California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (#CHEBNA)

#RealCollegeCalifornia #EquityAvengers #HealingJustice #Justice4All

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Why are students struggling with their basic needs?

**Incomplete/Misinformed:**

- “Financial aid people don’t care about students.”
- “Financial aid people make it almost impossible for students to get what they need to be able to take care of themselves.”
- “Financial aid people care more about their jobs and the university than they do about the health and wellbeing of the students.”
- “The high/rising costs of tuition and fees are making college unaffordable”
- “We went through college and figured things out. Sure we struggle through, but we made it. These students gotta struggle and figure things out too.”
- “Students have more financial aid and resources than they need - if they are struggling - they are doing something wrong.”

**Better understandings:**

- Financial Aid administrators and staff are working within policies and regulations set by campuses, systems, states, and/or federal entities.
- Federal Pell Grant is at a 4-decade purchasing power low.
- The majority of states have not recuperated their state contributions for higher education to pre-recession levels.
- Cost of living continues to outpace wages, most dramatically showcased in the cost of housing/rent.
- Majority of borrowing/debt is for non-tuition/cost of living.
- Students working part-time during the academic year and near/full time during the summer can only afford 1/3rd of what students in the 60s-70s were able to afford working the exact same hours.
- Students are not being prepared for their basic needs experiences in college, before they arrive.
Journey to CHEBNA

2015-2016

2016-2017
2018 - 2019
2018 - 2019 CONT.
2018 - 2019 CONT.

Holistic Support to Address Student Basic Needs

Studies across the nation show that U.S. college students are not receiving sufficient financial aid and are struggling with meeting their basic needs, which can lead to academic success in difficult times to stabilize and safely housing. These core aspects are essential to the mental and physical well-being of college students. All three of California’s public higher education systems and institutions are committed to addressing student basic needs in a multifaceted manner to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be successful. Higher education populations, policies, and practices continue to evolve, providing access to resources to help alleviate barriers related to basic needs crisis are critical to academic success.

What is food insecurity? Food insecurity is when individuals report multiple indicators of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake such as: food security on a continuum, when both you and your food security counted as "food insecure." What is housing insecurity? Housing insecurity is a broad term that includes inability to pay rent, having to move, poor housing quality (physical neighborhoods and housing structures, are overcrowding, or homelessness). Merriam-Webster defines it as an individual who lacks, and inquires about adequate shelter residence.

Who’s Affected by Food Insecurity?

- 90% of CCC students experience food insecurity.
- 48% of CCC students experience food insecurity.
- 44% of UCCD undergraduate experience food insecurity.
- 39% of UCCD graduate students experience food insecurity.
- 70% of UCCD students experience food insecurity.
- 10% of UCCD students are homeless.
- 5% of UCCD students are homeless.
- 90% of UCCD students experience food insecurity.
- 40% of UCCD students experience food insecurity.
- 70% of UCCD students experience food insecurity.
- 10% of UCCD students are homeless.
- 5% of UCCD students are homeless.

Who’s Affected by Housing Insecurity?

- 90% of CCC students have experienced homelessness within the past 12 months.
- 85% of CCC students have experienced homelessness within the past 12 months.
- 10% of CCC students experience homelessness.
- 95% of CCC students are homeless.
- 5% of CCC students are homeless.

Research and Data

Citizen’s higher education systems must conduct research and evaluate the impact of student basic needs offers on physical and mental health, social well-being, and academic success within multiple timeframes for planning and guiding data across our system. It is critical to identify and evaluate the college student population in need, and collectively produce state-wide strategic plans to improve the basic needs of college students.

Sample strategy: Establish similar integrations of system-tailored data analysis of student basic needs that are comprehensive and accessible across systems.

Financial Aid

To ensure all California’s college have the opportunity to enroll college full-time, successful students and complete a meaningful degree, California must strengthen its need-based financial aid programs to account for total college costs, including basic needs, and trigger this aid to those students who can least afford the total cost of attendance. The state must individually address student basic needs and visit college costs by including housing, food, transportation and child care by:

- Increasing the number of financial aid grants that support all low-income students attending public institutions, including students more than one year out of high school, as a result of thousands of those income students currently go unassisted.
- Increasing the size of the Cal Grant access award, whose value has stagnated and is currently worth nearly one quarter of its original value.

CalFresh

The National Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh, is an existing and sustainable intervention for student food insecurity. Recipients of CalFresh can purchase food with benefits through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. Since the expansion of student eligibility by LA 2016, more students are now eligible for CalFresh, but CalFresh access for college students should be further expanded.

Strategies and Opportunities

- Increase sustainability funding within colleges for targeted CalFresh outreach, including education and enrollment activities on college campuses, as well as patient’s assistance most at risk who are more likely to be eligible.
- Increase the number of college campuses that accept CalFresh EBT cards on college campuses and, if necessary, increase participation in the CalFresh Redesigned Meals Programs.

Housing Resources

Barriers to rising tuition and living costs that have increased in California over the past couple of years have left college students have little financial leverage to compete in California’s expensive, crowded rental markets. While student housing offers some relief, it is in short supply and can be more expensive than living off-campus. In addition, students may experience homelessness because of poverty, domestic violence, abuse, neglect, and refuges for domestic violence such as foster care, investments in rapid-rehousing programs, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs, specifically for college students are encouraging strategies.

Basic Needs Centers/Hub

The public higher education systems have developed the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBN) to develop approaches for targeting student’s basic needs. The CHEBN has identified Basic Needs Centers/Hub as one of the most consistent and transformative strategies to align resources for the essential, food, housing, and health experiences of college students. Students should have access to a safe and reliable centralised location for resources, receive support for their basic needs and have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the basic needs of others.

Sample Strategies:

A full-time professional staff Co-Casing as Basic Needs Managers, a full-time Case Manager for supporting basic needs efforts on each campus, and innovative strategies that allow campuses to have a dedicated facility as their Basic Needs Center Hub to provide needed services.

2018 - 2019 CONT.
Directional Offerings

- What is the current relational culture across our segments?
- What value is being imposed upon us and what value are we generating?
- How do we move forward with interdependence and transformative justice at our center?
- Celebrate who is in the room!
“How do we cultivate the muscle of radical imagination needed to dream together beyond fear?

We need to move from competitive ideation, trying to push our individual ideas, to creative ideation, collaborative ideation. It isn’t about moving the #1 best idea, but having ideas that come from, and work for, more people.”

- Adrienne Maree Brown

Emergent Strategy (pg. 59)