



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

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### AFFORDABILITY, FOOD & HOUSING ACCESS TASKFORCE

*Real Solutions to Real Challenges*

**Friday, October 29, 2021**

**7:30AM – 9:00AM**

#### MEETING AGENDA

**In Attendance:** Dorothy Battenfeld, Byron Clift Breland, Tom Burke, Martha Garcia, Tammeil Gilkerson, Adrienne Grey, John Hernandez, Andra Hoffman, Pam Luster, Erik Skinner, Paula Umaña, Kevin Walthers. League Staff: Lisa Mealoy, Andy Martinez, Ryan McElhinney, Jonathan Lightman, Nune Garipian, Sadie Brown.

#### **1. AGENDA**

##### **a. Introductions**

- i. Welcome Nune Garipian to the League's GR team & taskforce
  1. Nune joined the League in October 2021. She attended Pasadena City College and transferred to Yale University. She is currently serving as the League's Legislative Advocate and will work with Andy and Ryan on the Government Relations team.

##### **b. Legislative & Budget Update**

- i. 2021-2022 Budget Update
  1. Immediate Action Package
    - a. \$100 million for emergency student financial assistance grants
    - b. \$3.1 million for outreach and application assistance to students applying for CalFresh
    - c. \$20 million to support efforts to bolster student retention rates and enrollment (\$18 million for colleges and \$2 million for statewide efforts through the Chancellor's Office)
  2. Expanded Cal Grant Entitlement
    - a. \$155 million ongoing to eliminate the age and time out of high school eligibility requirements for the Cal Grant entitlement for students enrolling in the California Community Colleges
    - b. This change provides grants to an additional 133,000 students in the upcoming academic year
    - c. The age and time out of high school requirements remain for students enrolling in the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and private institutions
  3. Zero-Textbook-Cost Pathways
    - a. \$115 million one-time for grants to community college districts for

- developing zero-textbook-cost degrees and certificates, awards that can be earned entirely by completing courses that eliminate textbook costs by using alternative instructional materials
- b. The definition of such pathways includes low to no-cost degrees in cases where a no-cost option is not available or cannot be developed
4. Affordable Student Housing
- a. 50% of funding for California Community Colleges
  - b. 30% of funding for California State University
  - c. 20% of funding for University of California
    - i. Formula would be used for:
      - 1. \$500 million allocated in 2021-22 budget
      - 2. \$750 million allocated in 2022-23 budget\*
      - 3. \$750 million allocated in 2023-24 budget\*
        - a. \*intent of the legislature language
5. Basic Needs Centers
- a. Ongoing funding of \$30 million to support basic needs centers and coordinators. It allows for the integration of financial aid and basic needs centers, as proposed by the Governor's Recovery with Equity Taskforce in its plan for an equitable recovery, but does not require it (and the funding cannot be used to cover the costs of combining the offices).
  - b. By July 1, 2022, a central location on campus where services, resources, and staff would be available to students. The center must connect students to the financial aid office to ensure they are receiving all available financial aid. An existing Basic Needs Center can satisfy the requirement as long as it provides the required services.
6. Mental Health Services
- a. The enacted budget includes ongoing funding of \$30 million to provide for student mental health resources. The Chancellor's Office will be required to submit a report every three years, beginning in 2025, describing how the funds were used, the types of programs in which districts invested, and what is known about best practices implemented by districts.
7. Basic Needs
- a. The budget includes an additional \$100 million one-time for colleges to support basic needs, including to maintain food pantries, assist students with enrollment in CalFresh, support students in obtaining nutrition assistance, and assist homeless and housing-insecure students in securing stable housing, among others.
  - b. These funds can be used until June 30, 2024, and the CCCCO must submit a report on their use by June 30, 2025.
8. Upcoming Legislative Hearings

- a. Assembly Higher Education
    - i. November 3, 1:30pm
    - ii. State Capitol Room 4202
    - iii. The Impact and Response of COVID-19 on Postsecondary Education in Year Two
  - b. Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
    - i. November 8, 10:30am
    - ii. State Capitol Room 4202
    - iii. California Student Housing: Solutions for Increasing Capacity and Affordability
9. Shared Advocacy Request “A Student-First Request”
- a. Enrollment & Retention
    - i. College Affordability and Basic Needs Supports
    - ii. Re-Engagement & Outreach to Affected Populations
    - iii. Term to Term Retention
  - b. Supports Along the Journey
    - i. Support for Institutional Quality
    - ii. Financial Aid Connection
    - iii. Technology Modernization
    - iv. Supportive Faculty & Staff
  - c. Student Success
    - i. Intentional College Programs
    - ii. Professional Development
    - iii. Capacity to Support the CCC System
10. Shared Advocacy Request Student’s Equitable Recovery
- a. Student Basic Needs
    - i. \$50 million additional ongoing funding to support students’ basic needs to provide funding for CalFresh enrollment support, food pantries, and campus cafeterias.
  - b. Black Student Success
    - i. \$179,000 one-time funding to conduct a comprehensive study to examine the core components and practices of CCC Umoja programs across the state to identify effective program design elements that increase black student success. In addition, a request of \$1.1 million in funding for expansion of A2MEND Student Charters (from 16 to 50) to have a greater impact on the academic success of African American males in higher-education California.
  - c. Textbook Affordability
    - i. The California Community Colleges are committed to advancing strategies that both make textbooks more affordable to students and ensure they have access to learning materials from day one. In 2022-23, the system will explore

opportunities to advance textbook affordability for all students.

- d. Support for Foster Youth Programs
  - i. \$20 million in ongoing funding for the Nextup (CAFYES) Program to eliminate the 20-district cap and allow for an expansion of the program to additional colleges. Additionally, we request \$2 million ongoing funding for the Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) Program to strengthen and maintain the existing program at 54 colleges to provide resources for curriculum development so that all FKCE programs have a standard curriculum to address statewide mandated topics.
11. Effective Local Financial Aid Support Services (\$20 million ongoing and policy changes)
  - a. A revision to the Student Financial Aid Administration and Board Financial Aid Programs (SFAA-BFAP) allocation funding formula used by the Department of Finance to include additional data points such as total headcount and counts of low-income students (Pell Grant recipients); California Community Colleges | 2022-23 System Budget Request 14
  - b. A cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to the Student Financial Aid Administration base capacity funding
  - c. A requirement that the BFAP 2% allocation is directed to support financial aid administration
12. Student Housing (\$500 million one-time and \$50 million ongoing)
  - a. Commit new resources to build student residential housing for community college students to address the needs of the homeless/housing insecure student population. One-time resources would provide initial planning, modernization, restoration, or construction.
  - b. Establish clear criteria and standards at each California Community College campus for selecting students for student housing, for the system office to provide districts with professional development regarding public/private partnerships, and to develop a resources designed to provide housing model options, enable adherence with legal requirements (i.e. Clery Act Reporting, Title IX, and California Community Colleges | 2022-23 System Budget Request 15 security information) and helpful information to help districts find a workable approach.
  - c. Support colleges work with local, county, and student agencies to establish housing options for community college students.
- ii. Legislative Update
  1. End of Session 2021 Legislative Year: Key Takeaways
    - a. Significant focus on basic needs, financial aid reform and equity

- b. Large spending programs failed to make it through legislative process
  - c. Attempts to better connect higher education institutions to basic need services largely successfully
2. Bills for Discussion:
- a. League Priority Bill
    - i. AB 1456 (Medina) Financial Aid Reform
      - 1. Would have reformed the state's system of financial aid by:
        - a. Creating two new Cal Grant Awards focused on either four-or-two-year students
        - b. Significantly expanding the number of students eligible for an award
        - c. Two-year award focused on access costs
      - 2. Vetoed by Governor Newsom
  - b. HHS Services
    - i. AB 775 (Berman) Basic Needs Centers
      - 1. Would have required colleges to establish basic needs centers and full-time basic needs coordinators. Budget trailer bill allocated basic needs dollars in a more flexible manner and bill was amended to another topic.
      - 2. Amended to another subject area
    - ii. AB 1326 (Arambula) County Liaisons
      - 1. Requires county HHS agencies to designate one employee as a single point of contact to work with higher education counselors to identify ways to connect eligible students to basic services.
      - 2. Signed by Governor Newsom
  - c. Food Insecurity
    - i. AB 396 (Gabriel) CalFresh: Educational Programs
      - 1. Currently students who are enrolled at least half time at a higher education institution are ineligible for CalFresh benefits unless they meet one of several exemptions, like working more than 20 hours a week. One of these exemptions is if they are enrolled in a program that is deemed to benefit the local economy. This bill would designate most academic programs at the US, CSU, or community colleges as one of those programs. Thus it will make it easier for a student to qualify for CalFresh.
      - 2. Signed by Governor Newsom
    - ii. AB 543 (Davies) Student Orientation: CalFresh Materials
      - 1. Requires the CSU and community colleges and

requests the University of California to provide materials and inform students of their potential eligibility for CalFresh benefits during orientation.

2. Signed by Governor Newsom

d. Student Housing

i. AB 1377 (McCarty) Revolving Loan Fund

1. Would have created a revolving loan fund in which colleges can borrow against to build affordable student housing. Amended to focus on US and CSU student housing plans once similar language was adopted via the budget.

2. Amended to another subject area

ii. SB 290 (Skinner) Density Bonuses: Student Housing

1. Provides incentives for developers who include affordable student housing within their projects.

2. Signed into law by Governor Newsom

iii. Request from Taskforce for League's GR Team to keep in mind differences and challenges between urban and rural colleges when advocating at the Capitol. There is concern that rural and small colleges are not being allocated the appropriate amount of resources as compared to their large, urban peers.

c. **Chancellor's Office Update**

i. Colleen Ganley was unable to attend the meeting and provided the following update on the Chancellor's Office action items:

1. \$30 million ongoing funds for mental health services have been released (in the October revision)
2. \$30 million ongoing funds for the establishment of basic need centers and to hire basic need coordinators have been released (in the October revision)
  - a. Guidance memos will soon be released
  - b. CO currently developing reporting mechanisms for new funds
  - c. CO Government Relations is assembling a Basic Needs toolkit (distribution TBD)
3. Chancellor's Office is hosting a webinar on November 16<sup>th</sup> focused on services to homeless students (invite to event is attached). Attached is the update Primer [Homeless-Primer.pdf \(ccstudentmentalhealth.org\)](#)
4. CO is requesting colleges to update directory of [CCC Homeless liaisons](#) (see attached message with request)
5. CO working with Evergreen College (thank you Tammeil) on piloting new process to approve CCC programs that provide CalFresh exemptions for students
6. Working w/California Policy Lab on CCC student CalFresh Uptake data (additional info to come)
7. In partnership with FoundationCCC are working on two workshop proposals for upcoming virtual Basic Needs Conference (your conference)

**d. #RealCollegeCalifornia Update**

- i. The coalition has quadrupled in size through concentrated recruitment efforts
  1. Year 1: 14
  2. Year 2: 38
  3. Year 3: 52
- ii. Goals:
  1. 60+ institutions to join the coalition
  2. Deadline to join: October 31, 2021
- iii. Hope Center News
  1. New Reports
    - a. Real Price of College
    - b. Emergency Aid
    - c. Rio Hondo - Transportation
  2. Support
    - a. Policy and advocacy
    - b. Technical assistance
    - c. Resources
- iv. Coalition
  1. Request from Taskforce for Hope Center to list all colleges (including colleges from multi-college districts) in the list of members
  2. Byron and Diana to work with the League to send out one last recruitment email to CEOs ahead of the deadline

**e. Basic Needs Summit Update**

- i. Summit to be held on February 4, 2022 via Zoom
  1. Registration opens on November 1
- ii. Keynotes
  1. Two options so far
    - a. Dr. Shirley Weber, Secretary of State
    - b. Michael Tubbs, Former Mayor Stockton
      - i. Potentially purchase Michael's book for conference attendees to reduce speaker fee
- iii. Call for Proposals
  1. Deadline to submit: November 12
  2. No submissions received as of 10/29 meeting
  3. Communications sent through the League as well as the Chancellor's Office basic needs directory; Pam to send out a message to the CEO listserv
  4. Colleges and the Chancellor's Office are working on drafting session proposals to submit ahead of the deadline
    - a. The Taskforce suggested that The Hope Center propose a session on their recent research
  5. Co-chairs put a call out to for a student panel; request for committee members

to submit names of students to potentially lead panel

- iv. Theme
  - 1. “Getting Real About Basic Needs as a Fundamental Right”
    - a. Focus on advocacy
- v. Sponsorships
  - 1. Keith Curry working on sponsorship efforts

**f. Housing & Transportation Webinars**

- i. Affordable Housing (Trustees Webinar) – October 28
  - 1. Tammeil Gilkerson, Rebecka Cearley, Pedro Avila, Jerry Marchbank, Nick Jiles, Kevin Walthers presented on the Affordable Housing report
- ii. Transportation Issues (Trustees Webinar) – November 4
- iii. Transportation Issues (CEO Webinar) – November 9
  - 1. JoAnna Schilling, Tammeil Gilkerson, Kevin Walthers to present on the Transportation brief at the above webinars

**g. Taskforce Goals 2021-2022**

- i. The Taskforce reviewed the below goals - using notes from the retreat - for the upcoming year:
  - 1. Affordable Housing
  - 2. Food Insecurity
  - 3. Meeting w/ Chancellor’s Office
  - 4. #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition
  - 5. Basic Needs Summit (advocacy week)
  - 6. Data Collection
  - 7. Advocacy
  - 8. Professional Development
  - 9. Legislative Conference Affordability Track
  - 10. CalFresh
- ii. The Taskforce discussed creating a webpage (or revamping an existing webpage) to include information on basic needs data (financial aid, basic needs efforts, etc.), publications, and list of basic needs contacts across the system.
  - 1. Paula Umana mentioned that the Hope Center has been lifting the SNAP dashboard as a tool to help educate colleges on student data

**h. Legislative Conference Affordability Track**

- i. Ryan reported that the League will add an Affordability Track to the Legislative Conference and would like to turn the content of those specific panels to this group.
  - 1. Ryan suggested that the committee scale-down the housing and transportation briefs to present at the Legislative Conference
- ii. The Taskforce to determine volunteer leads for session content

**i. Food Insecurity Brief**



i. [Report \(Draft\)](#)

**j. Next Meeting**

i. Friday, November 12, 7:30am – 9:00am

<https://www.ccleague.org/resources/focus-areas/affordability-taskforce>

*Quality Public Community Colleges for All Californians*