MEASURING OUR SUCCESS:

Campus Supports for College Students Experiencing Food & Housing Insecurity

california
homeless
youthproject

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The California Homeless Youth Project

The California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP) is a multi-year research and policy initiative of the California Research Bureau and the California State Library. The CHYP highlights issues and solutions for youth ages 12 to 24 who are living "on the edge" of homelessness or are currently homeless in California. In particular, the CHYP engages these youth directly in research and policy discussions, giving voice to their experiences and recommendations as well as those of researchers, practitioners and policy experts. The CHYP is supported by funding from The California Wellness Foundation and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

About the Author

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Executive Summary

In January 2019, the California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP), an initiative of the California Research Bureau, began a study to explore the supply of resources available to students experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness at California's public colleges and universities. This study builds on a previous CHYP report by looking in-depth at the types of resources campuses offer that help students meet their basic needs. It also builds on a growing body of research on food and housing insecurity in higher education—and the actions that are being taken to address these challenges—on a system-wide, state, and national level.

The findings in this report are based on information collected from campus websites, phone calls, and emails with higher education staff in order to determine which of California's public colleges and universities offer resources that address basic needs insecurity. Specifically, we determined if campuses offer year-round student housing, emergency housing, emergency grants, short-term loans, food resources, and advisors and programs for foster youth and students experiencing homelessness. This study looked at 44 percent of the 114 California Community Colleges (CCCs) and all of the California State Universities (CSUs) and Universities of California (UCs).

Findings

▶ Nearly all of California's public higher education institutions distribute free groceries on a regular basis and have at least one advisor specifically for foster youth.

▶ The majority of campuses also have at least one advisor for students experiencing housing insecurity.

▶ Nearly all of California's public universities offer emergency grants, short-term loans, CalFresh application assistance, and programs targeting foster youth.

▶ About three in four of California's public universities offer year-round student housing, and about three in four provide emergency housing.

▶ Although California's community college students experience higher rates of homelessness and food insecurity than undergraduates at the CSUs and UCs, the CCCs have significantly fewer basic needs resources.

- Only 2 of the 50 CCCs examined offer the possibility of year-round student housing, and just one community college provides emergency housing.

- Twenty-eight percent of the 50 CCCs examined have programs that specifically target students experiencing housing insecurity compared to two thirds of California's public universities.

- The CCCs are also less likely to offer free prepared meals, food recovery programs, any kind of emergency funds, and programs for foster youth.

Recommendations

Supporting the academic success of students from all economic backgrounds will require collaboration, strategic action, and significant investment. Our recommendations focus on closing existing resource gaps by:

▶ Expanding access to year-round student housing

▶ Increasing the availability and affordability of student housing

▶ Allowing students experiencing housing insecurity to be eligible for foster youth programs on their campuses

▶ Funding and evaluating housing interventions for students experiencing homelessness

Closing resource gaps will also require California's public institutions to create or engage with multisector, regional learning communities to better understand and address basic needs insecurity on a broader scale.

Introduction

While investing in their futures, many college students across California struggle to find a place to call home. Without a "fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence," these students must double up with other people, live in their cars, stay in emergency shelters, or sleep outside.[1] According to recent studies, 1 in 5 California Community College (CCC) students and 1 in 10 California State University (CSU) undergraduates experienced homelessness at least once in the past year—and even more experienced food insecurity.[2] At the Universities of California (UC), 1 in 20 undergraduates experienced homelessness at least once during their time as a UC student.[3]

Food and housing insecurity negatively impact students' academic success and mental health.[4] In California's public higher education systems and in higher education institutions across the United States, students who struggle to meet their basic needs are more likely to report having lower grades and lower overall grade point averages compared to students whose basic needs are met.[5] One system-wide UC study found that the average grade point average was highest for undergraduates who had not experienced food insecurity and homelessness, and it was the lowest for undergraduates who experienced both food insecurity and homelessness.[6]

Preliminary research also points to strong, statistically significant relationships between college students' housing insecurity and persistence, graduation, and credit attainment.[7] In addition to academic performance, a strong relationship exists between unmet basic needs and mental health challenges. Numerous studies have found that college students experiencing food or housing insecurity are more likely to report symptoms of stress, depression, severe anxiety, disordered eating, and suicidal ideation.[8]

California's public universities and colleges are in a unique position to support students in need. For one, California campuses can provide resources with less stigma than typically associated with receiving social services. Likewise, resources that are located on campus are more physically accessible to low-income students, alleviating transportation barriers that can make it difficult to receive much needed resources and services.

1 in 5 CCC students and 1 in 10 CSU undergraduates experienced homelessness at least once in the past year.

A strong relationship exists between unmet basic needs and mental health challenges.

This report provides a snapshot in time of critical resources that California's public higher education institutions offer to unstably-housed and food insecure undergraduates. Resources examined include year-round student housing, emergency housing, emergency grants, short-term loans, food resources, advisors for foster youth and students experiencing housing insecurity, and programs for foster youth and students experiencing housing insecurity. These resources were identified based on the demographic trends of students experiencing homelessness, input from youth who have experienced homelessness firsthand, and a survey of California Community College staff who serve this student community.[9]

Helping students meet their basic needs and acquire meaningful college credentials ends cycles of poverty, prepares them for a shifting economy, and empowers them to embrace their fullest potential. By examining the resources—or lack of resources—available to California's low-income, homeless, and hungry college students, we hope this report leads to policies and practices that help people from all economic backgrounds succeed in postsecondary education.

Background and Legal Framework

Methodology

The findings in this report are based on information collected from a sample of 50 California Community Colleges, all 23 of the California State Universities, and the 9 Universities of California that serve undergraduates.[10] Data were primarily collected from campus websites to determine which of California's public colleges and universities offer resources that can help students meet their basic needs. These resources include year-round student housing, emergency housing, emergency grants, short-term loans, food resources, programs for foster youth and students experiencing housing insecurity, and advisors for foster youth and students experiencing housing insecurity. Coordinated institutional responses to basic needs insecurity were also identified, recognizing the actions that groups of staff, faculty, and leadership are taking to reduce food and housing insecurity on their campuses.

First, each resource was researched using a set of search terms in Google's search engine (see the Appendix for definitions and search terms). Search results were then examined for relevant links leading to webpages on each campus website. This initial data collection process primarily occurred between January and March 2019. Second, campus staff were contacted by phone and email as needed to fill in information gaps. Third, findings were double-checked against lists of resources published by each public higher education system and by individual campuses.[11]

Research Limitations

Notably, California's public colleges and universities may have more or fewer resources for students than their websites suggest. Newly added resources may result in websites not having the most up-to-date information. Also, information about resources

can be shared with students in other ways such as through word of mouth or flyers. These methods may be more effective at reaching the intended audience; alternatively, these methods may be intentionally less effective, limiting students' awareness because resource constraints prevent campuses from serving every student experiencing need. In several conversations with campus staff, we learned that resources were intentionally not publicized online (and we were asked not to include the resources in this study) because these resources are underfunded relative to student demand. According to campus staff, keeping the information internal reduced the likelihood of having to turn students away. Additionally, in a few cases, campus staff did not respond to our inquiries to confirm or clarify online findings.

Some resources are not publicized online because they are underfunded relative to student demand.

Conversely, campuses may offer fewer resources than their websites suggest. Concerning programs for current and former foster youth, two campus websites did not reflect that their programs recently concluded. Also, phrases on campus websites like "as funds allow" and "possible services include" point to the possibility that emergency funds may not actually be available to students.

This study examines the supply of resources provided by California's public colleges and universities but not the demand nor the quality of these resources. Furthermore, the fact that a higher education institution offers some or all of the resources examined in this study does not imply that the needs of their undergraduates are being fully met. Additional questions formed during the course of this research include:

▶ What resources do students experiencing food and housing insecurity currently utilize?

▶ To what extent are students aware of the various resources that they have access to?

▶ How could awareness and the delivery of these resources be improved to increase accessibility and utilization?

▶ What is the supply of these campus resources, relative to the number of students in need?

▶ What is the quality of these campus resources, relative to the extent of students' needs?

Further inquiry is needed to develop a holistic understanding of the needs of California's public undergraduates, including examining barriers to access and the level of supportive resources needed to effectively support students in achieving their higher education goals.

Legal Framework

Several key pieces of state legislation that have passed in recent years point to an increasing awareness, concern, and commitment to helping California's public college undergraduates establish basic needs security:

- **AB 1228** (2015) requires CSUs and requests that CCCs and UCs give former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness priority access to student housing, especially to housing facilities that are open during academic breaks at no additional cost. The law also asks all of California's public colleges and universities to create housing plans to ensure that these student communities can access housing all year.[12]

- **AB 801** (2016) requires CSUs and CCCs and requests that UCs 1) give priority class enrollment to foster youth and to youth experiencing homelessness

and 2) designate at least one liaison on each campus for these students. The liaison is tasked with identifying available resources, informing students about these resources, and helping students access them.[13]

- **AB 1747** (2016) increases the likelihood that on-campus restaurants and cafeterias participate in the Restaurant Meals Program, which allows students to buy prepared food with CalFresh funds. This law also established a funding account to support collaborations between on-campus food pantries and California Department of Social Services-contracting food banks.[14]

- **AB 1995** (2016) requires all CCCs that have shower facilities for student use to allow students experiencing homelessness to use those facilities. Students experiencing homelessness must be enrolled in coursework, must have paid their enrollment fees, and must be in good standing with the community college district.[15]

- **AB 214** (2017) requires the California Department of Social Services to create and maintain a list of college programs that allow college students to be exempt from the CalFresh work requirement.[16] AB 214 builds on AB 1930 (2014) which allows certain college programs to count as "employment training programs"—increasing the likelihood of students qualifying for work exemptions and being eligible for CalFresh.[17] If students do not qualify for a work exemption, they must be enrolled at least half time and also work at least 20 hours per week in order to be eligible.

- **SB 85** (2017) provided public colleges and universities with one-time funds to help initiate or expand food resources. These funds incentivized campuses to distribute free groceries, create meal-sharing programs, and dedicate employees to improving CalFresh access.[18]

This is not an exhaustive list of relevant laws, as any laws related to financial aid, tuition, and funding for existing campus resources may also impact low-income students experiencing food and housing insecurity.

FINDINGS

Year-Round Student Housing

KEY FINDINGS

▶ All of the UCs, 65 percent of the CSUs, and 6 percent of the 50 CCCs examined offer the possibility of year-round student housing.

▶ California's community colleges (that offer student housing but not year-round) tend to close their housing facilities over winter break and over summer without offering alternative housing accommodations.

▶ The CSUs that do not offer year-round student housing tend to close their housing facilities during the transition times leading up to and immediately following the summer term without offering alternative housing accommodations.

▶ On average, California's public colleges and universities that do not offer year-round student housing close their housing facilities for 52 days out of the year. This ranges widely from 5 days to 122 days.

▶ Students may need to navigate complex processes, meet deadlines, pay additional fees, and meet eligibility requirements in order to be housed during academic breaks and over the summer term. At California's public universities, participation in foster youth programs may allow students to bypass or receive assistance with navigating these challenges.

The Role of Student Housing in Food and Housing Security

Housing expenses make up a significant portion of the total cost of college attendance, especially in California which has one of the most expensive rental markets in the nation.[19] With low wages, limited available hours to work, and rising tuition and fees, many students attending California's public institutions have little financial leverage to compete in a tight housing market.[20] Federal housing programs provide minimal support due to restrictions that limit eligibility for college students and due to shortages in available subsidized housing.[21] Student housing offers some reprieve; however, it is not necessarily less expensive than off-campus options.[22] Even when student housing is cheaper, the supply of student housing may not be meeting demand. Only 11 of the 114 California Community Colleges have a form of student housing on or in close proximity to their campuses, which house a small fraction of the total CCC student body.[23] All of the CSUs and UCs offer student housing, but they house only about 14 percent and 35 percent of their total student bodies, respectively.[24]

Nevertheless, year-round student housing can help vulnerable students like former foster youth and students experiencing housing insecurity meet their basic needs. Housing insecurity refers to a broad set of housing challenges such as difficulty paying rent, having to move often, or living in poor housing conditions (e.g. overcrowded or dilapidated housing).[25] Homelessness—lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime

Housing expenses make up a significant portion of the total cost of college attendance.

residence—is also a form of housing insecurity, and it includes doubling up with other people, living in a vehicle, staying in an emergency shelter, or sleeping outside.[26] Preliminary research points to strong, statistically significant relationships between college students' housing insecurity and persistence, graduation, and credit attainment.[27] Numerous studies found that students experiencing food or housing insecurity are more likely to report experiencing symptoms of stress, depression, severe anxiety, disordered eating, and suicidal ideation.[28] Conversely, stable housing supports mental health as well as academic success.

Year-round student housing, which often includes meal plans and access to additional student services, can provide much needed food and housing security. Given the shortage of student housing, the needs of vulnerable student groups, and the positive impacts of stable housing, lawmakers passed AB 1228 in 2015. AB 1228 requires CSUs and requests that CCCs and UCs give former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness priority access to student housing, especially to housing facilities that are open during academic breaks at no additional cost.[29] The law also asks all of California's public colleges and universities to create housing plans to ensure that these students have access to student housing for the entire year.[30]

This section explores the prevalence of year-round student housing at 82 of California's public colleges and universities, housing challenges resulting from closed student housing facilities, and barriers that students must overcome in order to receive year-round student housing.

Defining Year-Round Student Housing

"Year-round student housing" refers to students having the option to stay in campus-managed student housing facilities during winter break, spring break, the summer term, and transition times leading up to and immediately following the summer term (i.e. pre- and post-summer breaks).[31] Campuses that provide year-round housing may require students to move once or numerous times between student housing facilities in order to remain housed.

To be considered "year-round," campuses that close their student housing facilities for a period of time must provide or coordinate alternative housing arrangements, either for free or for an additional cost, until the facilities reopen. For example, student residents at UC Santa Cruz who are in need of housing during the 10 days of winter break are allowed

Stable housing supports mental health as well as academic success.

Year-round student housing can provide much needed food and housing security.

FIGURE 1: *All of the UCs, 65 percent of the CSUs, and 6 percent of the CCCs that we examined offer the possibility of year-round student housing*
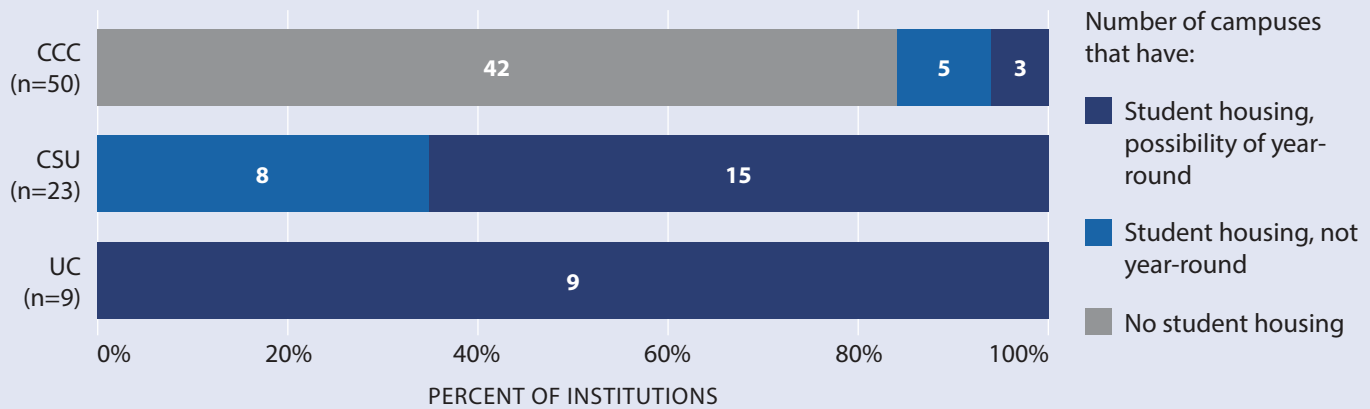
to stay in a local hotel at no additional cost. UC Santa Barbara allows students who were in student housing over the summer and who plan to be in student housing in the fall to stay in the Santa Rosa Residence Hall, called the "Student Hotel," for $57 per night during the post-summer break. Campuses that refer student residents to campus-provided or local emergency housing resources due to housing facility closures were not counted as having year-round student housing, since these campuses made no systematic arrangements in advance to prevent their students from possibly experiencing homelessness.

Notably, access to student housing facilities during academic breaks and during the summer term may only be available to certain groups of students such as non-freshmen, participants in foster youth programs, or students who are enrolled in summer courses. Consequently, just because a campus offers year-round student housing does not imply that all students are eligible to receive it.

The Prevalence of Year-Round Student Housing

All of the UCs offer student housing, and undergraduate students have the possibility of staying in year-round student housing at all of the UC campuses (see Figure 1). All of the CSUs also offer student housing, but only 15 of the 23 CSU campuses (65 percent) offer students the possibility of year-round housing. At California's community colleges, 8 of the 50 (16 percent) campuses examined manage their own student housing facilities. Three of these eight community colleges offer the possibility of year-round housing.

65% of the CSUs offer students the possibility of year-round housing.

When Student Housing Facilities Close

California's community colleges (that offer student housing but not year-round) tend to close their housing facilities over winter break and over the summer without offering alternative housing accommodations (see Figure 2). The CSUs that do not offer year-round housing tend to close their housing facilities during the transition times leading up to and immediately following the summer term without offering alternative housing accommodations. On average, campuses that do not offer year-round student housing close their housing facilities for 52 days out of the year.[32] This ranges widely from campus to campus, with the shortest length of time being 5 days and the longest length of time being 122 days (see Table 1). Notably, all of the campuses that offer student housing keep their housing facilities open over spring break.
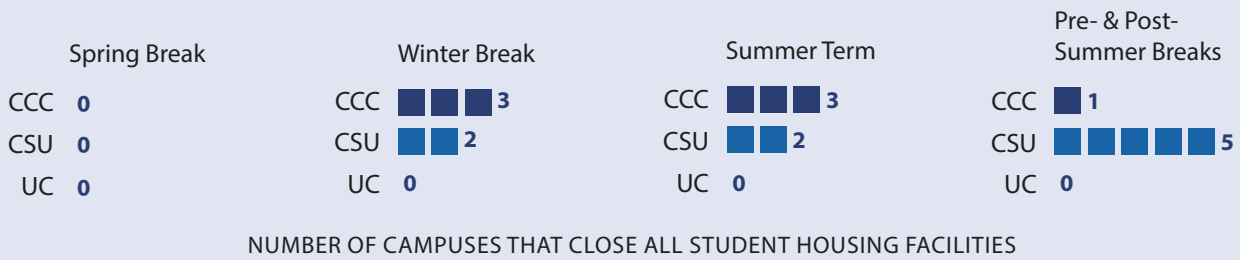
On average, campus housing facilities close for 52 days out of the year.

TABLE 1: *On average campuses that do not offer the possibility of year-round student housing close their housing facilities for 52 days out of the year*

	NUMBER OF DAYS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES CLOSE			
	Winter Break	Summer Term	Pre- & Post-Summer Breaks*	TOTAL
San Diego State University	-	-	5	5
CSU Long Beach	-	-	5	5
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	-	-	7	7
San Jose State University	-	-	7	7
Sonoma State University	8	-	-	8
Lassen Community College	10	-	22	32
Sierra College	43	-	-	43
Shasta College	-	88	N/A	88
College of the Siskiyous	-	89	N/A	89
CSU Chico	-	96	N/A	96
Taft College	36	81	N/A	117
Cal Maritime Academy	20	102	N/A	122
CSU Monterey Bay	-	-	Unknown	Unknown

* Campuses that do not offer summer student housing cannot be evaluated for offering housing over the pre- and post-summer.

While verifying our findings with campus staff, three themes related to the closing of all student housing facilities came up most often:

▶ institutions use the periods of time when housing facilities are vacated to deep clean and do repairs;

▶ institutions cannot afford to keep housing facilities open when they are occupied by so few student residents; and

▶ campus dining facilities close during certain academic breaks, so student residents living in housing facilities without kitchens would not be able to prepare food if they stayed in their dorm rooms over those academic breaks.

Additionally, housing facilities that close over the summer can be repurposed as short-term room rentals for conference attendees and summer program participants.

Piecing Together a Continuous Student Housing Experience

Students may need to navigate complex processes, meet deadlines, pay additional fees, and meet eligibility requirements in order to be housed during academic breaks and over the summer term. At California's public universities, participation in foster youth programs may allow students to bypass or receive additional assistance in navigating these challenges.

In order to remain in student housing facilities during winter, pre-summer, and post-summer breaks, students may need to submit forms requesting access to additional housing weeks or months in advance. For example, students at San Diego State University must indicate that they need housing over the winter break when they first apply for student housing in order to be placed in the correct housing facility. Thus, if a student's winter break housing plans change unexpectedly later in the year, they may experience housing insecurity. UC Berkeley similarly requires students to indicate if they will need housing over winter break when they first apply for student housing. However, UC Berkeley also provides alternative room and board through its Winter Break Housing Program for students who did not indicate their winter break housing needs in advance or who unexpectedly need student housing during this time.

For some students, remaining housed on campus over academic breaks and over the summer term comes with an additional cost. For example:

- Students at College of the Redwoods must sign up in advance and pay $17.75 per day to remain in the dorms during winter break.

- CSU Long Beach students need to fill out a form, receive approval, and pay an additional $50 per week to remain in student housing facilities during fall and winter breaks.

- CSU Channel Island offers the possibility of extended student housing immediately after the end of the spring semester and the possibility of additional housing before the start of the fall semester. Students who submit the request forms and are approved for Extended Stay or Early Move-In housing accommodations pay $30.50 per night.

Students may need to submit forms requesting additional housing weeks or months in advance.

For some students, remaining housed over academic breaks comes with an additional cost.

For others, student housing during academic breaks and the summer term is free or already included in the housing costs for the academic year. For example:

- Students at CSU Los Angeles who have a summer housing contract and a fall housing contract can remain in student housing facilities during the transitional week between the end of the summer semester and the start of the fall semester for no additional cost. Additionally, students who plan on living in student housing for the entire academic year can stay housed over winter break for free so long as they submit a Winter Addendum form any time before winter break begins.

- At CSU San Bernardino, students who have housing contracts for the previous spring term, the summer term, and the upcoming fall term can remain in their spring housing facility for an additional week until the summer housing facility opens. Similarly, they can remain in their summer housing facility until the fall housing facility opens—all at no additional cost.

- UC Riverside allows students who renew their housing contract for the following academic year to stay in their current housing facility during the entire summer at no additional cost.

Even when campuses offer the possibility of year-round housing, students may need to meet certain requirements to be eligible to receive it. For example, undergraduates at Humboldt State University need to be enrolled, be employed by the campus, or be a former foster youth in order to stay in student housing facilities over the summer term. Similarly, at Lassen College students must be enrolled in at least one unit during the summer term in order to be eligible for student housing. In contrast, campuses like CSU Los Angeles and UC Berkeley do not require continuing students to take summer courses in order to reside in student housing over the summer. Eligibility requirements may be more common for housing over the summer term compared to housing during academic breaks. While student housing over winter break is more readily available to students in their sophomore year or above, we found no instances of students needing to participate in certain programs, have experience in foster care, or take winter intersession courses in order to stay in student housing facilities over winter break.

Students may need to meet certain eligibility requirements to receive year-round housing.

Students may experience financial challenges when faced with additional costs to receive student housing over academic breaks and additional costs associated with being enrolled in summer courses in order to be eligible for summer housing. Recent changes to the federal government's Pell Grant program make it easier for grant recipients to use the aid to pay for summer courses.[33] However, this financial aid may not be enough to fully cover summer tuition, particularly at California's public universities.[34] At the state level, students participating in California's Cal Grant program have to be careful when using their grant aid over the summer. Students who use Cal Grants to pay for summer courses use up their four years of program eligibility at a faster rate and risk running out of Cal Grant aid before completing their fourth year—in which case they may need to pay out of pocket until they reach graduation. Additionally, taking classes may make it difficult for students to earn income over the summer.

At California's public universities, participation in foster youth programs may allow students to bypass or receive assistance with navigating forms, deadlines, additional costs, and eligibility requirements in order to receive year-round housing. For example:

- At UC Davis and UC Merced, students participating in the Guardian Scholars program and living in student housing can stay on campus during academic breaks at no additional cost.

- Students at UC Santa Cruz who enter as participants in the Renaissance Scholars program or become participants during their first quarter of enrollment qualify for a student housing guarantee, which includes housing during academic breaks. In addition, summer housing is available to any Renaissance Scholar regardless of their enrollment in summer courses.

- Students participating in the Foster Youth Resilience in Education (FYRE) Scholars Program at UC Irvine who choose to live on campus are automatically placed in a student housing facility that does not close during winter break.

Conclusion

Year-round student housing can help students like former foster youth and students experiencing housing insecurity establish basic needs security and achieve their higher education goals. California law requests that all of California's public colleges and universities create housing plans to ensure that these student communities can access housing for the entire year. This study finds that only 65 percent of the CSUs and 6 percent of the 50 CCCs examined offer the possibility of year-round student housing. On average, campuses that do not offer year-round student housing close their housing facilities for 52 days out of the year. This ranges widely from 5 days to 122 days. Students may need to navigate complex processes, meet deadlines, pay additional fees, and meet eligibility requirements in order to be housed during academic breaks and over the summer term. At California's public universities, participation in foster youth programs may allow students to receive additional assistance in navigating these challenges.

Emergency Housing

KEY FINDINGS

▶ The majority (72 percent) of California's public universities offer campus-provided emergency housing. Students experiencing housing insecurity can receive assistance at 18 of the 23 CSUs (78 percent) and 5 of the 9 UCs (56 percent).

▶ Campus-provided emergency housing takes two forms: students are allowed to stay in student housing, or they are provided a voucher for a short-term stay at a local hotel.

▶ The most common duration that a student can stay in emergency housing is 14 days.

▶ While only one of the 50 CCCs examined offers emergency housing to their students, many of the community colleges provide housing referrals.

▶ California's public universities are implementing a variety of innovative programs that aim to address housing insecurity. For example, universities are fostering connections between landlords and student tenants, providing rental assistance, and housing students over the summer while they search for year-round housing.
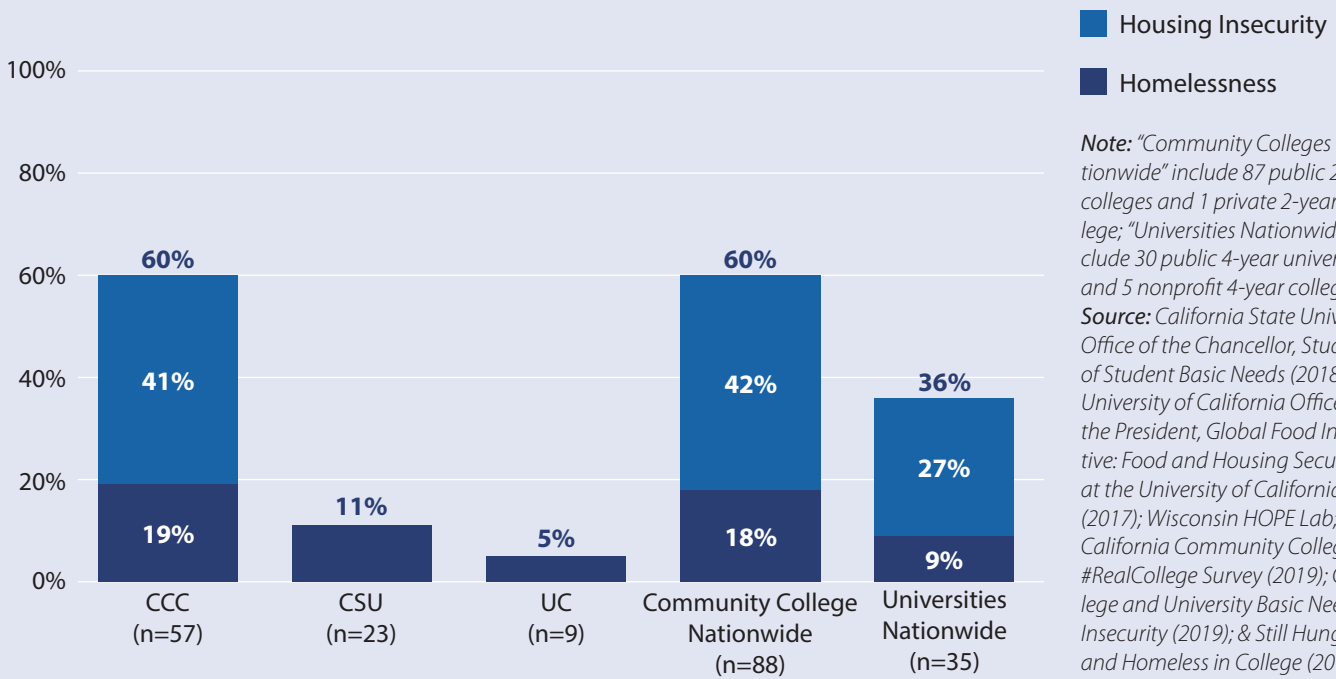
Housing Insecurity & Homelessness on California's Public Campuses

Homelessness—lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence—includes doubling up with other people, living in a vehicle, staying in a shelter, or sleeping outside.[35] One in 5 California Community College students and 1 in 10 California State University undergraduates experienced homelessness at least once in the past year (see Figure 3).[36] At the Universities of California, 5 percent of undergraduates experienced homelessness at least once during their time as a UC student.[37] Less is known about housing insecurity, or a broader set of housing challenges such as the inability to pay rent, having to move often, and living in poor housing conditions.[38] Six out of 10 CCC students experience housing insecurity at some point during the year at a rate similar to nationwide estimates for community college homelessness and housing insecurity.[39] System-wide rates of housing insecurity at California's public universities have not yet been explored.

5% of UC undergraduates experienced homelessness at least once during their time as a UC student.

Numerous factors including students' racial or ethnic backgrounds, their sexual and gender orientation, and their parents' educational attainment correspond with different rates of experiencing homelessness. Based on a recent survey of nearly 40,000 students at 57 CCCs, 31 percent of Black students and 32 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native students experienced homelessness at least once in the prior year.[40] At the UCs, Black, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian students experience homelessness at higher rates (6 percent) than Asian and White students (3–4 percent).[41] In addition to differences by race or ethnicity, UC students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) are twice as likely (8 percent) as non-LGBTQ students (4 percent) to experience homelessness.[42] Similarly, gay or lesbian students and bisexual students at the CCCs experience homelessness at higher rates than heterosexual students (at 27 percent, 25 percent, and 18 percent, respectively).[43] Intersecting identities relate to a student's risk of experiencing homelessness. At the CSUs, 18 percent of Black

FIGURE 3: *CCC students are experiencing housing challenges a rate similar to nationwide estimates for community college homelessness and housing insecurity*

Legend:
- Housing Insecurity
- Homelessness

Chart data:
- CCC (n=57): 60% total — Housing Insecurity 41%, Homelessness 19%
- CSU (n=23): 11%
- UC (n=9): 5%
- Community College Nationwide (n=88): 60% total — Housing Insecurity 42%, Homelessness 18%
- Universities Nationwide (n=35): 36% total — Housing Insecurity 27%, Homelessness 9%

Note: "Community Colleges Nationwide" include 87 public 2-year colleges and 1 private 2-year college; "Universities Nationwide" include 30 public 4-year universities and 5 nonprofit 4-year colleges **Source:** *California State University Office of the Chancellor, Study of Student Basic Needs (2018); University of California Office of the President, Global Food Initiative: Food and Housing Security at the University of California (2017); Wisconsin HOPE Lab; California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey (2019); College and University Basic Needs Insecurity (2019); & Still Hungry and Homeless in College (2018).*

first-generation students and 13 percent of White first-generation students reported experiencing homelessness.[44] Additionally, former foster youth at California's colleges and universities experience significantly higher rates of homelessness.[45]

No state or federal laws require campuses to address students' housing needs. Furthermore, no laws fund the provision of short-term emergency housing specifically for college students. AB 1995 (2016) provides small relief by requiring CCCs to allow homeless students to use campus shower facilities.[46] AB 1228 (2015) gives homeless youth priority access to student housing.[47] However, California's student housing is in short supply, is not necessarily more affordable than off-campus housing, and may close during certain times throughout the year.[48] Lastly, AB 801 (2016) requires CSUs and CCCs to designate at least one liaison on each campus to support students experiencing homelessness.[49] Liaisons are tasked with helping these students access campus, local, state, and federal resources. Yet, no housing resources exist that specifically aim to support college students experiencing homelessness. Shelters that serve homeless youth are few and far between across the state, and emergency shelters for the general public may not address the unique needs of college students.[50]

Short-term emergency housing meets students' immediate needs, allows them to continue their academics, and supports their long-term housing stability. Emergency shelters for adults may not be developmentally appropriate for young adults and may not be designed in a way that supports students' educational pursuits. For example, emergency shelters can require individuals to arrive at a certain time during the day to reserve a bed for the night, which can conflict with class schedules. Transportation between the shelter and campus may also be challenging for students experiencing homelessness. In contrast, campus-provided emergency housing maintains and even strengthens connections between students and their academic institutions. Acknowledging the unique needs of students, campus-provided emergency housing does not

No housing resources exist that specifically aim to support college students experiencing homelessness.

require daily check-ins and is located close to campus. Furthermore, this study finds that the majority of students who receive campus-provided emergency housing are also required to receive case management, collaborating with campus staff to access needed resources and determine long-term housing solutions.

This section explores the prevalence and duration of campus-provided emergency housing at 82 of California's public colleges and universities. It also looks at other innovative solutions that campuses are implementing to promote housing security.

Defining Campus-Provided Emergency Housing

"Campus-provided emergency housing" refers to housing accommodations that campuses directly provide to students experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Any undergraduate student can apply for emergency housing assistance if it is offered at their campus; this resource did not have restricted eligibility based on students' backgrounds or based on their participation in specific programs.

## The Prevalence and Duration of Campus-Provided Emergency Housing

The majority (72 percent) of California's public universities offer campus-provided emergency housing. Specifically, students experiencing housing insecurity can receive assistance at 18 of the 23 CSUs (78 percent) and 5 of the 9 UCs (56 percent)(see Figure 4). Only 1 of the 50 CCCs examined offers emergency housing. In all but one instance, campus-provided emergency housing is meant to be a short-term solution while campus staff and the student work together to find long-term housing arrangements. Campus-provided emergency housing takes two forms: students are allowed stay in student housing, or they are provided a voucher for a short-term stay at a local hotel. The most common length of time that a student can stay in emergency housing is 14 days, and many campus websites indicate that students can stay longer if necessary and if the resources are available (see Figure 5).

The majority of California's public universities offer campus-provided emergency housing.
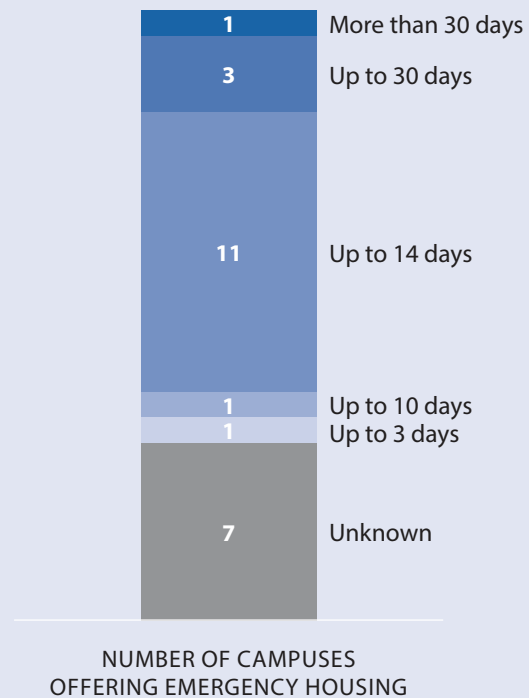
Examples of campus-provided emergency housing:

- Full-time students at College of the Redwoods who are struggling with ongoing housing insecurity or homelessness may be eligible to apply for the Redwoods Room & Board Scholarship. Provided through the College of the Redwoods Foundation, this scholarship gives students free room and board at the residence halls for one or more semesters, helping them build rental and job history as well as focus on their studies.[51]

- The Associated Students at Sonoma State University provide students in need with transitional housing. Students who apply for the Transitional Housing Program and are approved can stay in a low-cost hotel close to campus for free for up to two weeks.[52]

- CSU Fresno students who are experiencing homelessness can reach out to staff at Project HOPE or the Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation (CARE) Team to apply for Emergency Homeless Student Housing. The campus provides temporary housing for eligible students at the University Courtyard for up to two weeks. During this time, a case manager in the Student Health and Counseling Center works with the students to help them secure long-term housing.[53]

FIGURE 4: *Nearly 3 out of 4 of California's public universities offer campus-provided emergency housing*

PERCENT OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
OFFERING EMERGENCY HOUSING

- CCC (n=50): 2%
- CSU (n=23): 78%
- UC (n=9): 56%
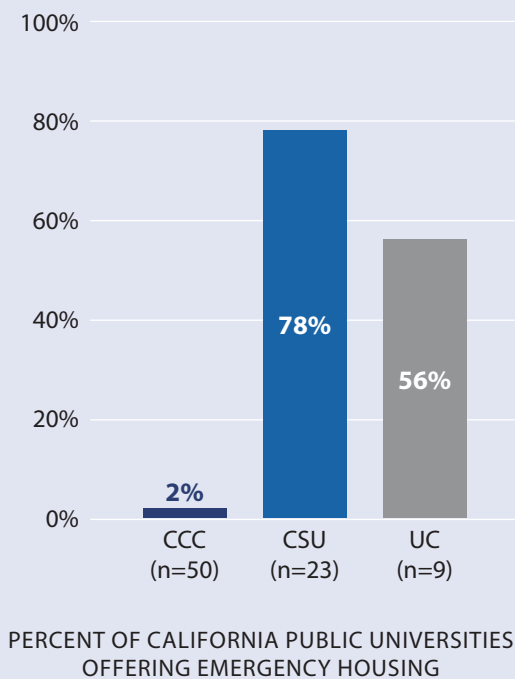
FIGURE 5: *The most common length of time that a student can stay in campus-provided emergency housing is 14 days*

- More than 30 days: 1
- Up to 30 days: 3
- Up to 14 days: 11
- Up to 10 days: 1
- Up to 3 days: 1
- Unknown: 7

NUMBER OF CAMPUSES
OFFERING EMERGENCY HOUSING

- Students experiencing housing insecurity at UC San Diego may be eligible to receive 7–30 days of temporary housing on campus with a meal plan. During this time, students work with their college dean to find long-term housing. This emergency housing is provided in collaboration with Associated Students, the Council of Deans, and Housing, Dining, Hospitality.[54]

Other Innovative Solutions to Housing Insecurity

California's community colleges and universities are also helping students meet their housing needs in other innovative ways. While only 1 of the 50 CCCs directly provides emergency housing to their students, many of the community colleges provide housing referrals.

Examples of California Community Colleges that are providing housing referrals:

- Students experiencing housing insecurity can visit the Santa Rosa Campus Student Resource Center to receive a "Coordinated Entry Interview." The coordinated entry interview helps campus staff, as well as other Continuum of Care case managers at local nonprofits, quickly refer students to community housing resources that meet their specific needs such as shelter beds, rapid rehousing programs, and transitional housing programs. The Resource Center also provides free hygiene supplies, emergency food, and weather-related gear.[55]

- Students who participate in City College of San Francisco's Homeless At-Risk Transitional Students (HARTS) program can receive housing leads, needs assessments, referrals, and assistance in applying for a three-month stay at

Many of the community colleges provide housing referrals.

a local emergency shelter. In addition, HARTS provides participants with counseling, meal vouchers, textbook assistance, and discounted monthly transportation passes.[56]

- In collaboration with Jovenes, Inc., students experiencing housing insecurity at Rio Hondo College can visit the Rio Source Room on campus and speak with a Peer Navigator. Peer Navigators are students who formerly experienced homeless while in community college. They provide outreach to homeless students, housing needs assessments through the Los Angeles Coordinated Entry System, and rental subsidies (funded by Jovenes) to help students afford housing near their campus. The Rio Source Room also provides students with Medi-Cal and CalFresh enrollment assistance, and it is the location of the campus food pantry.[57]

Nearly all of California's public universities provide housing referrals. Furthermore, California's public universities are implementing a variety of innovative programs that aim to address housing insecurity on their campuses such as fostering connections between landlords and potential student tenants, providing rental assistance, and housing students over the summer while they search for year-long housing.

Examples of universities that are building relationships to address student housing insecurity:

- In Fall 2019, Humboldt State University is expected to launch the Educated Landlord and Tenant Program which aims to ease housing barriers for students and develop stronger connections between landlords and student tenants. The program will facilitate courses for students and landlords several times a month, covering topics like how to be a good landlord and tenant, implicit bias, emotional and service animals, and personal finance.[58]

- Staff at CSU Sacramento are building partnerships with neighborhood churches close to campus. As a result of these outreach efforts, members of the Newman Catholic Center, Fremont Presbyterian Church, and Sacramento Central Seventh-day Adventist Church have opened their homes to Sac State students who are experiencing homelessness.[59]

California's public universities are implementing a variety of innovative housing-related programs.

Examples of universities that offer rental assistance to students:

- In 2015, San Diego State University established a partnership and fund-development initiative with the San Diego Housing Commission in order to offer rental assistance to the university's Guardian Scholars, called the Guardian Scholars Housing Award Program. Using the resulting $3 million government and philanthropic funds, SDSU provides up to 100 students who are current or former foster youth, wards of the court, under legal guardianship, and unaccompanied homeless youth with year-round housing on or off campus for one or multiple years.[60]

- The Student Advocate's Office at UC Berkeley offers an emergency housing grant for temporarily displaced or homeless students, providing rental assistance for a period of 2–4 weeks.[61]

Examples of universities that support students in securing long-term housing by providing temporary housing before the start of the academic year:

- UC Santa Cruz helps incoming freshmen and returning students find long-term housing before the start of the fall term by providing affordable short-term housing. UCSC's House Hunters Housing program allows students to stay at University Town Center, a campus-managed student housing unit in downtown Santa Cruz, for up to 5 nights during the summer for just $20.50 per night per person while they search for off-campus housing.[62]

- UC Santa Barbara's Conference & Hospitality Services provides UCSB students with temporary housing before the start of the fall academic quarter at the "Student Hotel." Students can stay at the Santa Rosa residence hall for up to 22 days for $57 per night per person while they seek permanent local housing or while they wait for their fall student housing to become available.[63]

Conclusion

No state or federal laws fund the provision of short-term emergency housing or require California's public higher education institutions to address students' housing needs. Also, little to no housing resources exist in the nonprofit and public sectors that specifically aim to support college students experiencing homelessness. Given these resource gaps, short-term emergency housing provided by individual campuses plays an important role in meeting students' immediate needs, allowing them to continue their academics, and connecting them with long-term housing solutions. While the majority of California's public universities offer emergency housing, only 1 of the 50 CCCs examined offers emergency housing. Campus-provided housing takes two forms: students are allowed to stay in student housing, or they are provided a voucher for a short-term stay at a local hotel. The most common length of time that a student can stay in emergency housing is 14 days. California's community colleges and universities are helping students by providing housing referrals. In addition, several of the CSUs and UCs are promoting housing security by providing rental assistance, fostering connections between landlords and student tenants, and housing students over the summer while they search for year-long housing.

Emergency Grants and Short-Term Loans

KEY FINDINGS

▶ California's community colleges are the least likely to offer emergency grants and the least likely to offer short-term loans. They are also the most likely to offer grants and loans only to specific groups of students.

▶ The CSUs are the most likely to offer emergency grants that are available to all undergraduates, while UCs are the most likely to offer emergency grants to both specific student groups and all undergraduates.

▶ Nearly all CSUs and UCs offer emergency grants and short-term loans that any undergraduate student can apply for.

▶ On average, UCs offer the largest emergency grant amounts and the largest short-term loan amounts compared to the other systems.

▶ An estimated 3 out of 10 public colleges and universities offer neither emergency grants nor short-term loans to their undergraduate student bodies.

Poverty, Emergency Financial Resources, and California's Public Undergraduates

Greater educational attainment is strongly associated with lower poverty rates. Looking at Californians ages 25–64, only 8 percent of adults who earned a college degree live below the poverty level compared to 35 percent of adults without a high school diploma.[64] College graduates are more likely to be employed, own their homes, have jobs with good benefits, and earn substantially higher wages compared to less-educated adults.[65]

California's public higher education institutions provide significant opportunities for economic and social mobility. In the 2017–2018 academic year, about half of CCC and CSU students were low income.[66] Thirty-eight percent of CCC students were the first in their families to attend college.[67] First-generation students, meaning neither of their parents had a bachelor's degree, made up about 33 percent of all CSU undergraduates and about 42 percent of all UC undergraduates.[68] At the same time, many of California's college students experience barriers to academic success such as housing insecurity, homelessness, and food insecurity. When students lack sufficient funds to meet basic needs and pay for college-related expenses, they must make difficult choices between their present and their future.

Emergency grants and short-term loans help students pay for unexpected costs—like an expensive medical bill, a car accident, or a rent crisis—without compromising their housing and food security. Confronted with a financial emergency, a student can request emergency funds via their financial aid office or request an adjustment to their financial

aid award package to potentially access additional loans and grants. Adjustments might include lowering the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) if it is not already zero (for loss of income or one-time medical expenses) or increasing the Cost Of Attendance (COA, also known as a budget increase).[69] If their financial aid office approves the request, the time it takes for additional funds to be available may not align with a student's need to pay for immediate expenses. If students meet minimum credit and income requirements, they can receive personal loans from certain banks and credit unions. However, if only a small amount is needed, financial institutions may be unwilling to approve microloans. Alternatively, if students have poor credit they can receive small personal loans from potentially predatory online lenders and payday loan brokers at much higher interest rates. In contrast, campus-provided emergency grants and short-term loans are faster, more accessible, and more affordable sources of emergency funds.

Campus-provided emergency grants and short-term loans are accessible and affordable.

This section explores the prevalence of campus-provided emergency grants and short-term loans at 82 of California's public colleges and universities. It also explores the average size of emergency funds that are available to all undergraduates as well as trends in loan durations, terms, and fees.

Defining Emergency Grants

"Emergency grants" refer to cash aid that does not have to be repaid, that can be obtained outside of normal financial aid processes, and that students can use to alleviate food or housing insecurity. Emergency grants that must be spent on specific costs other than food or housing, such as grants for textbooks or emergency travel, were not counted in this study. Similarly, emergency grants that are only available to students in specific situations such as being diagnosed with a terminal illness or a victim of a natural disaster were not counted since not all students experiencing basic needs insecurity are in these specific situations. Also, grants for students who were victims of natural disasters may not be available for the long term; rather, they may temporarily exist to meet a short-term increase in student need.

Emergency grants were put into two categories: 1) grants available to any undergraduate student have "broad eligibility" while 2) grants only available to students with specific backgrounds or to students participating in specific programs have "restricted eligibility." Details about grants that are only available to specific groups of students, like maximum grant amounts, were not included in this analysis due to resource limitations.

The Prevalence and Size of Emergency Grants

The majority of California's public higher education institutions (72 percent) offer any kind of emergency grant. Grants with broad eligibility are more common than grants with restricted eligibility. Of the 82 campuses, 59 percent offer an emergency grant to all undergraduates and 38 percent offer an emergency grant to specific student groups. Specific student groups include veterans, undocumented students, former foster youth, LGBT-identifying students, re-entry students, and students participating in certain campus programs. On average, the maximum emergency grant amount that any undergraduate student can apply for is $925. This varies greatly from campus to campus, with the smallest maximum grant totaling $200 and the largest maximum grant totaling $4,000 (see Table 2). For students to be eligible to receive emergency grants, they typically must exhaust all other forms of financial aid and must have documented evidence of the financial emergency. Emergency grants are provided by alumni associations, community college foundations, associated student bodies, or the higher education institutions themselves.

On average, the maximum emergency grant amount that any undergraduate student can apply for is $925.

TABLE 2: *Lowest, highest, and average maximum emergency grant amounts by higher education system*

	Lowest Max. Emergency Grant Amount	Highest Max. Emergency Grant Amount	Average of Max. Emergency Grant Amounts
California Community College	$200	$500	$383
California State University	$250	$2,000	$911
University of California	$500	$4,000	$1,700

Note: Calculated from 26 known maximum emergency grant amounts

FIGURE 6: *The CSUs are the most likely to offer emergency grants to all undergraduates, while the UCs are the most likely to offer grants to both specific student groups and to all undergraduates*
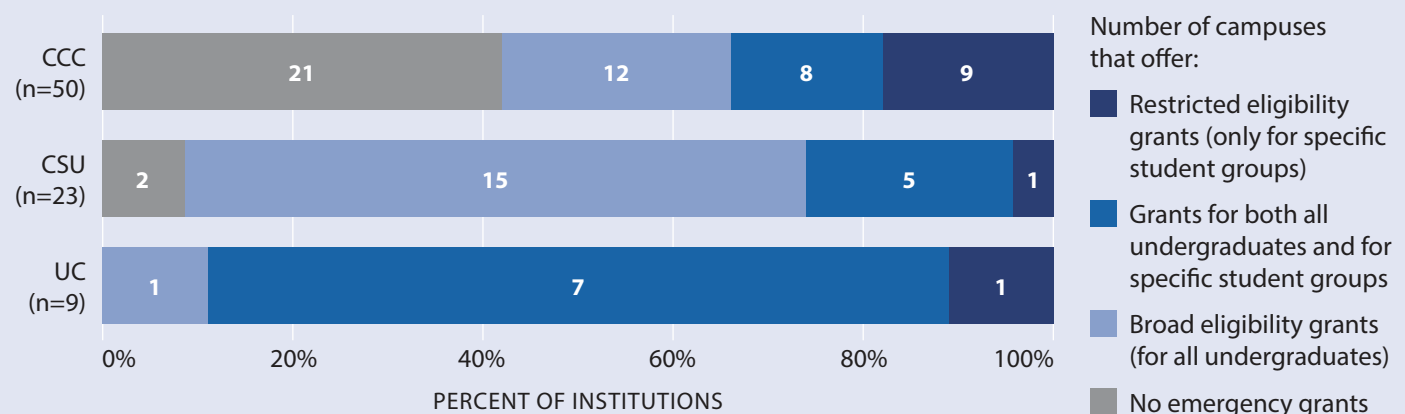
California's community colleges are the least likely to offer any kind of emergency grants compared to the other public higher education systems (see Figure 6). They are the most likely to offer restricted eligibility grants, which only specific student groups can apply for, compared to the public universities. The CCCs also offer the smallest maximum grant amounts. The greatest amount of money that a CCC student can receive through an emergency grant, on average, is $383 compared to $911 at the CSUs and $1,700 at the UCs. The CSUs are the most likely to offer grants that are available to all undergraduates, and the UCs are the most likely to offer both types of grants. The Universities of California also offer the largest maximum grant amounts. Notably, several campus websites indicate that maximum grant amounts can be increased based on students' needs, the discretion of campus staff, and the availability of funds.

Examples of emergency grants:

- Developed with support from the Lumina Foundation for Education and the Walmart Foundation, the Dreamkeepers Emergency Financial Assistance program at Grossmont College can provide students with up to $500 in emergency funding per semester to help them stay in school. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled at least part time, have a minimum GPA of 2.0, and have documentation of the non-recurring, unexpected expense. Applicants must fill out a statement of need and a budget planning worksheet.[70] In addition, former foster youth participating in the Guardian Scholars program are eligible to apply for a separate pool of emergency funds.[71]

California's community colleges are the least likely to offer any kind of emergency grants.

- Students experiencing a financial emergency at West Valley College can apply for a Student Emergency Funds grant of up to $300. This resource is provided through the West Valley-Mission Community College District Foundation, and it helps students pay for food, transportation, books, and school supplies.[72]

- Associated Students, Inc. at CSU San Marcos offers a Student Emergency Fund of up to $250 per academic year to students encountering unexpected financial emergencies or catastrophic events.[73] Former foster youth participating in the ACE Scholars program are eligible to apply for additional emergency grants called Gap Scholarships.[74]

- UC Irvine offers a one-time emergency grant of up to $1,000 to students experiencing financial crises that impact their access to housing, food, or medical care.[75] UC Irvine also offers two emergency grants to specific student communities. Emergency grants are available to veteran students experiencing circumstances that may jeopardize their health, safety, or academic performance.[76] In addition, the Christien Rodriguez Memorial Fund is an emergency grant for students experiencing a financial crisis as a result of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, perceived orientation or gender, or work with the LGBTQIA community.[77]

Defining Short-Term Loans

"Short-term loans" refer to cash aid that must be repaid, that can be obtained outside of normal financial aid processes, that is available at any point throughout the academic year, and that students can use to alleviate food or housing insecurity. Like emergency grants, short-term loans were put into two categories: 1) loans available to any undergraduate student have "broad eligibility" while 2) loans only available to students with specific backgrounds or to students participating in specific programs have "restricted eligibility." Details about loans only available to specific groups of students, like maximum loan amounts, were not included in this analysis due to resource constraints.

Notably, a few community colleges offer emergency book loans which were not included in this study because they are not intended nor designed to promote basic needs security. Emergency book loans are only available at the start of the academic term, and the funds are given to students in the form of a voucher to the campus bookstore. Additionally, while it is true that students must sometimes choose between purchasing books or food, having access to unrestricted emergency funds gives students the opportunity to decide for themselves what they want to pay for.

The Prevalence and Size of Short-Term Loans

More than half of California's public higher education institutions (59 percent) offer any kind of short-term loan. Mirroring emergency grants, loans with broad eligibility are more common than loans with restricted eligibility. Of the 82 campuses examined, 51 percent offer at least one short-term loan to all undergraduates, while just 15 percent offer at least one short-term loan to only specific student groups. Specific student groups include veterans, students in need of funds for a housing security deposit, and students participating in certain campus programs like Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS). On average, the maximum short-term loan amount that any undergraduate student can apply for is $456. This varies greatly from campus to campus, with the smallest maximum loan totaling $50 and the largest maximum loan totaling $1,500
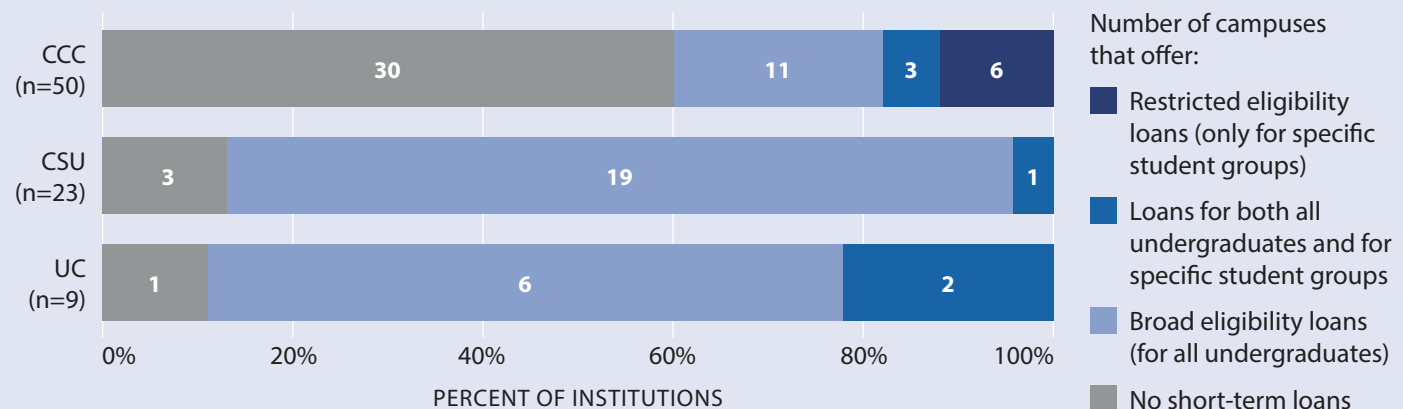
On average, the maximum short-term loan amount that any undergraduate student can apply for is $456.

TABLE 3: *Lowest, highest, and average maximum short-term loan amounts by higher education system*

	Lowest Max. Short-Term Loan Amount	Highest Max. Short-Term Loan Amount	Average of Max. Short-Term Loan Amounts
California Community College	$50	$250	$160
California State University	$150	$1,000	$441
University of California	$100	$1,500	$681

Note: Calculated from 42 known maximum short-term loan amounts

FIGURE 7: *Nearly all of California's public universities offer short-term loans that any undergraduate student could apply for*

Number of campuses that offer:
- Restricted eligibility loans (only for specific student groups)
- Loans for both all undergraduates and for specific student groups
- Broad eligibility loans (for all undergraduates)
- No short-term loans

(see Table 3). Like emergency grants, these loans are provided by alumni associations, community college foundations, associated student bodies, or by the higher education institutions themselves.

Short-term loans at California's public higher education institutions have eligibility requirements. Common requirements include being enrolled in a minimum number of units, having a verifiable repayment source, having no other outstanding short-term loans, and not being past due on any other payments to the institution. Other possible requirements include providing documentation of the emergency expense and having a GPA at or above a certain threshold. Notably, three of the short-term loans examined in this study provide early access to expected financial aid funds. In these cases, students borrow to pay for immediate college-related expenses and then repay their loan debt as soon as they receive their financial aid disbursement.

The community colleges are the least likely to offer any kind of short-term loan (see Figure 7). Also, 6 of the 50 community colleges examined only offer loans to specific student communities. In contrast, none of California's public universities offer only loans with restricted eligibility. The CCCs offer the smallest maximum loan amounts, and the UCs offer the largest maximum loan amounts. On average, the greatest amount of money that a CCC student can receive through a short-term loan is $160 compared to $441 at the CSUs and $681 at the UCs. Nearly all of the CSUs and UCs offer short-term loans that any undergraduate student can apply for. Similar to emergency grants, UCs offer the largest maximum loan amounts compared to other public higher education systems.

Several short-term loans provide early access to expected financial aid funds.
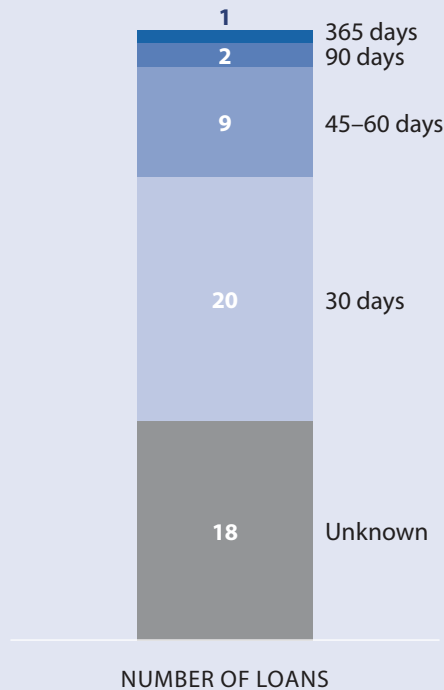
Nearly all of the CSUs and UCs offer short-term loans that any under-graduate student can apply for.

Examples of short-term loans:

- Students at College of the Siskiyous can borrow up to $200 to pay for a one-time emergency expense that may have otherwise prohibited their ability to attend college. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in at least six units, have the ability to repay the loan within 30 days of applying, and have documentation of the cost of the emergency expense. The loan is interest free, but a $10 late fee is charged every 30 days that the loan remains outstanding.[78]

- Monterey Peninsula College offers two short-term loans with no mention of interest. One loan of up to $200 is available through the Associated Students of Monterey Peninsula College. Students must have an ASMPC Student Body Card, which costs $5 per semester, to apply. In addition, students who expect to receive a financial aid disbursement and who need the funds sooner can receive a loan of up to $500 from the Student Financial Services Office.[79]

- For an application fee of $5, students at San Francisco State University can borrow up to $500 to pay for unanticipated, school-related expenses. To be eligible, students must be enrolled at least part-time, have no unpaid financial obligations to the university, and have the ability to repay the loan within 30 days. No interest is charged if the loan is paid on time. A low interest rate of 0.5 percent per month begins the day after the first missed payment, and a $10 late fee is also charged for each late payment.[80]

- Undergraduates at UC Santa Barbara have five different emergency short-term loans available to them through the Alumni Association, UCSB Associated Students, the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships, and the Office of Student Life. Loan amounts range from $100–$1,000, and fees range from $0–$15 per loan. Four of the loans must be repaid within 30 days, and one loan can be repaid over the course of a year or before graduation. Emergency financial resources at UCSB, including loans and grants, are easily accessible with clear descriptions and links on a single webpage.[81]
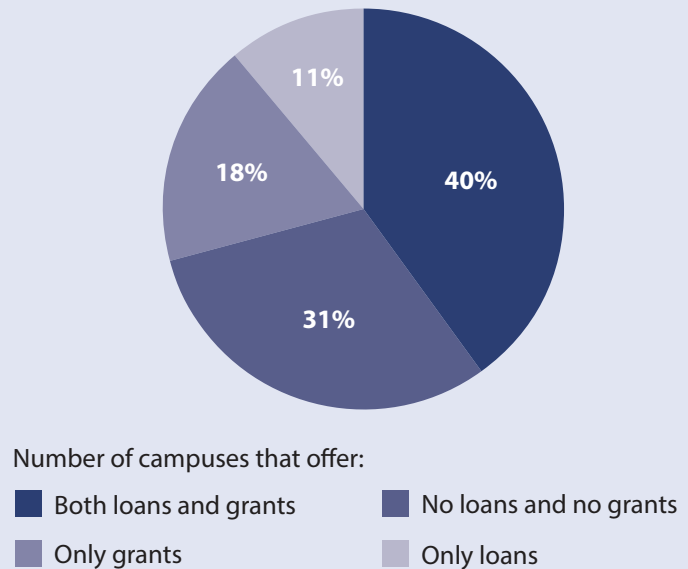
1	365 days
2	90 days
9	45–60 days
20	30 days
18	Unknown

NUMBER OF LOANS

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ALL
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (n=82)

Number of campuses that offer:

- Both loans and grants — 40%
- No loans and no grants — 31%
- Only grants — 18%
- Only loans — 11%

Short-Term Loan Durations, Terms, and Fees

With low interest rates and minimal fees, short-term loans available through Califor-nia's public campuses are designed to benefit their students. Very few loans mention charging any interest, and when it is mentioned the interest is low (1 percent per month or less). Loan fees are uncommon. Just 16 of the 50 loans mention having processing fees ranging from $1–$21 per loan. These fees are called service charges, application fees, administrative fees, or membership fees. In some cases, students are incentivized to repay their loans on time in order to avoid one-time or recurring late fees; 14 of the 50 loans mention having late fees. The majority of short-term loans must be repaid within 30 days or within 45–60 days (see Figure 8). Numerous campus websites mention that maximum loan amounts and the amount of time that a student has to repay their loan can be increased depending on the discretion of campus staff.

Very few loans mention charging any interest, and loan fees are uncommon.

Absent or Comprehensive Emergency Financial Resources

Emergency financial resources at California's public higher education institutions range from being comprehensive to nonexistent. Focusing on resource gaps, 16 of the 82 campuses examined offer neither emergency grants nor short-term loans of any kind: 15 CCCs and 1 CSU. Out of the 82 campuses examined, 23 **do not** offer emergency grants of any kind, and 34 colleges **do not** offer short-term loans of any kind. Looking only at resources avail-able to all undergraduates, an estimated three out of ten public colleges and universities in California offer neither emergency grants nor short-term loans (see Figure 9). In contrast, an estimated four out of ten public campuses offer loans and grants to their general under-graduate student bodies.

Examples of campuses with overlapping emergency financial resources:

- Students at Palomar College who need help covering a minor, unexpected expense can apply for the Gene Jackson Emergency Loan of up to $50 dollars two times per semester (and no more than three times in the same academic year). This loan has no fees and must be repaid within 30 days or by the last day of the semester.[82] Students who have greater financial need can apply for the Student Emergency Grant, which is provided by the Palomar College Foundation.[83]

- CSU Chico offers students interest-free loans of up to $500 each semester.[84] The processing fee is only $5, and students have up to 90 days to pay the loan back. Veterans have access to an additional $500 interest- and fee-free loan.[85] Undergraduate students who are experiencing an unexpected economic crisis can also apply for an emergency grant of up to $500.[86]

- Undergraduates at UCLA have access to numerous emergency financial resources. The Student Loan Services & Collections Offices offer two short-term loans: an Emergency Loan of up to $200 for any eligible student and a Living Expense of up to $350 for any eligible student who can verify that they are employed.[87] These loans are interest-free and have no processing fees. In addition, students can access up to $750 via an emergency loan and $4,000 via an emergency grant through the Economic Crisis Response Team.[88]

On average, emergency grants are slightly more common and provide more funds than short-term loans. Seven out of ten (72 percent) institutions offer at least one emergency grant of any kind compared six out of ten (59 percent) institutions offering at least one short-term loan of any kind. While the average maximum emergency grant amount is $925, the average maximum short-term loan amount is $456.

Conclusion

Emergency grants and short-term loans help students pay for unexpected costs without compromising their housing and food security. Compared to other sources of emergency funds, campus-provided emergency grants and short-term loans are faster, more accessible, and more affordable. Emergency financial resources at California's public higher education institutions range from being comprehensive to nonexistent. With 58 percent of the 50 community colleges offering any kind of emergency grant and 40 percent offering any kind of emergency loan, CCCs are the least likely to offer emergency funds. In contrast, nearly all CSUs and UCs offer emergency grants and short-term loans that any undergraduate student can apply for. CSUs are the most likely to offer emergency grants to all undergraduates, while UCs are the most likely to offer grants to specific student groups and to all undergraduates. On average, UCs offer the largest emergency grant amounts and the largest short-term loan amounts compared to the other systems. Concerning resource gaps, an estimated three out of ten public colleges and universities offer neither emergency grants nor short-term loans to their undergraduate student bodies.

Food Resources

KEY FINDINGS

▶ Nearly all of California's community colleges and universities distribute free groceries to students on a regular basis.

▶ The UCs are the most likely to offer food-insecure students with free prepared meals, primarily in the form of short-term access to campus cafeterias. All of the UCs offer free prepared meals compared to 65 percent of CSUs and 18 percent of the 50 CCCs examined.

▶ Over half (56 percent) of California's public universities have food recovery programs. In contrast, none of the 50 CCCs have food recovery programs.

▶ All of the Universities of California and all but one of the California State Universities have someone located on campus on a regular basis to assist students with applying for CalFresh benefits.

▶ UC campuses are more likely to offer numerous types of food resources compared to CSU campuses, and CSU campuses are more likely to offer numerous types of food resources compared to CCC campuses.

Food Insecurity on California's Public Campuses

Food insecurity challenges the efforts and aspirations of many college students across California. Food insecurity refers to the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.[89] As a coping strategy, students experiencing food insecurity may eat less during each meal, skip meals entirely, or eat more affordable meals that lack sufficient amounts of vitamins and nutrients.[90]
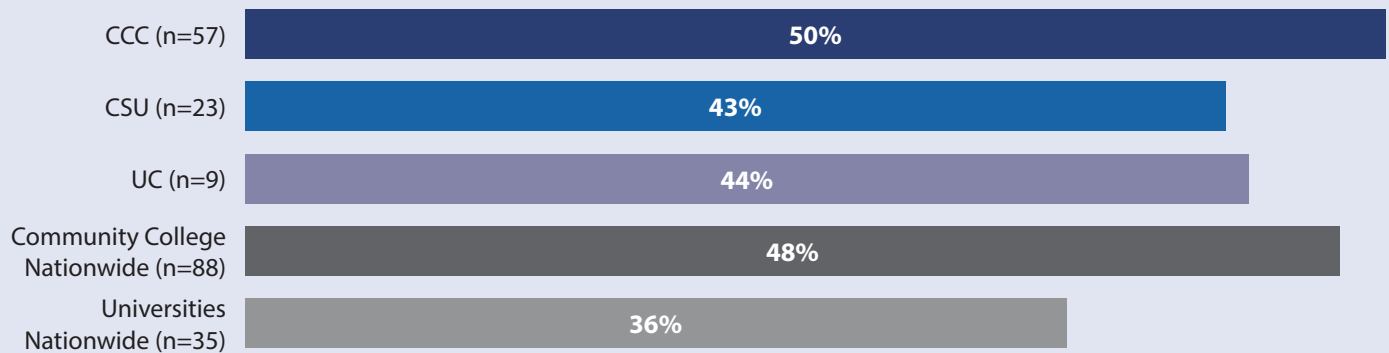
According to a recent study, half of all community college students in California experienced food insecurity in the 30 days preceding the survey.[91] At the California State Universities, approximately 43 percent of undergraduates experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days.[92] Similarly, 44 percent of UC undergraduates experienced food insecurity in the prior year, according to a survey administered in 2016.[93] The rate of student food insecurity at California's community colleges is two percentage points higher than a preliminary estimate for community colleges nationwide, while the rates of food insecurity at California's public universities are 7–8 percentage points higher than a preliminary estimate for four-year universities nationwide (see Figure 10).[94] Nevertheless, undergraduates in California and across the nation experience food insecurity at significantly higher rates compared to the general population (see Figure 11).[95]

Undergraduates experience food insecurity at significantly higher rates than the general population.

A variety of issues contribute to food insecurity on college campuses. With low wages, limited available hours to work, and rising costs that have outpaced increases in financial aid, many students attending California's public institutions struggle to pay for all of their expenses.[96] Food is a flexible living expense compared to set costs like rent, so students may spend less on food as a strategy to manage limited budgets. Students experiencing housing insecurity, including homelessness, experience food insecurity at higher rates than stably housed students—likely due to limited financial resources and

FIGURE 10: *Rates of undergraduate food insecurity at California's public universities are 7–8 percentage points higher than a preliminary estimate for four-year universities nationwide*

Category	Rate
CCC (n=57)	50%
CSU (n=23)	43%
UC (n=9)	44%
Community College Nationwide (n=88)	48%
Universities Nationwide (n=35)	36%

Note: "Community Colleges Nationwide" include 87 public 2-year colleges and 1 private 2-year college; "Universities Nationwide" include 30 public 4-year universities and 5 nonprofit 4-year colleges **Source:** *California State University Office of the Chancellor, Study of Student Basic Needs (2018); University of California Office of the President, Global Food Initiative: Food and Housing Security at the University of California (2017); Wisconsin HOPE Lab, California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey (2019), College and University Basic Needs Insecurity (2019), & Still Hungry and Homeless in College (2018)*

FIGURE 11: *Undergraduates both in California and across the nation experience food insecurity at significantly higher rates compared to the general population*

Category	Rate
CCC (n=57)	50%
CSU (n=23)	43%
UC (n=9)	44%
California	11%
United States of America	13%
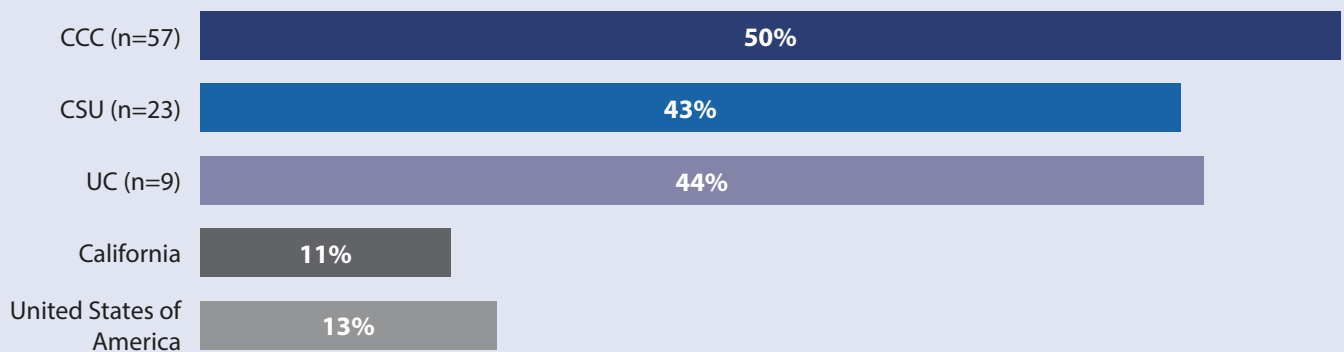
Note: Basic needs studies for the CCC and CSU measured the prevalence of food insecurity over the past 30 days while the UC, statewide, and nationwide studies measured the prevalence of food insecurity over the past 12 months **Source:** *California State University Office of the Chancellor, Study of Student Basic Needs (2018); University of California Office of the President, Global Food Initiative: Food and Housing Security at the University of California (2017); Wisconsin HOPE Lab, California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey (2019); Feeding America, 2017 Map the Meal Gap (online infographic and charts)*

a lack of places to store and prepare food.[97] While poverty is a known risk factor, more research is needed to understand the underlying causes of student food insecurity.[98]

Numerous factors including students' racial or ethnic backgrounds, their sexual and gender orientation, and their parents' educational attainment correspond with different rates of food insecurity. At the CCCs, American Indian or Alaska Native students (63 percent) and Black students (62 percent) experience food insecurity at higher rates than White students (45 percent) and Southeast Asian students (41 percent).[99] At the UCs, Black (62 percent), Hispanic/Latino (58 percent), and American Indian (49 percent) students experience food insecurity at higher rates than White students (36 percent).[100] In addition to differences by race or ethnicity, UC students who identify as LGBTQIA are more likely to experience food insecurity.[101] Similarly, gay or lesbian students and

Students experiencing housing insecurity also experience food insecurity at higher rates.

bisexual students at the CCCs experience food insecurity at higher rates than hetero-sexual students (56 percent, 58 percent, and 47 percent, respectively).[102] Across all three public higher education systems, students who were in foster care are more likely to experience food insecurity than students who were not.[103] Intersecting identities further impact a student's risk. CSU students who identified as both first-generation and Black had the highest levels of food insecurity, at 22 percentage points higher than the overall graduate and undergraduate rate of 42 percent.[104]

Several California laws promote students' access to food resources, but only one of the laws provided funds. AB 801 (2016) requires CSUs and CCCs to designate at least one liaison on each campus to support students experiencing homelessness.[105] Liaisons are tasked with helping these students access campus, local, state, and federal resources such as food pantries and CalFresh, California's version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). AB 1747 (2016) increases the likelihood that on-campus restaurants and cafeterias participate in the Restaurant Meals Program, which allows students to buy prepared food using CalFresh funds.[106] This law also estab-lished a funding account to support collaborations between on-campus food pantries and certain food banks. AB 1930 (2014) and AB 214 (2017) allow students participating in certain campus programs to be exempt from CalFresh work requirements, making more students eligible for nutrition assistance.[107] Lastly, SB 85 (2017) provided Califor-nia's public colleges and universities with one-time funds to help initiate or expand food resources. These funds incentivized campuses to distribute free groceries, create meal-sharing programs, and dedicate employees to improving CalFresh access.[108]

Food resources—like grocery distribution programs, access to free prepared meals, and food recovery programs—meet immediate needs while CalFresh application assistance provides long-term food security to eligible students, allowing them to focus on their studies rather than when and how they will get their next meal. This section explores the prevalence of these four types of food resources at 82 of California's public colleges and universities.

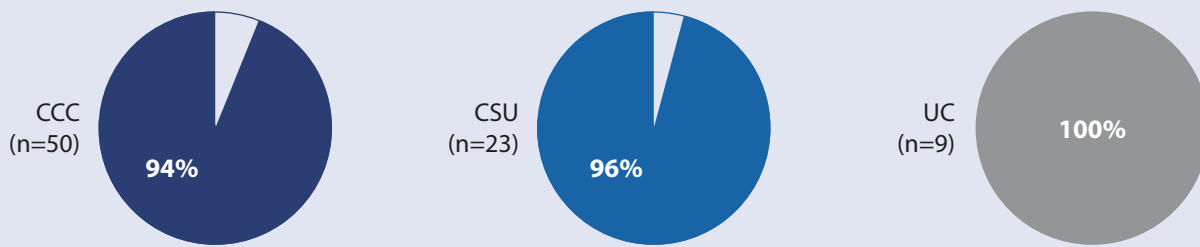## Defining Grocery Distribution Programs

A "grocery distribution program" refers to the regular, on-campus (at least monthly) dis-tribution of fresh and/or shelf-stable food. Examples of grocery distribution programs include grocery giveaways, campus food pantries, and free pop-up farmers markets. Any undergraduate student can receive food through the grocery distribution program. Programs that only serve students with specific backgrounds or students participating in specific programs were not included in this study.

The Prevalence of Grocery Distribution Programs

Nearly all of California's community colleges and universities distribute free groceries to their students on a regular basis. Specifically, all of the UCs, all but one of the CSUs, and 47 of the 50 CCCs examined in this study have at least one grocery distribution program (see Figure 12). Food pantries, which are permanent and physically located on campus, are the most common way that campuses distribute groceries to students in need. Gro-cery giveaways—also called "pop-up," "just-in-time" or "mobile" food pantries—and free pop-up farmers markets which provide fresh produce during a narrow window of time are less common. Several campuses offer multiple food pantries in different locations, and several campuses offer food pantries and free pop-up farmers markets. The major-ity of campuses that distribute free groceries also offer to connect students with addi-tional resources on-site, such as CalFresh application assistance.

Food pantries are the most common way that campuses distribute groceries.

FIGURE 12: *Nearly all of California's public colleges and universities distribute free groceries on a regular basis*

CCC (n=50): 94%
CSU (n=23): 96%
UC (n=9): 100%

Most of the grocery distribution programs at California's public colleges and universities are sustained by community college foundations, local nonprofits, associated student governments, student clubs, and by the institution itself. According to a 2017 survey of administrators, faculty, and staff at 105 of the 114 CCCs, food pantries at the CCCs have multiple funding sources—the most common being community-based food banks, fundraising events, Equity Program funds, private donations, college foundations, and outside philanthropic organizations.[109] SB 85 (2017) also provides short-term funds for food distribution programs at California's public colleges and universities.[110]

Notably, the high prevalence of grocery distribution programs does not imply that all students on these campuses are food secure. For example, food pantries with limited resources may only be open a few hours each week, may limit the amount of grocery items that a student can receive, and may limit the number of times a student can visit each week or month. Monthly grocery giveaways supplement students' diets but probably are not enough food to last them the entire month. Thus, grocery distribution programs alleviate but are not necessarily the solution to college food insecurity. Rather, grocery distribution programs are most effective when they are offered with other types of food resources that address short- and long-term needs.

Grocery distribution programs are most effective when they are offered with other types of food resources.

Examples of grocery distribution programs:

- Students at Santa Rosa Junior College can receive shelf-stable foods and free, fresh produce from the campus farm at the Feed the Bears Food Pantry. The pantry on the Santa Rosa campus is open four workdays out of the week for three hours a day. To access this resource, students have to register at the Student Resource Center each semester. The amount of food that a student can receive depends on the size of their household.[111]

- The Just In Time Mobile Food Pantry at San Jose State University is a grocery store-style food distribution program for eligible students experiencing food insecurity. For a one-hour window once a month, students can choose from a wide selection of foods including dry goods, breads, fresh produce, and dairy items. To be eligible, students have to be currently enrolled, bring their student identification card, and bring their own grocery bags. This volunteer-run program is the result of a partnership between San Jose State University's Student Hunger Committee, SJSU Cares (which provides basic needs case management), and the Second Harvest Food Bank of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. SJSU also recently opened a permanent on-campus food pantry.[112]

- Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at CSU Sacramento manages the Food Pantry. Students in need who have a valid student identification card can visit the on-campus pantry once a week and select a limited number of dry goods based on a point system. The pantry is open during workdays for three to four hours, and it operates almost entirely on donations from the community. In partnership with the Central Downtown Food Basket, ASI also distributes fresh produce at no cost to students in need one to three times a month on the library quad.[113]

- The UC Berkeley Food Pantry offers students with a wide selection of non-perishable foods six days a week for four to six hours a day. All of the foods are approved by a nutritionist from University Health Services and purchased from United Natural Foods Inc. through Cal Dining. Students visiting the pantry can also receive free prepared meals that were collected from catered events on campus or donated by campus restaurants. To make this resource more accessible, the UC Berkeley Food Pantry distributes smaller amounts of groceries as a "pop-up pantry" at various locations around campus. The Food Pantry is entirely managed by two student Food Pantry Coordinators and student volunteers.[114]

Defining Access to Free Prepared Meals

"Access to free prepared meals" refers to a campus having an institutionalized process of providing free, ready-to-eat, fresh meals (that have not already been served and that are not about to expire) to students who are experiencing food insecurity. This includes students being given access to on-campus eateries and students receiving gift cards to grocery stores or fast food restaurants. Prepared meals available only to certain groups of students based on their backgrounds or their participation in specific programs were not counted in this study unless students were required to be in a program that targets students experiencing homelessness (in which case the food resource was counted).

18%

CCC
(n=50)

CSU
(n=23)

65%

UC
(n=9)

100%
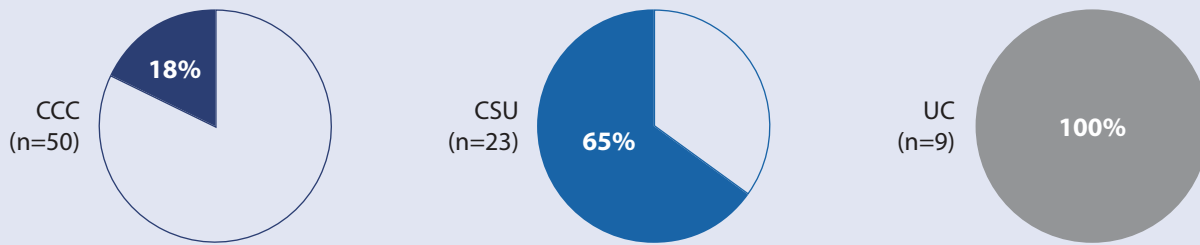
The Prevalence of Free Prepared Meals

All of the UCs offer free prepared meals compared to 65 percent of the CSUs and 18 percent of the CCCs (see Figure 13). Free prepared meals at California's public universities are commonly supplied by students and faculty donating their meal swipes or dining commons cash into a fund that is then distributed to students in need—called "meal-sharing." California's public universities that offer free prepared meals primarily partner with Swipe Out Hunger, a nonprofit organization that helps facilitate the donation and redistribution of unused cafeteria meal points.[115] The few CCCs that offer free prepared meals either distribute gift cards for local fast-food restaurants or provide students with a limited number of meal vouchers that can be redeemed at on-campus eateries. Of the 32 public colleges and universities that offer free prepared meals, only 3 campuses require students to participate in programs that target students experiencing housing insecurity in order to be eligible. The remaining 30 campuses offer free prepared meals to any eligible undergraduate in need, based on the discretion of campus staff or faculty and as resources allow.

Free prepared meals at the UCs and CSUs are commonly supplied by student and faculty donations.

Examples of free prepared meals:

- Chaffey College's Transitional Services program helps students experiencing food and housing insecurity identify solutions and connect with needed resources. One way that Transitional Services meets immediate needs is by offering Free Fresh Meals each month. These catered events give students an opportunity to meet faculty and staff as well as learn about the campus and community resources available to them.[116]

- Mt. San Antonio College, through the Student Success and Equity Office, offers free gift cards to help students experiencing food insecurity or homelessness. Students can receive $10–$20 in gift cards to local grocery stores and eateries like Jack in the Box, Subway, Vons, and Albertsons. Faculty request the gift cards and then distribute them to students in need.[117]

- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Mustang Meal Share program, which is a part of the Cal Poly Hunger Program, gives freshmen with a meal plan the opportunity to donate up to 10 meals per academic quarter to fellow Mustangs in need. The Dean of Students Office then distributes the meals to students experiencing short-term financial need. The donated meal swipes are electronically added to students' PolyCard, allowing them to dine at 805 Kitchen (a buffet restaurant) during the school year and at the Avenue (a food court) during the summer.[118]

Defining Food Recovery Programs

A "food recovery program" refers to an institutionalized process of 1) informing students about free food that is available to them after catered campus events and/or 2) collecting and re-distributing edible prepared food to students that would have otherwise been thrown away.

The Prevalence of Food Recovery Programs

Over half (56 percent) of California's public universities have food recovery programs compared to none of the community colleges (see Figure 14). In total, 6 UCs and 12 CSUs offer food recovery programs. Eleven of these programs invite students to eat free food after catered events on campus, four collect edible prepared food from campus dining locations and offer it to students through campus food pantries, and three do both. These two types of food recovery programs require the food to be eaten immediately, making timely communication an important aspect of this type of food resource. California's public universities inform students about available recovered food in a variety of ways (see Figure 15). The most common method is sending students notifications through smartphone applications either through the institution's general app or through a custom app specifically created to share information about food resources. Other notification methods include texts, emails, and Twitter.

6 UCs and 12 CSUs offer food recovery programs.
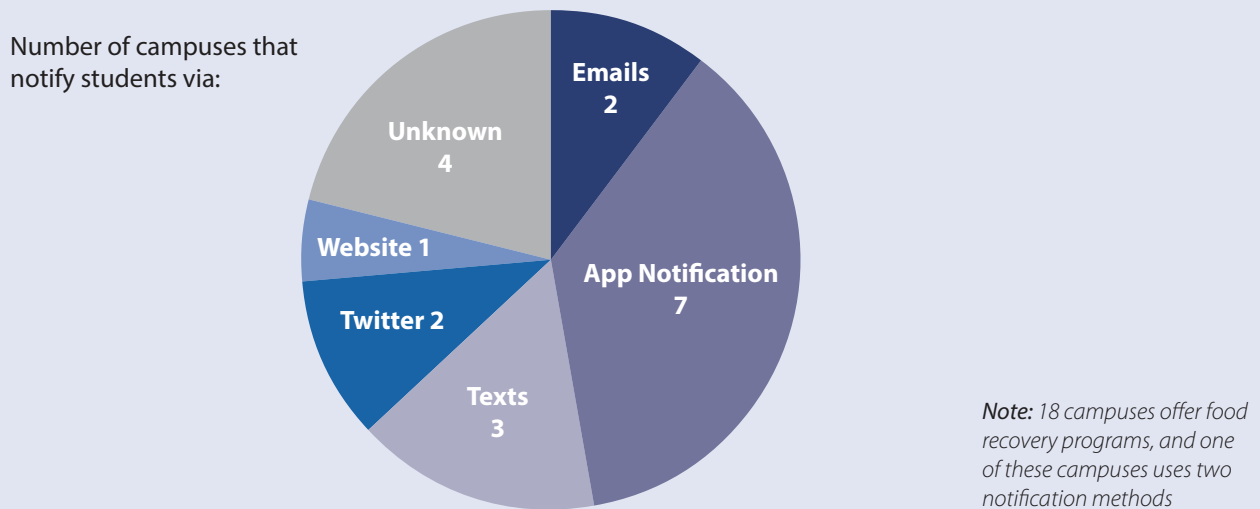
Examples of food recovery programs:

- San Diego State University's Associated Students No Waste initiative addresses hunger by notifying students via Twitter when free food is available in the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union. All students need to do is follow the initiative's Twitter account and set up push notifications.[119]

- Students who visit UC Riverside's food pantry, called the R'Pantry, can pick up prepared packaged food as well as dry goods. The prepared packaged foods, like ready-made sandwiches and chopped fruit, are collected from convenience stores on campus and redistributed before they expire. UC Riverside students can also use HighlanderLink to sign up for emails about free food available to them after catered events.[120]

FIGURE 14: *A little over half of California's public universities have food recovery programs, compared to none of the CCCs*

CCC (n=50) — 0%

CSU (n=23) — 52%

UC (n=9) — 67%
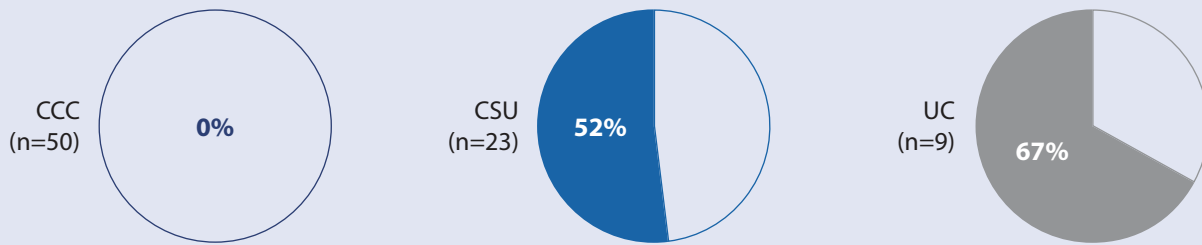
FIGURE 15: *Campuses notify students about food recovery opportunities in a variety of ways*

Number of campuses that notify students via:

Emails 2

App Notification 7

Texts 3

Twitter 2

Website 1

Unknown 4

Note: 18 campuses offer food recovery programs, and one of these campuses uses two notification methods

- The Food Recovery Network at UC San Diego—a student-run organization and an affiliate of the national Food Recovery Network—partners with Housing, Dining, and Hospitality's executive culinary team, the Faculty Club, and the local farmer's market to pick up edible, perishable food items for donation. They then deliver the food to places like the Triton Food Pantry and The Hub which serve students experiencing food insecurity.[121] In addition, students can receive notifications through the UC San Diego mobile app about free food available to them after catered events on campus.[122]

The Role of CalFresh in Promoting Food Security

CalFresh can provide significant long-term support to college students experiencing food insecurity. This program gives eligible low-income households monthly financial assistance to buy the food they need. Eligible students can receive up to $192 per month, and these funds will not decrease their financial aid packages.[123] Higher participation rates in CalFresh benefit California's eligible college students at no additional cost to the institution, the public higher education system, or the state. However, the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimates that a little over half of low-income college students nationwide who are at risk of experiencing food insecurity and who are eligible for SNAP benefits are not receiving them.[124] California's undergraduates may be similarly under-enrolled in CalFresh. According to a system-wide CSU survey, an estimated 27

percent of CSU students who responded to the survey were eligible to receive CalFresh benefits in 2017, yet only 5 percent reported being enrolled in the CalFresh program.[125] At the CCCs, only 22 percent of food insecure students reported receiving SNAP.[126]

A lack of awareness and challenges in the application process prevent students from fully utilizing CalFresh. For example, about 40 percent of the CSU students surveyed had never heard of CalFresh or believed it was not offered on their campus.[127] Confusing eligibility criteria also present barriers to student applicants and to campus staff providing enrollment assistance.[128] College students must meet numerous requirements based on their household income, the number of people in their household, the federal work rule, work requirement exemptions, and student status.[129] Informed CalFresh outreach and enrollment efforts on campuses play an important role in helping eligible students access this resource to meet their nutritional needs.

A lack of awareness and challenges in the application process prevent students from fully utilizing CalFresh.

Defining CalFresh Application Assistance

"CalFresh application assistance" refers to students having access to campus staff, trained students, and/or CalFresh enrollment specialists from local government agencies who provide assistance with CalFresh enrollment at least once a month on campus.

Prevalence of CalFresh Application Assistance

All of the Universities of California and all but one of the California State Universities have someone located on campus on a regular basis to assist students with applying for CalFresh benefits. In-person CalFresh application assistance commonly occurs at student wellness centers, basic needs hubs, student unions, grocery distribution sites, financial aid offices, and student affairs offices.

All of the UCs and all but one of the CSUs offer CalFresh application assistance.

Findings on the number of California Community Colleges that provide in-person CalFresh application assistance were intentionally excluded from this report because many colleges may be providing CalFresh application assistance in tandem with grocery distribution efforts on campus without making this service known on their websites. According to the California Community College Chancellor's Office, 70 of the 114 CCCs (60 percent) report having staff assigned to provide CalFresh enrollment assistance.[130]

Overlapping Food Resources & Comprehensive Food Access Initiatives
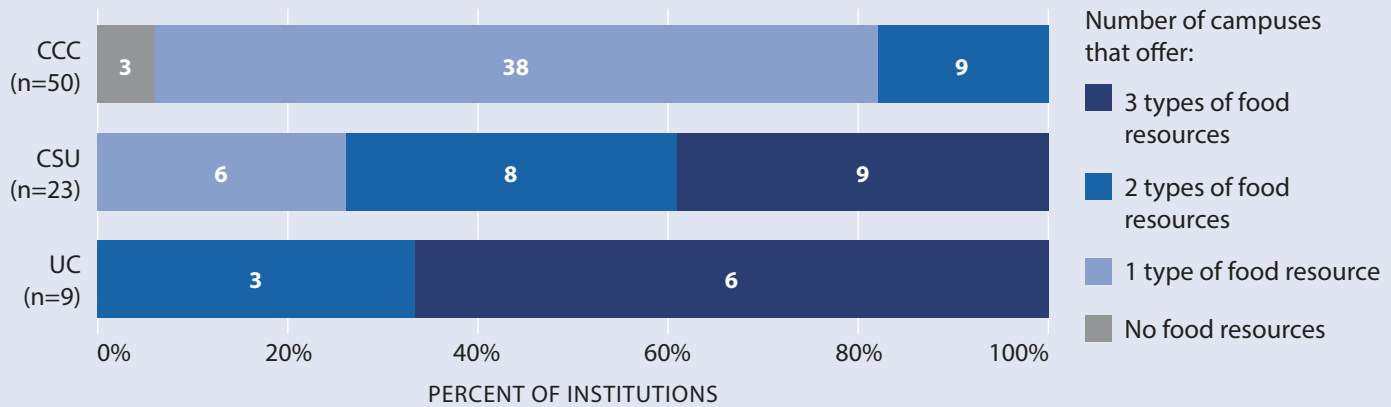
Looking at grocery distribution programs, access to free prepared meals, and food recovery programs, nearly all of California's public higher education institutions (96 percent) offer at least one type of food resource (see Figure 16). Less than half (43 percent) offer at least two types of food resources, and 18 percent (9 CSUs and 6 UCs) offer all three. Only three campuses, all CCCs, offer none of these food resources. UCs are more likely to offer numerous types of food resources than CSUs, and CSUs are more likely to offer numerous types of food resources than CCCs.

Examples of California's public campuses that offer numerous food resources:

- Cañada College helps students access food in a variety of ways. To meet immediate needs, students can visit the campus food pantry which is provided through a partnership between Second Harvest Food Bank and SparkPoint Center. The college also offers students with a valid Cañada College student body card subsidized grab-and-go meals. Students can purchase a sandwich, piece of fruit, water, and snack at the Bookstore or at the Pony

FIGURE 16: *California's public universities tend to offer more types of food resources per campus*

	Number of campuses that offer:
■ (dark blue)	3 types of food resources
■ (blue)	2 types of food resources
■ (light blue)	1 type of food resource
■ (gray)	No food resources

CCC (n=50): 3, 38, 9
CSU (n=23): 6, 8, 9
UC (n=9): 3, 6

PERCENT OF INSTITUTIONS

Espresso cafe for just $6.00 during the day and $3.00 at night. To meet long-term needs, students can receive help with applying for CalFresh at the SparkPoint Center on campus.[131]

- The Aggie Compass at UC Davis connects students with food, housing, and financial resources all at one campus location. At Aggie Compass, students can get CalFresh enrollment assistance and receive fresh fruits and vegetables during Fruit & Veggie Up! produce giveaways. The nearby Pantry also provides dry and canned goods.

- Students struggling with food insecurity at UCLA have access to numerous resources. The Office of Residential Life offers free roundtrip bus rides from the campus to local grocery stores on the weekends. Students who are struggling financially can get refrigerated and dry goods at the Community Programs Office Food Closet. They can also pick up a limited number of meal vouchers at various locations on campus, which can be used at the UCLA dining facilities located on the Hill. In addition, UCLA's student-led CalFresh Initiative Team does daily outreach and hosts quarterly CalFresh enrollment days to help students know about, enroll in, and benefit from the CalFresh program.[132]

Other Innovative Solutions to Food Insecurity

California's community colleges and universities are helping students access food in other innovative ways. For example:

- To help students find and access food resources, CSU Monterey Bay, UC Davis, and UC Santa Barbara have online, interactive food resource maps. These maps direct students to dining options, community microwaves on campus, food banks, grocery stores and farmers markets (including locations that accept CalFresh dollars.

- In addition to distributing free groceries through a weekly mobile food pantry, City College of San Francisco offers students up to two snacks per day at six locations spread across campus. Locations include the Queer Resource Center, the Homeless At-Risk Transitional Students Program, and the African American Studies Resource Center. Students do not have to sign up to receive snacks.[133]

- Although CSU San Bernardino does not provide free prepared meals and does not have a food recovery program, the Office of Community Engagement distributes "day packs" of food to help students meet their short-term needs. Day packs can be picked up at various locations on campus including the Ombuds Office, Recreation and Wellness Center, Veterans Success Center, and Student Health Center. Similarly, Imperial Valley College and Napa Valley College distribute ready-to-eat, nonperishable lunch meals at their campus food pantries.[134]

- Several of California's public universities offer free cooking workshops on campus to help students develop independent living skills. These workshops teach cooking skills, promote healthy eating on a budget, and even demonstrate how to turn groceries from campus food pantries into delicious meals. Examples include Smart Eaters workshops at UC Irvine's FRESH Basic Needs Hub, Cooking Demos by Humboldt State University's OhSnap! Student Food Programs, and The CHEW (Cooking Healthy, Eating Well) classes by San Jose State University's Student Health Center.

Conclusion

Food insecurity challenges the efforts and aspirations of many college students across California. Food resources like grocery distribution programs, access to free prepared meals, and food recovery programs meet immediate needs while CalFresh application assistance provides long-term food security to eligible students. Several California laws promote students' access to food resources, only one of which provides one-time funds.

Certain types of food resources are more prevalent than others, and California's public universities are more likely to have food resources compared to the community colleges. Nearly all of the public higher education institutions examined in this study distribute free groceries to students on a regular basis. All of the UCs offer free prepared meals compared to 65 percent of CSUs and 18 percent of CCCs. Over half (56 percent) of California's public universities have food recovery programs, compared to none of the 50 community colleges examined. Although community college students experience the highest rates of food insecurity, CCC campuses are the least likely to offer many different types of food resources compared to the CSU and UC campuses.

Advisors for Former Foster Youth and Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

KEY FINDINGS

▶ Nearly all of California's community colleges and universities provide advisors for current and former foster youth.

▶ All of the UCs and the majority of CSUs and CCCs provide advisors for students experiencing housing insecurity.

▶ The majority (82 percent) of California's public colleges and universities have advisors for both foster youth and students experiencing housing insecurity, and only one campus has neither.

Foster Youth, Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity, and Advisors

On top of the typical educational challenges of college, undergraduates who have experience in the foster care system are more likely to struggle to meet their basic needs. Two recent studies found that CCC students and CSU students who had been placed in foster care are more than twice as likely to experience homelessness at least once in the past year compared to their peers who had no experience in foster care.[135] At California's community colleges, seven out of ten students who had been placed in foster care experienced food insecurity in the past 30 days.[136] At the California State Universities, the rate of students experiencing food insecurity in the past 30 days was 62 percent for foster youth students—20 percent higher than the overall student rate of 42 percent.[137] Similarly, 61 percent of UC undergraduate survey respondents who had been placed in foster care reported experiencing food insecurity in the prior year compared to 44 percent of undergraduate respondents who had no experience in foster care.[138]

Foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth face similar challenges to degree attainment. A 2016 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that both student communities struggle with poverty, weak academic foundations in grade school, limited relationships with family or other supportive adults who could provide advice, and lack of awareness of available financial aid resources.[139] These students are also more likely to have experienced trauma and struggled with mental health challenges, all of which make the path to and through higher education more difficult to pursue.[140]

Foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth face similar challenges to degree attainment.

This study focuses on advisors who specifically serve students who have experience in the foster care system and students who have experience with housing insecurity. Notably, these students may also have access to advisors through campus departments and through other student support programs that they may qualify for such as Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) Program, Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS), and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWorks). A lack of advisors specifically for foster youth or specifically for students experiencing housing insecurity does not necessarily imply that these students have no one to turn to for advising, counseling, mentoring, and assistance in resource navigation.

Recognizing that foster youth and college students experiencing housing insecurity must overcome greater barriers to achieve their higher education goals, California's public higher education institutions and lawmakers acted to provide additional campus-based resources. Beginning in 2006, the California Community College Chancellor's Office led the Foster Youth Success Initiative which supported the voluntary assignment of a foster youth liaison at every community college.[141] These efforts were later formalized and expanded by AB 801 (2016), which requires CCCs and CSUs and requests that UCs designate at least one liaison on each campus for these student communities.[142] Liaisons are tasked with identifying available resources, informing students about these resources, and helping students access them. Unfortunately, AB 801 did not come with any additional funding for the liaison positions.

The life experiences and barriers to college completion for foster youth and for students experiencing housing insecurity overlap in many ways. Both student communities benefit from advisors who play a critical role in helping them navigate the higher education system and access needed resources. This section explores the prevalence of advisors for foster youth and students experiencing homelessness at 82 of California's public colleges and universities.

CCC (n=50) — 98%
CSU (n=23) — 96%
UC (n=9) — 100%
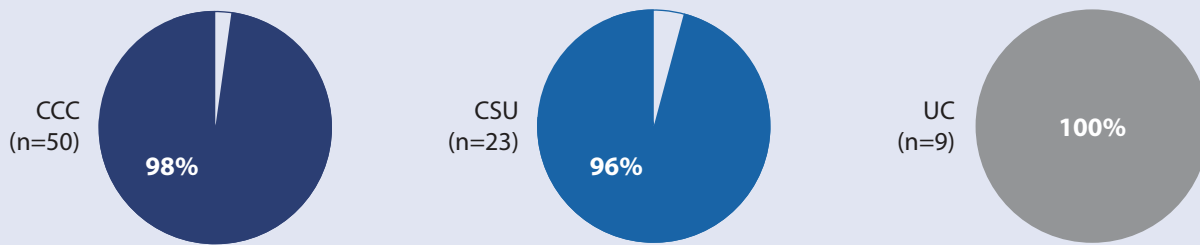
Defining Advisors for Foster Youth

An "advisor for foster youth" refers to when a college or university has at least one employee whose explicit job is to provide advice, counseling, mentorship, and/or assistance to students who have experience in the foster care system. The term "advisor" inclusively refers to advisors, counselors, liaisons, and mentors. Campuses that have programs that target foster youth were automatically counted as having advisors for foster youth because all of these programs include some form of advising between students and staff.

Prevalence of Advisors for Foster Youth

Nearly all (98 percent) of California's community colleges and universities provide advisors for current and former foster youth. All of the UCs, all but one of the CSUs, and all but one of the 50 CCCs examined in this study have at least one advisor specifically for foster youth (see Figure 17). The two campuses that do not have advisors also do not offer programs for foster youth. Foster youth advisors are located within a variety of departments and programs including financial aid offices, EOPS, Foster & Kinship Care Education programs, foster youth programs, and other student support services.

All but one of the 50 CCCs have at least one advisor specifically for foster youth.

Examples of foster youth advisors:

- Santa Rosa Junior College has four foster youth liaisons. Two liaisons are instructional managers for the college's Foster and Kinship Care Education Program, one is the dean of Student Support Programs, and one is the coordinator of a foster youth program.

- Current and former foster youth at Long Beach City College can receive assistance from two foster youth liaisons: a foster youth program counselor/coordinator and an EOPS counselor.

- Cal Poly Pomona University's foster youth program, called the Renaissance Scholars program, provides many services to its participants. In addition to workshops, life skills seminars, year-round housing, and financial assistance, this program also provides counseling services and academic advising.

- The Guardian Scholars Program at UCLA aims to "build a welcoming community and to promote the wellness and academic achievement of foster youth" by hosting workshops on life skills and strong study habits, offering resources like scholarships and free rentable textbooks, and creating internship opportunities. In order to cultivate meaningful relationships, the program also hosts quarterly events, has a dedicated career counselor, and provides one-on-one coaching.[143]

CCC
(n=50) — **78%**

CSU
(n=23) — **87%**

UC
(n=9) — **100%**
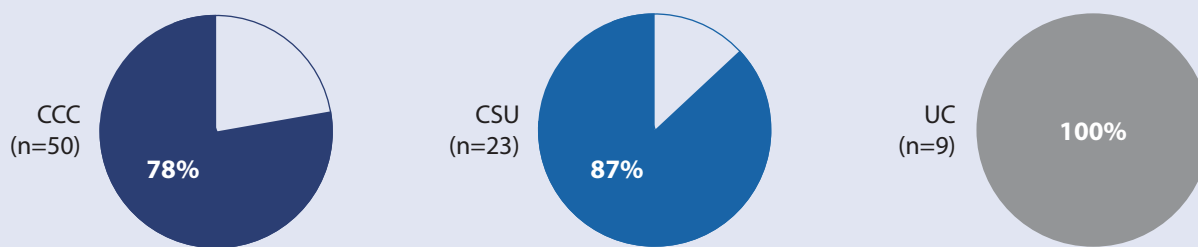
Defining Advisors for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

An "advisor for students experiencing housing insecurity" refers to when a college or university has at least one employee whose explicit job is to provide advice, counseling, mentorship, and/or assistance to students who previously experienced, are currently experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness or other forms of housing insecurity. The term "advisor" inclusively refers to advisors, counselors, liaisons, and mentors. Campuses that have any kind of program targeting students experiencing housing insecurity were automatically counted as having advisors for this student population because all of these programs include some form of advising between students and staff.

Prevalence of Advisors for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

The majority (83 percent) of California's public colleges and universities have at least one advisor specifically for students experiencing homelessness. Looking at each public higher education system, 78 percent of the 50 CCCs examined, 87 percent of the CSUs, and all of the UCs have advisors (see Figure 18). The campuses that do not have advisors also do not have programs that target this student population. Advisors for students experiencing homelessness are located within a variety of departments and programs including financial aid offices, foster youth programs, student equity programs, student affairs offices, basic needs initiatives, and programs targeting students experiencing housing insecurity.

Designated homeless youth liaisons, in accordance with AB 801, account for the majority of advisors for students experiencing homelessness at California's community colleges. Based on information from campus websites, very few CCC homeless youth liaisons have the terms "homeless liaison," "housing," or "homeless" in their titles or job descriptions. Of the 50 CCCs examined, only four colleges connect the names of their homeless youth liaisons (who are listed in a directory published by the California Community College Chancellor's Office) with their liaison roles online.[144] Instead, nearly all of the titles and job descriptions of CCC homeless youth liaisons reflect other staff roles. Consequently, students in need may have difficulty identifying and connecting with the designated homeless youth liaison on their campus. Several CCCs have programs targeting students experiencing housing insecurity, which also provide advisors for this student population.

*CCC students in need may have difficulty identifying the homeless youth liaison on their campus.*

At the CSUs and UCs, programs targeting students experiencing housing insecurity provide numerous advisors for these students. Advisors also come from a variety of other departments and programs. For example, titles for advisors include "Basic Needs Manager," "Vice Chancellor/Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs," "Sustainability Coordinator," "Case Manager," and "CARE Services Coordinator." Generally, the CSUs and UCs more clearly communicate whom students experiencing housing insecurity can turn to. For example, many university webpages on basic needs resources direct students to contact specific staff for further assistance. Some university webpages also provide links to online intake forms that students can fill out to receive basic needs case management.

The prevalence of advisors for students experiencing homelessness and other forms of housing insecurity has dramatically increased over the last few years. A previous study of similar design conducted in 2017 by the California Homeless Youth Project found that only 11 percent of the same 82 public colleges and universities had at least one advisor specifically for this student population.[145] In contrast, this current study finds that 83 percent have at least one advisor specifically for students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

Examples of advisors for students experiencing housing insecurity, including homelessness:

- At Lake Tahoe Community College, the designated homeless youth liaison is the Executive Dean of Student Success located in the One-Stop Office. A campus webpage dedicated to homeless student resources also includes the homeless youth liaison's photo, name, and contact information, making help easier to find.[146]

- CSU San Marcos has a Care Manager who assists students experiencing crises that may impede their academic success by helping them access campus and community resources. Based in the Dean of Students Office, the Care Manager provides ongoing case management to support students in meeting their needs. The Case Manager also acts as a liaison when helping students navigate higher education administrative procedures.[147]

- Students needing support and guidance in navigating the university environment can speak with the Dean-On-Call at the Student Services Building during regular business hours. This service is provided through the Dean-On-Call Program, which trains and coordinates a group of campus administrators to volunteer in rotation as the Dean-On-Call throughout the week. The Dean-On-Call serves as a case manager, an unofficial ombudsperson, and an advocate for the student. They can also provide referrals to on- and off-campus resources.[148]

- Students experiencing basic needs insecurity can receive help with accessing short-term housing, emergency funds, and food resources from the Basic Needs Administrator at the Chico State Basic Needs Project.[149] Students who are unaccompanied homeless youth—meaning they are living in a homeless situation and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian—are also eligible to enroll in CSU Chico's foster youth program called Promoting Achievement Through Hope (PATH) Scholars.[150] PATH Scholars provides numerous services including academic advising, counseling, mentoring, guidance in accessing resources, and assistance in navigating university processes.[151]

Number of campuses that offer:
- ■ Neither
- ■ Advisors for foster youth only
- ■ Advisors for housing insecure students only
- ■ Both
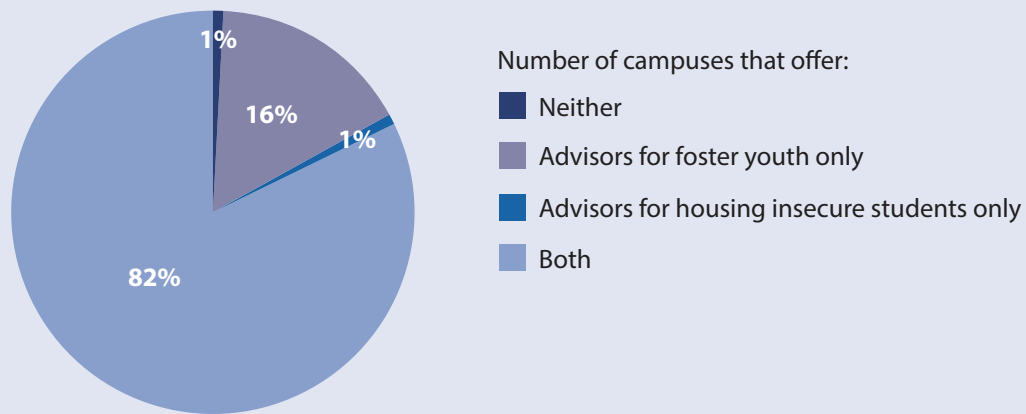
ADVISORS FOR FOSTER YOUTH AND STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY (n=82)

The Intersection of Advisors for Foster Youth and Advisors for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

Advisors for foster youth are slightly more common than advisors for students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity at California's public higher education institutions. While 98 percent of the 82 campuses examined have advisors specifically for foster youth, 83 percent have advisors specifically for students experiencing housing insecurity. The majority (82 percent) of California's public colleges and universities have both types of advisors, and only one campus has neither (see Figure 19).

Conclusion

Dedicated advisors play a critical role in helping students who have experience in the foster care system and students who have experience with housing insecurity by helping them navigate the higher education system and access resources. Advisors are a robust basic needs resource at California's public colleges and universities, with the majority (82 percent) of the 82 public colleges and universities having advisors for foster youth and advisors for students experiencing housing insecurity. Nearly all (98 percent) of California's community colleges and universities provide advisors for current and former foster youth, and the majority (83 percent) have at least one advisor specifically for students experiencing housing insecurity. Compared to findings from a similar study conducted in 2017, the number of campuses that have at least one advisor for students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity has dramatically increased over the past two years. Designated homeless youth liaisons, in accordance with AB 801, account for the majority of advisors for students experiencing housing insecurity at the community colleges. At the CSUs and the UCs, programs targeting students experiencing housing insecurity provide many advisors.

The majority of California's public colleges and universities have both types of advisors.

Programs for Former Foster Youth and Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

KEY FINDINGS

▶ Over half of the 50 California Community Colleges examined and nearly all of California's public universities have programs that target foster youth.

▶ Less than one third (28 percent) of the 50 CCCs examined offer programs specifically for students who have experience with housing insecurity, compared to two-thirds (66 percent) of California's public universities.

▶ Three different types of programs target students experiencing housing insecurity: inclusive foster youth programs, homeless youth programs, and coordinated basic needs services.

▶ Coordinated basic needs services, which provide case management and basic needs resources, are the most common type of program that targets students experiencing housing insecurity.

Foster Youth, Students Experiencing Homelessness, and Targeted Student Programs

Many of California's public colleges and universities offer programs that are designed to meet the needs of foster youth and the needs of students experiencing housing insecurity. Beyond advising, these programs provide resources, teach academic and life skills, and help students create a sense of community.

A "foster youth program" refers to a program located on campus that explicitly targets students who have experience in the foster care system, providing them with designated staff, resources, and services. Foster youth programs also provide opportunities for community building. Acknowledging the overlapping needs and experiences of foster youth and students who experience homelessness, some campuses allow students experiencing homelessness to participate in foster youth programs—which this study refers to as "inclusive foster youth programs." Other campuses have separate "homeless youth programs" that have many of the same services and resources of foster youth programs but exclusively target students who have experience with homelessness. Foster youth programs, inclusive foster youth programs, and homeless youth programs provide a variety of resources that support students' academic achievement as well as their basic needs security. At California's public universities, these programs may also help participants access year-round student housing.

Some campuses allow students experiencing homelessness to participate in foster youth programs.

This study focuses on programs that target students who have experience in the foster care system and students who have experience with homelessness. Notably, these students may be eligible for other programs such as Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) Program, Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS), and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWorks). A lack of programs specifically targeting foster youth or students experiencing homelessness does not imply that no campus programs are available to support these students.

Some campuses have "coordinated basic needs services" that focus on helping students quickly establish food and housing security. Coordinated basic needs services directly provide one-on-one case management with campus staff and basic needs resources like emergency housing, emergency grants, and short-term loans. Basic needs resources are "coordinated" in that numerous resources exist within a single basic needs project or initiative (and, in some cases, are accessible at a single location on campus). This type of program does not have specific eligibility requirements; any student experiencing need is eligible to receive assistance from coordinated basic needs services.

The life experiences and the barriers to college completion for foster youth and for students experiencing homelessness overlap in many ways. Both student communities benefit from programs that help them meet their basic needs, support their academic endeavors, and create opportunities to build community. This section explores the prevalence of programs for foster youth and the prevalence of programs for students experiencing housing insecurity at 82 of California's public colleges and universities.

Defining Foster Youth Programs

A "foster youth program" refers to a program located on campus that explicitly targets students who have experience in the foster care system. Foster youth programs may exclusively serve current and former foster youth, or these programs may serve other student populations as well. To be counted, programs that serve foster youth must have at least two of the following: dedicated staff, resources (such as transportation assistance, supplemental financial aid for housing, free textbook rentals, or free meals), or services (such as counseling, advising, tutoring, mentoring, events, or workshops).

Prevalence and Role of Foster Youth Programs

Over half of the 50 California Community Colleges examined and nearly all of California's public universities have programs that primarily serve foster youth (see Figure 20). Common names for these programs include "Guardian Scholars," "Renaissance Scholars," and "Hope Scholars." Resources and services commonly provided by foster youth programs include counseling, advising, funds for schools supplies and textbooks, onsite computer labs, laptop rentals, and social events. Other resources that foster youth programs provide include orientations, mentoring, transportation assistance (such as parking permits or public transportation passes), free meals (such as meal vouchers or sit-down community lunches), access to emergency grants, and skill-building workshops. In addition, several foster youth programs at California's community colleges offer their participants free field trips to local universities.

Foster youth programs in California's higher education institutions have a variety of funding sources. At California's community colleges, some programs receive funding from the state. In 2014, SB 1023 created NextUp (legislatively known as Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support), a state-funded extension of Extended Op-

CCC (n=50) 62%

CSU (n=23) 96%

UC (n=9) 100%
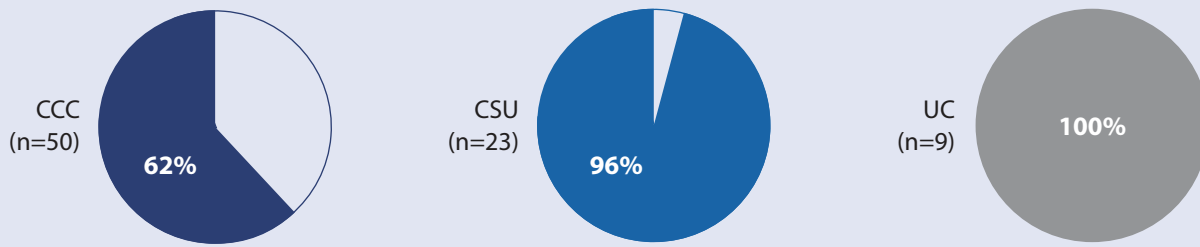
portunity Programs and Services (EOPS) that provides additional resources and services to eligible foster youth.[152] The Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success—Independent Living Program (YESS-ILP) is funded by the California Department of Social Services.[153] This program helps foster youth ages 16–21 transition into and succeed in higher education by providing resources like mentoring, tutoring, referrals, and skill-building workshops.[154] In addition to NextUp and YESS-ILP, other community colleges and many of California's public universities support foster youth programs through existing campus resources and through philanthropic contributions.

Undergraduates who have experience in foster care benefit from strong social supports—especially from positive, nonfamilial relationships.[155] One study found that foster youth freshmen who reported having greater social supports also experienced better developmental outcomes as they transitioned into adulthood and higher education.[156] Based on interviews with 248 college graduates who were formerly in foster care, participants identified strong, positive interpersonal relationships with advisors, tutors, faculty, professors, and peers as being critical to their academic success.[157] Foster youth programs can play an important role in helping these students find community on campus by offering peer mentoring; mentoring with staff, faculty, or community members; and social events that bring together students with shared life experiences. For example, CSU Chico's Promoting Achievement Through Hope (PATH) Scholars program creates opportunities for community building by hosting cultural events, monthly social gatherings, an end-of-the-year celebration, and opportunities to get involved in the PATH student organization. Similarly, the Guardian Scholars program at UC Riverside offers "a network of material and emotional support" including access to on-campus year-round housing, financial assistance, mentoring, and monthly social activities.[158]

Examples of foster youth programs:

- Resources for Individual Success in Education (RISE) at College of the Canyons exists to improve access to higher education for foster youth and homeless youth; increase retention, graduation and transfer rates; and promote student learning and development. To do this, RISE offers numerous resources including textbook vouchers, meal cards, gas and public transportation cards, funds for school supplies, personal care supplies, and snacks. The program also offers services including career and academic counseling, help with financial aid applications, resource referrals, and events like workshops and social meet-ups.[159]

- Participants at San Jose City College's Guardian Scholars Program can invest in their personal and academic development by attending life skills trainings and study skills workshops. Participants can also receive academ-

Foster youth programs can play an important role in helping these students find community on campus.

TABLE 4: Programs that target students experiencing housing insecurity take several different forms		
Inclusive Foster Youth Program	**Homeless Youth Program**	**Coordinated Basic Needs Services**
A program targeting foster youth and students who have experience with homelessness. Provides dedicated staff, resources, services, and opportunities for community building.	A program exclusively targeting students who have experience with homelessness. Provides dedicated staff, resources, and services.	A program targeting students experiencing basic needs insecurity. Provides case management and basic needs resources.

ic, career, and personal counseling, assistance in navigating campus resources, and referrals for off-campus resources that help them meet their basic needs. To support their long-term aspirations, the Guardian Scholars Program also provides career assessments and coordinates free field trips to local universities. Students who have experience in the foster care system, were a dependent or ward of the court, were orphaned, or were identified as a homeless unaccompanied minor are eligible to participate in the program.[160]

- The Promise Scholars Program at CSU Stanislaus provides eligible former foster youth between the ages of 17–23 with support services including academic and career advising, psychological counseling, a full financial aid package, scholarship assistance, tutoring services, and referrals.[161]

- UC Merced's Guardian Scholars program promotes degree attainment for their students who have experience in foster care by offering academic and personal support services. The program connects participants with resources by providing a comprehensive orientation and ongoing liaison services. It also directly provides resources like a move-in package (that includes personal hygiene products, school supplies, and program-related merchandise), a stipend for textbooks, and emergency financial assistance. Participants can attend numerous social events that provide opportunities to connect with each other, their campus, and their local community.[162]

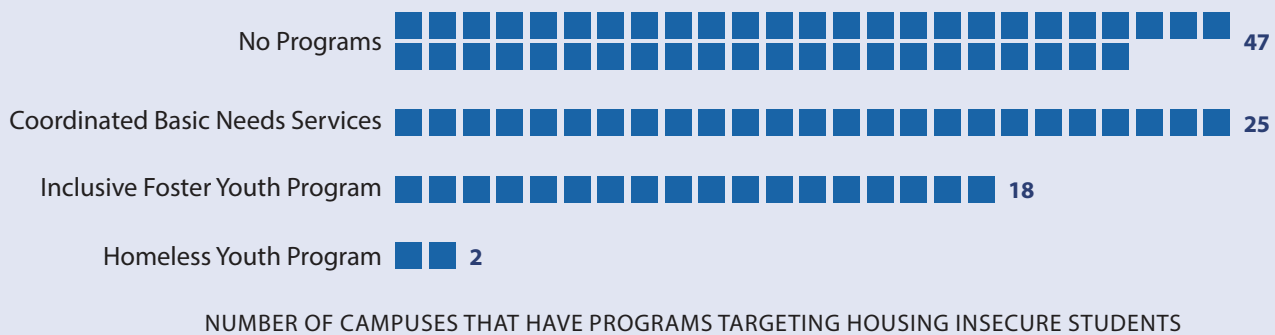## Defining Programs for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

California's public colleges and universities offer programs that target students who have previously experienced, who are currently experiencing, or who are at risk of experiencing housing insecurity—including homelessness. These programs take several different forms: inclusive foster youth programs, homeless youth programs, and coordinated basic needs services (see Table 4).

Notably, this study did not count crisis case management services (that do not directly provide basic needs resources) as a type of program that targets students experiencing housing insecurity. Instead, this resource was categorized as the presence of at least one advisor for students experiencing housing insecurity. Similar to the definition of a homeless youth liaison, crisis case managers connect students to needed campus and community resources.

FIGURE 21: *The CCCs are less likely than the CSUs and UCs to offer programs specifically for housing insecure and homeless students*

CCC
(n=50)
28%

CSU
(n=23)
61%

UC
(n=9)
78%
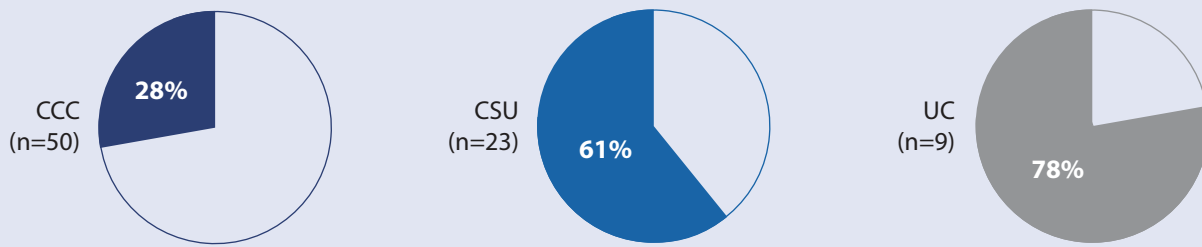
FIGURE 22: *Coordinated basic needs services are the most common type of program that targets students who have experience with housing insecurity*

No Programs ▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪ **47**

Coordinated Basic Needs Services ▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪ **25**

Inclusive Foster Youth Program ▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪ **18**

Homeless Youth Program ▪▪ **2**

NUMBER OF CAMPUSES THAT HAVE PROGRAMS TARGETING HOUSING INSECURE STUDENTS

Note: Campuses can have zero, one, or numerous programs that target students who have experience with housing insecurity

Prevalence of Programs for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

California's community colleges are less likely to offer programs targeting students who have experience with housing insecurity compared to the state's public universities. Two thirds (66 percent) of California's public universities have programs targeting this student population. Specifically, 14 of the 23 CSUs and 7 of the 9 UCs offer programs for these students (see Figure 21). In contrast, only 28 percent of the 50 CCCs examined offer programs that target students who have experience with housing insecurity.

Coordinated basic needs services are the most common type of program that targets students who have experience with housing insecurity; this type of program exists at 25 of the 82 campuses examined (see Figure 22). Inclusive foster youth programs are the second most common type of program for this student population and are offered at 18 of the 82 campuses. In comparison, homeless youth programs are very rare, with only two campuses offering this type of program. Notably, campuses can have zero, one, or numerous programs that target students who have experience with housing insecurity.

Examples of inclusive foster youth programs, which target both foster youth and students who have experience with homelessness:

- Orange Coast College's Guardian Scholars Program provides a wide array of resources including academic counseling, textbook grants, a meal program, emergency support services, skill-building workshops, field trips,

28% of the 50 CCCs offer programs that target students who have experience with housing insecurity.

and social events. Students who resided in an out-of-home placement on or after their 13th birthday and who are under the age of 30 at the start of the academic year are eligible to apply. Students who want to apply but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as students with a history of juvenile probation or housing insecurity, can apply by submitting a Special Circumstances Application.[163]

- Hope Scholars at UC San Diego serve students who have experience with homelessness, the foster care system, and the juvenile justice system as well as other disconnected youth. Throughout the academic year, Hope Scholars provides academic advising, personal counseling, career planning, financial resources, informational workshops, and cultural enrichment activities. This program also provides access to year-round housing, including housing during the summer before students begin their first fall term. Incoming freshmen and transfer students who enroll in the program are invited to participate in a weeklong residential enrichment program over the summer that is designed to help students successfully transition to UC San Diego.[164]

- The Guardian Scholars Program at CSU Long Beach supports the educational pursuit of students who have experience in the foster care system, who are wards of the court, who are under legal guardianship, or who are unaccompanied homeless youth. Program benefits include academic advising, counseling, tutoring services, on-campus housing assistance, laptop loans, and access to a computer lab. The program also hosts life skills workshops and free educational activities.

It is not always clear to students who are experiencing housing insecurity that they can participate in certain foster youth programs. In a discussion with campus staff at Laney Community College, we learned that students experiencing homelessness can participate in their foster youth program. However, this is not mentioned anywhere on the campus website. Similarly, the foster youth program at CSU Stanislaus accepts homeless youth, but their eligibility is only indicated on the downloadable application form—not on the foster youth program's webpages. In addition, some campuses that have inclusive foster youth programs mention the eligibility of housing insecure students on separate eligibility webpages but do not mention it on their program homepages. All of these barriers may make it difficult for students experiencing housing insecurity to know that they can participate in and benefit from the inclusive foster youth programs on their campuses.

Housing insecure students may not know about their eligibility for certain foster youth programs.

Inclusive foster youth programs have varying requirements that students who have experience with housing insecurity must meet in order to be eligible to participate. Programs with lower barriers to participation allow any student who previously experienced, who is currently experiencing, or who is at risk of experiencing homelessness to participate. At CSU Maritime, for example, any students who experienced homelessness are eligible to participate the Strength, Achievement, Independence, & Leadership (SAIL) Scholars program.[165] In contrast, programs with higher barriers to participation require students to have verification of their status as an "unaccompanied homeless youth," which can be provided by school district liaisons, certain homeless service providers, or college financial aid administrators.[166] Of the 18 inclusive foster youth programs identified in this study, 6 programs specify that students must be an "unaccompanied homeless youth" in order to be eligible. Not all students experiencing housing insecurity have this documented verification or know how to obtain it, making this requirement a potential barrier to program participation.

In examining 82 of California's public colleges and universities, this study identified two homeless youth programs which exclusively target students experiencing homelessness:

- City College of San Francisco's Homeless At-Risk Transitional Students Programs aims to "remove barriers to academic success for students who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing housing insecurity." To be eligible, students must submit documentation verifying their homelessness. Program participants have access to educational supports like academic advising, supplemental textbook assistance, and a computer lab. To promote basic needs security, students can receive meal vouchers, housing leads, needs assessments, referrals to on- and off-campus resources, and assistance in applying for a three-month stay at a local emergency shelter.[167]

- At Risk Community for Homeless Educational Services (ARCHES) at Antelope Valley College serves students who are experiencing homelessness. Located in the Student Life Office, ARCHES provides welcome kits, referrals, and peer mentoring. Campus staff help ARCHES' participants connect with other campus resources that provide free textbook rentals, childcare opportunities, bus passes, and lightly used professional clothing. The location of ARCHES is also where students can pick up day bags of groceries, which are distributed through the ASO Hearts & Hands Pantry.[168]

Examples of coordinated basic needs services, which provide case management and basic needs resources to students experiencing basic needs insecurity:

- Transitional Services at Chaffey College supports the success of students experiencing food and housing insecurity by connecting them with resources. Beyond providing access to shower facilities on campus, this program also provides students with personal care products and bath towels. Students in need can also receive gas gift cards, grocery store gift cards, free sit-down meals several times a month, book vouchers, access to the Panther Pantry, and referrals to campus and community resources.[169]

- Pioneers for H.O.P.E. at CSU East Bay is an intervention program that unites numerous basic needs efforts in order to serve students experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and other crisis situations. Students can either reach out to the Program Coordinator or fill out forms available on the Pioneers for H.O.P.E. homepage in order to access emergency grants, emergency housing, free prepared meals, short-term loans, and the campus food pantry.[170]

- The Basic Needs and Emergency Intervention Program at CSU Channel Islands aims to provide "assistance to every student that is experiencing a 'basic need' insecurity." To address food insecurity, this program provides students with limited meal cards to a campus eatery, coordinates the CSU Channel Islands Dolphin Pantry, and offers CalFresh application assistance. Eligible students with demonstrated need can also receive up to $750 in emergency grant funds and up to ten days of emergency housing. To access these resources, students can either directly contact program staff or complete the program's Self-Referral Form online.[171]

- The Economic Crisis Response Team at UCLA supports students who have self-identified (or who are identified by faculty or staff) as experiencing a financial crisis that impacts their academic success. This multi-disciplinary team meets twice a week to discuss cases of students in financial crisis, where "each member provides insight based on their specific position to assist in the resolution of each student case." Students in need can contact the ECRT Case Coordinator directly or complete an ECRT Self-Assessment Form to begin the case management process. In addition to referrals, this program provides up to 20 UCLA Dining Meal Vouchers per quarter and up to $4,000 in emergency grant funds to students who have demonstrated need.[172]

Conclusion

The life experiences and barriers to college completion for foster youth and for students experiencing housing insecurity overlap in many ways. Both student groups benefit from programs that help them meet their basic needs, support their academic endeavors, and create opportunities to build community. Programs for foster youth are prevalent at California's public institutions, with over half of the 50 California Community Colleges examined and nearly all of California's public universities having these programs. In contrast, only 28 percent of the 50 CCCs examined and 66 percent of California's public universities offer programs specifically for students who have experience with housing insecurity. Three types of programs target students experiencing housing insecurity: inclusive foster youth programs, homeless youth programs, and coordinated basic needs services. Coordinated basic needs services and inclusive foster youth programs are more common, while homeless youth programs are rare. Two barriers to participating in inclusive foster youth programs include a lack of clarity concerning homeless student eligibility and required documentation verifying a student's status as an unaccompanied homeless youth.

Coordinated Institutional Responses to Basic Needs Insecurity

KEY FINDINGS

▶ All of the UCs, nearly all of the CSUs, and one third of the 50 CCCs examined have at least one work group, taskforce, committee, or other group of campus staff, faculty, and/or leadership—and possibly students—that aims to understand and address basic needs insecurity on their campus.

▶ Stakeholders in California's public higher education institutions are also engaged in numerous efforts across systems and system-wide to help students establish basic needs security.

Defining Coordinated Institutional Responses

A "coordinated institutional response to basic needs insecurity" refers to a group of campus staff, faculty, and/or leadership that aims to better understand and address basic needs insecurity on their campus. Students may also be engaged with these campus-wide efforts. Coordinated institutional responses take many forms including committees, working groups, task forces, initiatives, projects, programs, coalitions, advisory boards, groups, and teams. These groups usually meet regularly, such as monthly or quarterly. While some coordinated institutional responses have a single focus, others aim to address numerous aspects of students' basic needs.

Notably, campuses may focus on basic needs insecurity without forming a separate work group, task force, or committee. Existing groups, such as a committee focused on student equity, may be working to increase students' access to food and housing on their campus. Due to resource constraints, only campuses with a work group, task force, committee, or other type of group that specifically focuses on basic needs insecurity were counted in this study.

Prevalence of Coordinated Institutional Responses

Nearly all of California's public universities are responding to basic needs insecurity on their campuses in coordinated, institutionalized ways. Specifically, all of the UCs and 22 of the 23 CSUs have at least one work group, task force, committee, or other group of campus staff, faculty, and/or leadership—and possibly students—that aims to understand and address basic needs insecurity on their campus (see Figure 23). In contrast, only 16 of the 50 CCCs examined have coordinated institutional responses.

Examples of coordinated institutional responses to basic needs insecurity at the campus level:

- Shasta College's Housing and Food Insecurity Task Force exists to better understand the landscape of student homelessness on their campus, share opportunities for partnership and funding, establish collaborations that fill

Only 16 of the 50 CCCs examined have coordinated institutional responses to basic needs insecurity.

FIGURE 23: *Nearly all of California's public universities are responding to basic needs insecurity on their campuses in coordinated, institutionalized ways*

CCC (n=50) — 32%

CSU (n=23) — 96%

UC (n=9) — 100%
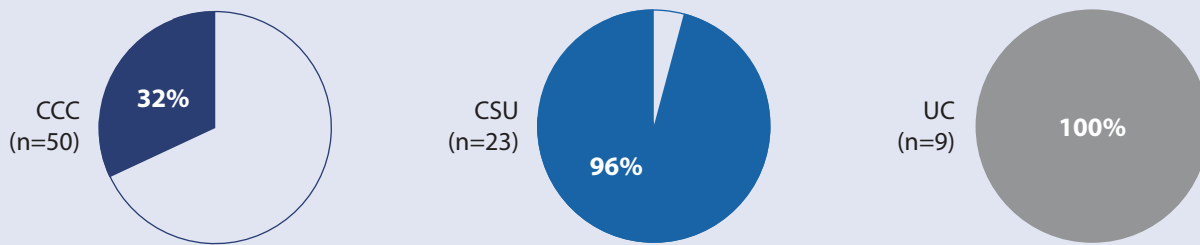
resource gaps, and help students establish basic needs security. This open group consists of community members and campus administrators, staff, faculty, and students.[173]

- The City College Food Pantry Work Group consists of faculty, staff, students, and community members committed to addressing student food insecurity at City College of San Francisco. In 2017, the work group surveyed about 1,100 students and learned that 41 percent were food insecure. In response, the work group created food shelves which distribute free snacks at six locations around campus. The work group also partnered with the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank to launch a pop-up food pantry, called the Rams Food Market, which offers students a variety of free produce once a week.[174]

- Humboldt State University's Basic Needs Committee—which consists of faculty, staff, and students—aims to define, understand, and address basic needs issues on their campus. Past accomplishments include creating a meal-sharing program, an emergency housing program, and a campus thrift store. Current efforts include creating lactation spaces on campus for nursing mothers and increasing CalFresh enrollment.

- In response to concerns expressed by students, UC Davis Chancellor Gary May assembled three task forces consisting of students, staff, and faculty in early 2018.[175] These task forces formed recommendations on ways to meet students' needs in mental health care, food access, and affordable housing.[176] Next, the chancellor appointed the Basic Needs Oversight Committee to review the recommendations, identify potential challenges and ways to address them, and track implementation progress.[177] A year-end assessment by the oversight committee found that UC Davis had successfully created many new resources and is working on a variety of new projects relating to basic needs. The current project includes developing a community housing liaison, emergency housing on campus, and an app which will inform students about free food after events on campus.[178]

Institutions may also be engaged in numerous other system-wide efforts to help students establish basic needs security:

- In 2018, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges co-hosted a two-day Basic Needs Summit in Sacramento. The event brought together CCC faculty, staff, and administrators as well as subject matter experts to discuss policies, partnerships, and practices that best help students meet their basic needs.[179]

- The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, in partnership with the Community College League of California, offers annual #RealCollege membership to California's community colleges. Members of #RealCollege-California receive assistance with grant proposals, program evaluation, and strategic planning as well as other benefits that support campus efforts to meet students' basic needs.[180]

- The Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges Board's Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce was established to provide system-wide recommendations to address student food and housing insecurity. To do this, executive-level community college leaders are reviewing research literature and engaging in discussions with both scholars and students with lived experience of homelessness.[181]

- The CSU Basic Needs Initiative is tasked with identifying and implementing solutions to support students' basic needs, with a focus on food and housing insecurity. In addition to extensively evaluating basic needs insecurity on its campuses, the initiative has taken inventory of actions that campuses have taken to help meet students' needs. The Basic Needs Initiative also facilitates the sharing of resources and best practices between researchers, faculty, and other stakeholders in order to help them determine and implement sustainable solutions as quickly as possible.[182]

- The UC Special Committee on Basic Needs aims to provide leadership on the development of strategies that address housing, financial, and food insecurity at its nine universities.[183] The UC Board of Regents members and advisors on this committee are evaluating the extent and impacts of basic needs insecurity. They are also reviewing basic needs efforts occurring on individual campuses and system-wide.[184]

- The California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance advances student food and housing security through research, advocacy, partnerships, and the sharing of evidence-based solutions to ultimately increase student success. The Alliance consists of representatives from all three of California's public higher education systems, all three system-level student associations, several research and advocacy organizations, and a state government agency.

In addition to coordinated institutional responses occurring on campuses and system-wide, campus staff and leadership may be participating in regional efforts to address housing challenges that impact both students and the broader community. Due to resource constraints, the number of campuses participating in regional efforts to address housing insecurity were not assessed in this study.

Student governments are taking action to better understand and respond to student needs. California's system-wide student associations support students experiencing food and housing insecurity both indirectly—by advocating for the expansion of financial aid and against tuition increases—and directly—by advocating for the provision of additional services and resources:

- Student Senate for California Community Colleges' 2018–2019 legislative priorities include food and housing insecurity. SSCCC also supports a bill that would allow CCC students experiencing homelessness to park overnight on campus.[185]

Student governments are taking action to better understand and respond to student needs.

- The Cal State Student Association is engaged in state advocacy that advances student food and housing security, including supporting bills that provide services and housing options for students experiencing homelessness, promote enrollment in CalFresh, and expand financial aid.[186]

- In addition to advocating for more financial aid, the University of California Student Association supports state bills related to housing, food, and mental health services for University of California students. UCSA is also actively advocating for basic needs funding initiatives through the UC Regents Special Committee on Basic Needs.

Associated student bodies on individual campuses are also taking action to support students in need. While the number of associated student bodies that prioritize student food and housing insecurity were not counted in this study, the involvement of local student governments is evident in that many directly provide resources like emergency grants, short-term loans, and food pantries to help their peers.

Conclusion

All of the UCs, nearly all of the CSUs, and one third of the 50 CCCs examined have at least one work group, task force, committee, or other group of campus staff, faculty, and/or leadership—and possibly students—that aims to understand and address basic needs insecurity on their campuses. Institutions may also be engaged in other efforts including the UC Special Committee on Basic Needs, Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce, and California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance. Student groups also recognize the importance of advancing basic need security and have generated much of the momentum leading to new research, policy, and programs. All three system-wide student governments advocate for supports for students experiencing food and housing insecurity. In addition, many associated student bodies on individual campuses directly provide resources like emergency grants, short-term loans, and food pantries to help their peers.

California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance

Exploring Differences between California's Public Higher Education Systems

Differences in the amount of basic needs resources at California's public higher education institutions are reflective of their financial realities. All three systems receive funds from the state of California, the federal government, revenue-generating enterprises, and tuition and fees.[187] Yet, compared to the CCCs, California's public universities have more core funds per full-time equivalent (FTE) student (see Table 5). In 2017–2018, the total California Community College core funds was about $15 billion, or $13,244 for each FTE student. Although the CSU system had less core funds at about $7 billion that same year, they also had fewer students.[188] Consequently, funding for each FTE CSU student was about $4,000 higher than the CCC, at $17,182.[189] The UC system had more core funds than the CSU system and even less students, resulting in $32,381 for each FTE UC student—more than twice the funds per FTE CCC student.[190]

TABLE 5: *Compared to the CCCs, California's public universities have more core funds per full-time equivalent student (2017–2018)*

	Approximate Core Funds	Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students	Approximate Funding per FTE Student
California Community College	$14,903,000,000	1,125,224	$13,244
California State University	$7,046,000,000	410,060	$17,182
University of California	$8,811,000,000	272,104	$32,381

Source: The California Legislative Analyst's Office, The 2019–2020 Budget: Higher Education Analysis (2019)

California's public universities may be able to offer more basic needs resources than the community colleges because they have more robust and more numerous revenue-generating enterprises compared to community colleges. For example, student housing facilities generate revenue while providing an essential service to students. All of the CSUs and UCs manage student housing facilities compared to just 8 percent of the 114 CCCs.[191] The University of California system generates a sizable portion of their total annual budget from its five medical centers, sales and services (including bookstores and extended education), federal research contracts, and patent royalty income.[192] California's public universities may also receive greater funds each year from private donations compared to the California Community Colleges. In 2017–2018, the University of California system raised about $2.8 billion in private support, and the California State University system raised about $310 million in private support.[193] The amount of private donations received by California's community colleges in 2017–2018 is not known, but national trends suggest that they do not receive as much as their public four-year

California's public universities have more robust and more numerous revenue-generating enterprises.

counterparts. According to a study by the Council for Aid to Education, higher education institutions nationwide raised $43.6 billion in charitable gift dollars in 2017; only 1.5 percent of that money—or $654 million—went to the nations' public and private two-year institutions.[194]

Variations in resident and nonresident tuition may also contribute to differences in institutions' ability to invest in services and resources for their students. Tuition for undergraduates taking a full course load and paying in-state tuition is the highest at the UCs, at $12,570 in the 2018–2019 academic year.[195] At the CSUs, full-time in-state tuition is much less, at $5,742 that same year.[196] In contrast, the CCCs charge $1,380 in enrollment fees ($46 per unit of credit multiplied by 30 units per academic year).[197] Independent of how students' tuition costs are ultimately paid for (such as through personal savings, grants, fellowships, work-study, or loans), California's public universities receive significantly greater funds per FTE student from resident student tuition.[198]

Undergraduate students who are considered "nonresidents" for tuition purposes further augment funding differences. Nonresident students enroll at much higher rates at the UCs, and somewhat higher rates at the CSUs, compared to the CCCs. They also pay higher tuition at California's public universities compared to the state's community colleges. The UC system successfully attracts a high amount of nonresident students, who made up 18 percent of UC full-time undergraduates in Fall 2018 and who pay an additional $28,992 in annual tuition.[199] The approximately 5 percent of nonresident undergraduates at the CSU pay $396 per semester unit or $264 per quarter unit in addition to the regular CSU in-state tuition.[200] At the recommended progress of 30 units per academic year, nonresident undergraduates at the CSU pay an additional $11,880 per academic year.[201] About four percent of California Community College students are nonresidents.[202] On average, CCC students pay $8,841 more in enrollment fees than their peers with California residency.[203]

Conclusion

California's public universities may be able to offer more basic needs resources than the community colleges because they have more core funds per full-time equivalent student and more generous, robust revenue-generating enterprises compared to the community colleges. The UCs and CSUs also generate greater funds from resident and nonresident tuition, and they likely receive significantly greater private donations each year compared to the community colleges. As a result, California's public universities have a greater financial capacity to invest in basic needs resources for their students.

The CSUs and UCs receive significantly greater funds from resident and nonresident tuition.

Conclusions and Recommendations

When students lack sufficient funds to both meet their basic needs and pay for college-related expenses, they must make difficult choices between their present and their future. Recent studies have found that the challenges of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness are all too common at California's public colleges and universities. Leadership, staff, faculty, and student groups within California's three public higher education systems are responding to basic needs insecurity on multiple levels—across systems, system-wide, and campus-wide. Lawmakers have also responded in recent years by passing legislation to increase the accessibility and provision of basic needs resources.

As a result of these collective efforts, free grocery distribution, advisors for foster youth, and advisors for students experiencing housing insecurity are prevalent at the CCCs, CSUs, and UCs. In addition, the majority of California's public universities offer emergency grants, short-term loans, CalFresh application assistance, programs targeting foster youth, year-round student housing, and emergency housing. Nevertheless, a paradox persists; the highest need students are overwhelmingly enrolled in California's community colleges, yet the community colleges have significantly fewer basic needs resources. Only 2 of the 50 CCCs examined offer the possibility of year-round student housing, and just 1 community college offers campus-provided emergency housing. Similarly, less than one third of the CCCs examined have programs that target students experiencing housing insecurity compared to two thirds of California's public universities. The California Community Colleges are also less likely to offer free prepared meals, food recovery programs, any kind of emergency funds, and programs targeting foster youth.

California's public higher education institutions offer many services and resources to help students meet their basic needs, but much work remains to close resource gaps—especially where food and housing needs are the greatest. Supporting the academic success of students from all economic backgrounds will require collaboration, strategic action, and significant investment.

Expand access to year-round student housing. Five of the 50 CCCs examined in this study and 8 of the 23 CSUs close their student housing facilities at some point throughout the year without offering their student residents alternative housing accommodations. These campuses should either keep their housing facilities open year-round or make low-cost or free alternative housing accommodations for student residents in need of housing when housing facilities are closed. Additionally, campuses that offer student housing should ensure that receiving year-round housing is a streamlined, straightforward process. This process should be communicated to all potential and current student residents early on in their postsecondary career.

Increase the availability and affordability of student housing. In California's competitive rental market, student housing can help undergraduates

meet their basic needs. California's community colleges provide an afford-able, accessible pathway into the state's public universities, yet very few CCCs offer student housing. All of the CSUs and UCs offer student housing, yet this housing is in short supply and is sometimes more expensive than off-cam-pus housing options. Increasing the availability and affordability of student housing in all three public higher education systems would stabilize the lives of students experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homeless-ness—ultimately supporting their academic success.

Fund and evaluate housing interventions for students experiencing homelessness. Unstably housed students face substantial barriers to de-gree completion and would benefit from successful housing interventions. However, best practices on housing interventions for college students have not yet been determined. The State of California and the three public high-er education systems should invest in pilot projects that promote housing security, and evaluate the success of these projects in order to inform future investments.

Allow students who previously experienced, who are currently experi-encing, or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness to participate in foster youth programs on their campuses. Both foster youth and un-stably housed students benefit from programs that help them meet their basic needs, support their academic endeavors, and create opportunities to build meaningful relationships. Allowing students who have experience with homelessness to participate in foster youth programs would increase their access to supportive resources and services, particularly at the California Community Colleges where about 6 in 10 campuses have programs that tar-get foster youth but only about 3 in 10 have programs that target students experiencing housing insecurity. In addition, program eligibility should be clearly communicated on campus websites and should not be restricted to students who have documentation verifying their status as an "unaccompa-nied homeless youth."

Create or engage with existing regional learning communities. Low-in-come undergraduates are one of many communities in need of housing. California's public campuses are part of a larger region; they both impact and are impacted by local housing markets. Given this scope, the CCCs, CSUs, and UCs should create or engage with existing regional learning communities that bring together government entities, nonprofit service providers, and local policymakers to better understand and address basic needs insecurity. Using a region-wide perspective, these ongoing learning communities can host dialogues on best practices, evaluate community needs and best prac-tices, map existing assets, and strategize solutions.

Support studies that monitor the implementation of basic needs-relat-ed legislation. Several key pieces of state legislation have passed in recent years that aim to promote the food and housing security of college students on California's public campuses. However, the full implementation of these laws is not being systematically evaluated. For example, this study found that

6 in 10 CCCs have programs that target foster youth but only about 3 in 10 have programs that target students experiencing housing insecurity.

several CCCs and CSUs have no advisors for students experiencing homelessness, despite AB 801 requirements. It appears that the formal request made by lawmakers through AB 1228—that all of California's public campuses develop housing plans for their neediest student residents—has not yet been fulfilled; 13 campuses offer student housing but make no accommodations for student residents during housing facility closures. Additionally, a recent survey of CCC homeless liaisons found that less than half (42 percent) of the respondents know about AB 1228, making a lack of awareness another barrier to full implementation. SB 85 funds for food resources have been distributed to California's public colleges and universities. How have these funds impacted the rate of students experiencing food insecurity? Research studies are needed to determine when full implementation of these laws is achieved and measure the resulting impacts on basic need security.

Support research that explores basic needs issues in general. This study evaluates the prevalence of basic needs resources offered at California's public campuses, but many questions remain. More research is needed to understand what other resources students experiencing basic need insecurity identify as important, what resources these students know about and utilize, and the quality of these resources. Additional studies can shed light on best practices that successfully support students in meeting their basic needs and shed light on practices that need to be improved. Dialogues with students can also inform practitioners about how to increase the awareness, accessibility, and impacts of basic needs resources.

Appendix

Research Methodology for Evaluating Basic Needs Resources at California's Public Colleges & Universities

Resource	Definition	Detailed Criterion	Search Terms
Year-Round Student Housing	Students having the option to stay in student housing during winter break, spring break, summer term, and transition times leading up to and immediately following the summer term (i.e. pre- and post-summer breaks).	Campuses that close student housing facilities for a period of time must provide or coordinate alternative housing arrangements. Student housing must be operated by the campus.	*Website searches were not conducted. Data were collected through phone calls and/or emails with campus staff.*
Emergency Housing	Campuses directly provide housing accommodations to students who are currently experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.	Any undergraduate can apply.	Homeless student Housing insecurity Emergency housing Basic needs
Emergency Grants	Cash aid that does not have to be repaid, that can be obtained outside of normal financial aid processes, and that students can use to alleviate food or housing insecurity.	Emergency grants only available to students in specific situations (such as being diagnosed with a terminal illness or a victim of a natural disaster) were not counted.	Emergency: • student fund • grant • scholarship
Short-Term Loans	Cash aid that must be repaid, that can be obtained outside of normal financial aid processes, that is available at any point throughout the academic year, and that students can use to alleviate food or housing insecurity.	Emergency books loans were not counted.	Loan: • short-term • emergency
Grocery Distribution	The regular (at least monthly) distribution of fresh and/or shelf-stable food occurring on campus such as monthly grocery giveaways, campus food pantries, and free pop-up farmers markets.	Any undergraduate can access these resources.	Basic needs Hungry student Food insecurity Food pantry Grocery distribution
Free Prepared Meals	A campus having an institutionalized process of providing free, ready-to-eat, fresh meals (that have not already been served and that are not about to expire) to students who are experiencing food insecurity. This includes students being given access to on-campus eateries and students receiving gift cards to grocery stores or fast food restaurants.	Prepared meals available only to certain students (based on demographics or participation in specific programs) were not counted in this study unless students were required to be in a program that targets students experiencing homelessness.	Basic needs Hungry student Food insecurity Food pantry Grocery distribution Free: • meals • food Meal voucher

Resource	Definition	Detailed Criterion	Search Terms
Food Recovery	An institutionalized process of: 1. informing students about free food that is available to them after catered campus events and/or 2. collecting and re-distributing edible prepared food (that would have otherwise been thrown away) to students.		Basic needs Hungry student Food insecurity Free: • meals • food
CalFresh Application Assistance	Students having access to campus staff, trained students, and/or Cal-Fresh enrollment specialists from local government agencies who provide assistance with CalFresh enrollment at least once a month on campus.		CalFresh SNAP
Advisors for Foster Youth	A campus has at least one employee whose explicit job is to provide advice, counseling, mentorship, and/or assistance to students who have experience in the foster care system.	Campuses that have any kind of program targeting foster youth were automatically counted as having advisors for this student population.	Foster youth: • advisor • liaison • mentor
Advisors for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity	A campus has at least one employee whose explicit job is to provide advice, counseling, mentorship, and/or assistance to students who previously experienced, are currently experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness or other forms of housing insecurity.	Campuses that have any kind of program targeting students experiencing housing insecurity were automatically counted as having advisors for this student population.	Homeless: • advisor • liaison • mentor • youth Basic needs Homelessness • housing insecurity
Programs for Foster Youth	A program on campus that primarily serves students who have experience in the foster care system.	Programs must have at least two of the following: dedicated staff, resources (such as transportation assistance, school supplies, financial aid for housing, emergency grants, or free meals), or services (such as counseling, advising, tutoring, events, or workshops).	Foster youth: • program • center
Programs for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity	**Inclusive Foster Youth Program**: A program targeting foster youth and students who have experience with homelessness. Provides dedicated staff, resources, services, and opportunities for community building. **Homeless Youth Program**: A program exclusively targeting students who have experience with homelessness. Provides dedicated staff, resources, and services. **Coordinated Basic Needs Services**: A program targeting students experiencing material hardship including financial crisis, food insecurity, and/or housing insecurity. Provides case management and basic needs resources. Numerous resources exist within a single basic-needs project or initiative.		Homeless student: • program • center Homeless youth Basic needs Homelessness Housing insecurity

Resource	Definition	Detailed Criterion	Search Terms	
Coordinated Institutional Responses	A group of campus staff, faculty, and/or leadership that aims to better understand and address basic needs insecurity on their campus.		Phrase 1 • food housing • basic needs • homeless • insecurity	Phrase 2 • workgroup • committee • taskforce • initiative

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