistance for Homeless and Foster Youth

Key findings of [May 2016 report](#):

- Burdensome program rules can hinder the ability of homeless and foster youth to access federal supports.
- Extensive documentation requests can impede access to aid for homeless youth.
- Annual re-verification of homelessness poses barriers for unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Limited academic preparation, family support, and awareness of resources make it harder for homeless and foster youth to pursue college.



Higher Education Act Reauthorization

- In December, House education committee passed “The Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform” (PROSPER) Act (H.R. 4508) on a party-line vote
- Senate committee has held four hearings
- Unlikely to move forward in this session
- Core issues: Simplifying FAFSA; simplifying the federal loan program; “competency-based education;” accountability



Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth - S.1795/H.R. 3740

Sponsored by:

- U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) in the U.S. Senate; **U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein is a co-sponsor.**
- U.S. Representatives Katherine Clark (D-5th/MA) and Don Young (R At Large/AK) in the U.S. House of Representatives. **U.S. Reps Susan Davis (D-CA-53) and Karen Bass (D-CA-37) are co-sponsors.**



Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

NEW PROVISION

An unaccompanied homeless youth's status does not need to be re-determined each year.

PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Youth spend a lot of time getting yearly determinations when their status has not changed.

They are asked to get information from previous years, which can be difficult.

Youth can be denied eligibility if they are not able to get the verification requested.

Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

NEW PROVISION

Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) must accept the determination of homelessness from an authorized entity. A FAA's disagreement with a determination is not considered conflicting information.

PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Deference was not always given to the providers most familiar with the youth.

Guidance was not always followed on this issue.

Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

NEW PROVISION

Adds to the entities that can verify a youth's status as homeless and unaccompanied, including TRIO, GEAR-UP and other homeless service providers.

PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Homeless youth receive services from an array of providers. Many of the providers youth were working with were not on the authorized list and their verification of youth's homeless status was not accepted.

Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

NEW PROVISION

FAAs must make a determination of homeless status, based on the legal definitions of homeless and unaccompanied, if the youth cannot get it from other entities.

PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Determinations of homeless status were not being made for youth who were not connected to homeless service providers. FAAs failure to make determinations resulted in lack of access to financial aid. FAAs made determinations based on a restrictive definition of homelessness that is not in the higher education law.

HUD Homeless Assistance Reform: Homeless Children and Youth Act

- Overall purpose: allow communities to use federal HUD homeless assistance funding to meet the unique needs of children, youth, and families
- Bipartisan bills:
 - Senate bill S. 611 introduced by Senators Portman (R-OH) and Feinstein (D-CA). **U.S. Senator Kamala Harris is also a co-sponsor.**
 - House bill H.R. 1511 introduced by Rep. Stivers (R-OH) and Rep. Loeb sack (D-IA)



The Homeless Children and Youth Act: What Does it Do?

- Amends HUD's definition of homelessness to include children and youth verified as homeless by school liaisons, RHYA programs, Head Start, Health Care for the Homeless programs, etc.
- Prohibits HUD from prioritizing one group, or one program model, over another; communities would be guided by local needs assessments and performance
- Aligns HUD Homeless Assistance with child- and youth-serving systems



Federal Budget: FY2018 and FY2019

- As a result of the bipartisan budget agreement, the FY2018 budget included significant funding increases for many basic needs and higher education federal programs.
- FY2019 budget is on a fast-track in the U.S. Senate, but it is unclear if the politics of the mid-term elections and other distractions will allow appropriations to proceed in “regular order.”



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Discussion / Q&A

CO Updates

- **SB 85 Funding Distributed**
 - Spring 2018 Basic Needs Committee Meeting
 - **1st Reporting Due: August 31st, 2018**
 - Reporting template posted by May 15th, 2018
- **CSU Wellbeing Ambassador Training**
 - June 12 – 13, 2018 @ The CO
- **Budget Committee Hearing**
 - May 1st, 2018
- **Select Committee Hearing**
 - May 2nd, 2018
- **CalFresh & CalState Apply**



CO Updates

Next Professional
Development Webinar:
**Thursday, September 27th
@ 2PM**





Thank You!