



**Center for Equitable Higher Education South**  
*Studying and promoting economic, food, and housing justice*

**Community College League of California  
Affordability, Food, & Housing Access Task Force  
Results Summary**

Higher education administrators have become acutely aware of basic needs insecurity among students. Many California community colleges are making decisive advancements to address the needs of those among our student populations who are contending with homelessness and housing insecurity as they strive to achieve in college. The Center for Equitable Higher Education South, in collaboration with The Community College League of California Affordability, Food, & Housing Access Taskforce, administered a questionnaire of leadership interest in the development of housing facilities in order to inform strategic planning to address these needs. A total of 79 participants responded to the survey representing 75 campuses. Most of the participants were in CEO, President, or Superintendent positions (91%), two were Chancellors (3%), four were Deans (5%), and one was a Director of Student Development (1%). Questions were asked regarding participants' perceptions of student housing as a priority, benefits and drawbacks of on-campus housing, considerations for design, and desire for participation in learning more about the development process.

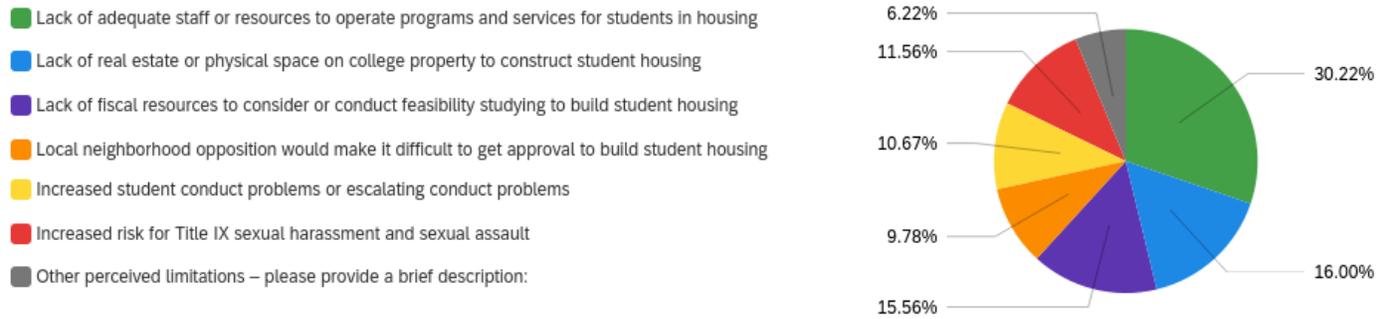
Of those that participated, 32.9% said they were planning or conducting feasibility studies for student housing, 6.3% indicated they had a student housing project in their master plan, and 6.3% said they planned to open student housing within the next two years. About 12.7% noted that they had either operated housing for more than or within ten years and 41.8% said they did not have student housing and did not plan to construct housing.

**The top four benefits that were indicated that might be derived from having on-campus student housing included:**

- Low cost/affordable rooms for students who are low income or experience homelessness and housing insecurity
- Increasing completion and success rates
- Student proximity to classes and support services
- Increase student engagement in campus activities

**The lack of adequate staff or resources was most noted as a limitation or drawback that may discourage building on-campus student housing, followed by lack of real estate and physical space, and a lack of financial resources to conduct a feasibility study.**

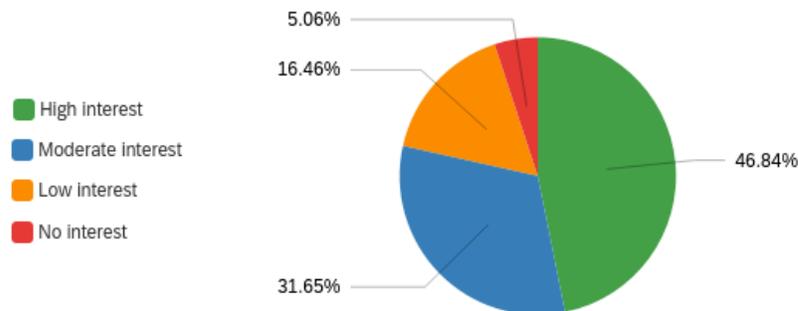
Figure 1. Limitations or drawbacks that discourage building on-campus student housing



Other perceived limitations that were noted in qualitative data multiple times included inadequate public transportation to population centers, developing and implementing residential education, lack of expertise to operate student housing, and competition with sister campuses.

Participants were asked about their interest in various aspects of housing. These questions were not applicable for those who did not have interest in building housing. **Almost 46.8% of participants indicated that they had a high interest in providing housing for students**, followed by 31.6% with moderate interest, and 21.6% with low or no interest.

Figure 2: Level of interest in providing housing for students at your college



**When asked about the size and capacity** they would like to build, 36.7% of participants indicated that they would prefer 100-250 beds, 22.8% said less than 100 beds, 19% said 251-500 beds, 2.5% said 501-750 beds, and 5.1% said more than 750 beds.

Predominantly, participants indicated that they preferred housing that accommodated two room suites for four residents with a shared bath and a small living area (33.9%) and two per room with communal bath (20.2%). This was followed by studio dwellings (14.7%), four per room with communal bath (9.2%), and three per room with communal bath (3.6%).

Other options that were listed by participants included:

- Mixed-use units for students with and without children
- Studios with a kitchenette to allow for cooking
- Multi-family housing

- Faculty and mixed-use housing
- A combination of a variety of living arrangements

**Regarding information needed in order to decide to build prefabricated modular units or traditional construction**, 54.1% said cost benefit analysis, 23.8% said construction time period, and 14.8% said amount of disruption. One person noted that the presentation by Deborah Shepley was helpful. Other information participants requested included:

- How prefabrication fits with the design of campus and service life of the building
- The ability to remove prefabricate structures from Division of State Architect (DSA) requirements and follow county building codes
- DSA approved units with cost estimates
- Board support
- Required physical land space

**Participants rated high levels of interest in learning about all aspects of housing (48.1% to 60.3%),** but indicated the highest interest in:

- Learning about public-private partnership models for building and operating student housing
- Learning how other districts have built and operated their student housing
- Learning about different financing models for student housing

Fifty percent of **participants had “high interest” in participating** in Public-private partnership discussions, 47.4% in state policy discussions, and 30.3% in a statewide RFP committee.

## Survey Instrument

The Community College League of California Affordability, Food, & Housing Access Taskforce, was formed in 2018 to create a space for ideas, best practices, and solutions addressing students' basic needs insecurity. The Taskforce is now preparing for the next phase of its work which will specifically focus on affordable student housing.

In recommendations (<https://www.ccleague.org/affordability-taskforce>) released in January 2019, the Taskforce noted several items related to student housing facilities. It is our hope you will be able to participate in this survey, which will provide the Taskforce with information regarding your student housing.

The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete.

The survey is administered by, Rashida Crutchfield, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and Director of the CSULB Center for Equitable Higher Education South.

I agree to participate in this survey (Yes No)

### IDENTIFICATION

College Name

Position at the College

### PRIORITIES

Which of the following descriptions is most accurate about the provision of student housing on your campus?

- We have operated student housing for more than 10 years
- We have operated student housing within the last 10 years
- We plan to open student housing within the next two years
- We have a student housing project in our master plan
- We are planning and conducting a feasibility study for student housing
- We do not have student housing and we are not planning to construct

Below are some the benefits that might be derived from having on-campus student housing. Please indicate the TOP THREE benefits that would most apply to your college.

- More students would take a full load of classes Increasing completion and success rates
- Increase student engagement across activities (i.e. student groups, social cliques, office hours, campus events)
- Residential life staff and services increase retention
- Housing meal plans would provide better access to nutritious food options on a daily basis
- On-campus housing will attract a diverse pool of students
- Increase enrollment of international students
- New revenue stream for the college based on rent payments and meal plans
- New revenue with increased program options through conference housing services (i.e., summer camps for athletics and the arts)
- Student proximity to classes and support services
- Student proximity to off-campus services like groceries, transportation, entertainment

- Low cost/affordable rooms for students who are low income or experience homelessness and housing insecurity
- Other perceived benefit – please provide a brief description

Below are some of the limitations or drawbacks that might discourage building on-campus student housing. Please indicate the TOP THREE limitations that would most apply to your college.

- Lack of adequate staff or resources to operate programs and services for students in housing
- Lack of real estate or physical space on college property to construct student housing  
Lack of fiscal resources to consider or conduct feasibility study to build student housing
- Local neighborhood opposition would make it difficult to get approval to build student housing
- Increased student conduct problems or escalating conduct problems Increased risk for Title IX sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Other perceived limitations – please provide a brief description

Please indicate your level of interest in providing housing for students at your college.

- High interest Moderate interest Low interest No interest

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

If your college were to consider building student housing, how many beds would you consider providing?

- <100; 100 to 250; 251 to 500; 501 to 750; >750; N/A

If your college were to consider building student housing, what types of units would be most desirable?

- 2 per room with communal bath
- 3 per room with communal bath
- 4 per room with communal bath
- 2 room suites for 4 with shared bath and small living area
- Studio (independent unit)
- N/A
- Other – please provide a brief description

## **PARTICIPATION**

Please indicate your level of interest in the following (High, Moderate, Low, No Interest):

- Learning about different financing models for student housing
- Learning about public-private partnership models for building and operating student housing Learning how other districts have built and operated their student housing

Please indicate your level of interest in learning more about the following (High, Moderate, Low, No Interest):

- Pre-fab modular construction of student housing units; pre- approved by DSA for a cost effective, and efficient solution
- Leveraging a statewide piggy- back contract to purchase pre- approved modular housing units
- State policy to issue revenue bonds to pay for student housing
- Changing Title 5 language to allow deferred maintenance dollars to cover the cost of repairing student housing
- Professional development presentations on these topics at an upcoming conference

What information do you need in order to decide to build pre-fab modular units versus traditional construction?

- Cost benefit analysis
- Construction time period
- Amount of disruption
- Other information?

Please indicate your level of interest in participating in the following related to student housing (High, Moderate, Low, No Interest):

- Statewide RFP committee
- Public-private partnership discussions
- State policy discussions

If you are interested in having someone follow up with you regarding student housing or your participation in related activities, please provide your email address.