



Investigating
Non-Tuition
Needs among
community
college **STEM**
students

Communicating About Your Basic Needs Resources



David Thompson & Stacy J. Priniski

Introduction

This resource is organized into chapters based on audience.

- Communicating with:
 - Students
 - Faculty & Staff
 - Leadership
 - Community
 - Policymakers
 - Funders
- *All of the images that refer to webpages are “clickable”/hyperlinked.*



Communicating with Students



Students can only utilize resources if they know about them! The best awareness-building strategy is to use multiple communication channels. In addition to the examples provided here, consider adding information about basic needs resources to your email signature, your syllabi, and your welcome packet for new/returning students.



Campus Webpages

The screenshot shows the website for the GSU4U initiative at Governors State University. The header includes the university logo and navigation links: About, Academics, Admissions & Aid, Campus Life, and Centers & Culture. The main content area features a central graphic with the text "GSU4U" and "CONNECTING STUDENTS TO SUPPORT SERVICES". Surrounding this are ten circular icons representing different support services: Academic & Career, Financial, Housing, Emotional Support, Health & Wellness, Personal Care, Food, Child Care, and Advocating for Sexual Assault Prevention. A sidebar on the left lists various CWC (Counseling and Wellness Center) services. At the bottom, there is a statement: "We are here to assist the GovState community!"

Combining academic and non-academic resources is normalizing

For many students, your campus website will be the first place they look for resources. Simple, eye-catching visuals organized by the need area are user-friendly.

What's New?

Taxes

Free Tax Preparation & Tax Credit Information

Tax preparation resources- Free online filing. Learn more about Working Families Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, and Child Tax Credit. (Whatcom Asset Building Coalition)

Free in-person support- tax filing assistance in Bellingham (AARP Tax-Aide)

Childcare

New Childcare Scholarship for Students in Aerospace-Related Programs at BTC!

Up to \$5000 for childcare in 2025-26 from Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace

Make regular updates



System & State Webpages



Student Basic Needs

The colleges and universities of Minnesota State are here to support students through every step of their educational journey. Our students are people first, and their lives are complex. Students face challenges that make progress towards their academic goals difficult, including mental health, grief and loss, housing and food insecurity, as well as challenges related to child and family care, transportation, and access to technology. Our students overcome many challenges and obstacles to achieve personal and academic success, and Minnesota State is committed to help them navigate their lives and their commitments to learning.

Students who access basic needs support and resources are more likely to experience academic success and persist to graduation.

You've got this. We've got you.

Basic Needs Resource Hub

Minnesota State has partnered with United Way 211 to establish a statewide basic needs resource hub. The basic needs resource hub provides Minnesota State students access to basic needs resources and support available on their campus and in their community via phone, text, or chat 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

United Way 211 provides **free and confidential** health and human services information. They are available the resources and information you need. If you're looking for information about services available in your area, contact United Way 211.

Text **MNHELP** to 898-211(TXT211) or call 211 (toll free at 1-800-543-7709) to speak with one of their highly trained staff members. They are completely confidential, and they have call menus in English, Spanish, and Hmong. Interpreters are also available.



PA EmpowerU

Resources for Pennsylvania College Student Basic Needs

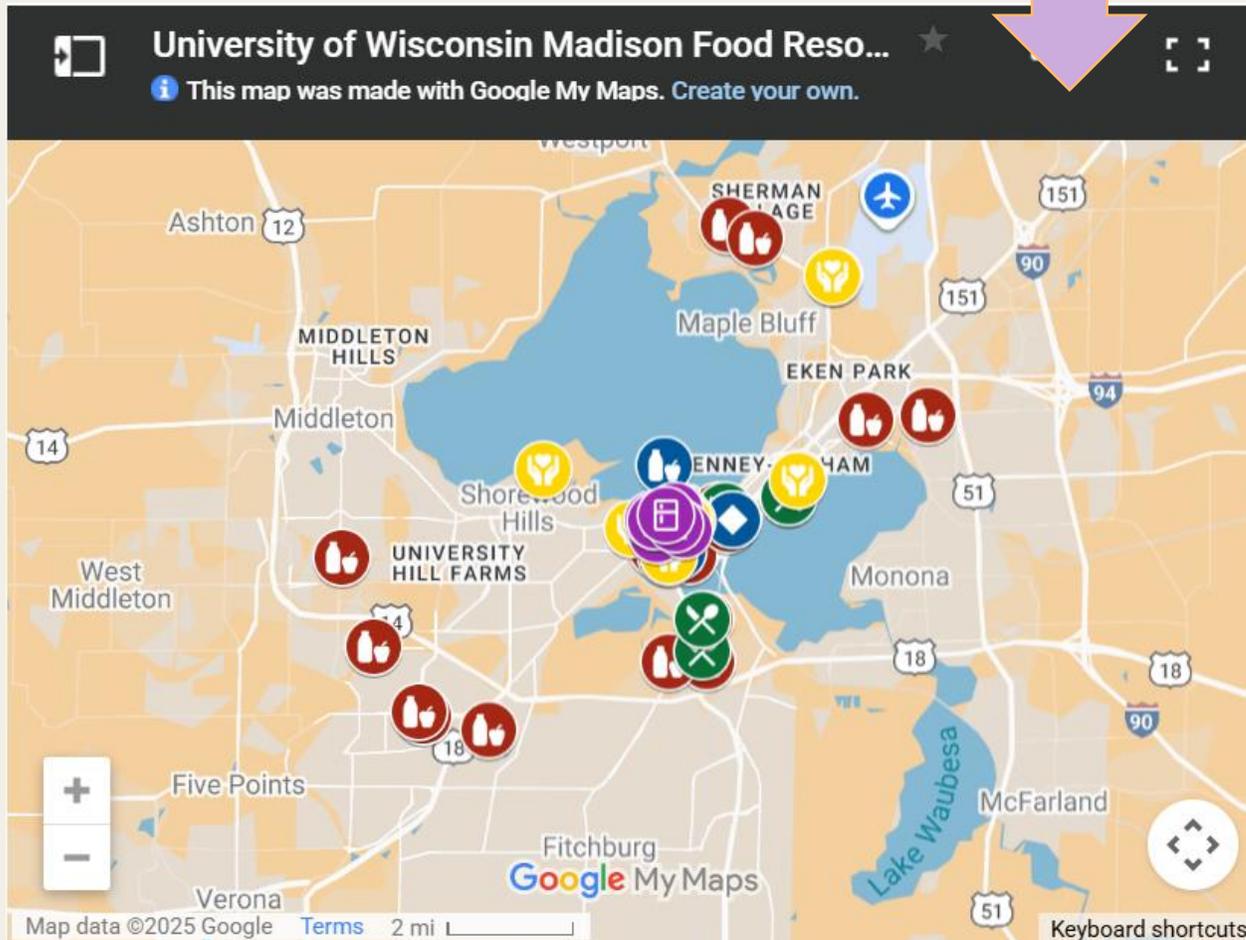
[PA EmpowerU Resources for Institutional Leaders →](#)

Systems and states can host general resources and link to campus-specific pages. Having your pages linked to each other also helps search engines find your information.



Campus Resource Maps & Guides

Combine information about multiple resources into user-friendly guides.



Metropolitan Campus Student Resource Guide

Looking for support in reaching your academic goals?
Not sure where to find what you need?
Check out our Metropolitan Campus resources.

I'm having trouble meeting my basic needs.

The **Student Food Bank/Pantry** on each Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C*) campus provides food and toiletries to students in need, helping them stay in school and meet their educational goals. The Metro Pantry is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Learn more at tri-c.edu/foodbank. South Concourse MMTA G083 | 216-987-2251

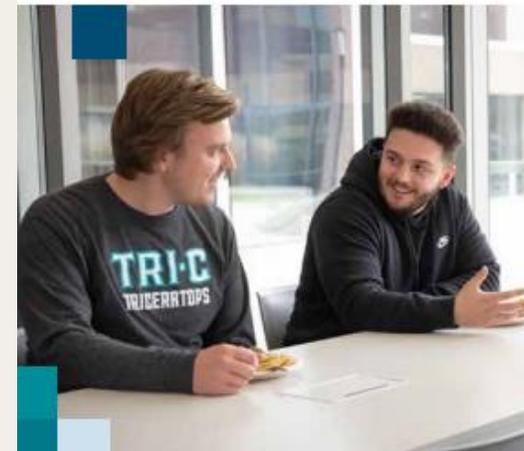


Project GO! provides free services and additional resources to ease financial challenges for qualified students. The program eliminates barriers to education by connecting students with food and housing assistance, child care, utility assistance and health care needs. Learn more at tri-c.edu/projectgo. MSS 23 | 216-987-6000 (Option #2)

RTA U-Pass

Tri-C supports the RTA Student Universal Pass (U-Pass) program. U-Pass allows Tri-C students to ride free on all RTA buses and trains throughout the academic semesters and sessions. Learn more at tri-c.edu/rta.

[Live Chat](#)



Campus & Community Resource Fair

MONDAY SEPT 22 2025 **LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR**

-POPCORN-
-ICE CREAM-
-FARMERS MARKET-
-COOKING DEMO-
-GIVEAWAYS-

MEET (YOUR) COMMUNITY AGENCIES READY TO SUPPORT AND HELP MAKE (YOUR) CAMPUS LIFE A BIT EASIER.

You bring the effort, we bring the support!

JAMES T. ATHERTON GYMNASIUM BUILDING 8
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

HOSTED BY THE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUPPORT & INTERVENTION

LUZERNE
County Community College

Your Community. Your Campus.

Resource fairs are a great way to introduce students to community partners and lay the groundwork for future warm handoffs.

Snacks or prizes for visiting all the tables make it fun!

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR



PUNCH CARD

Step 1: Visit Community Partners
Collect a punch from each table you visit.

CareerLink

Luzerne County Assistance Office

Catherine McAuley Center

LCCC Dental

Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO)

LCCC Financial Aid

Children's Service Center

Luzerne County Head Start

Cross Valley Federal Credit Union

Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA)

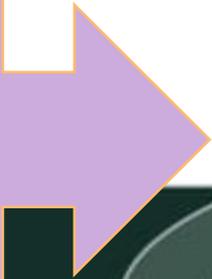
Domestic Violence

Maternal & Family Health Services



Campus Resource Tutorials

Videos made by students, for students can help introduce them to resources, so they know what to expect.



Live Virtual Support

Click the link below to connect with a UH Basic Needs Café Assistant who can help UH students with locating and securing basic needs including food, housing and financial resources. Café hours are Sunday to Thursday from 8pm to midnight.

[NEW VIRTUAL BASIC NEEDS CAFE](#)

Students are also welcome to reach out via email uhsbn@hawaii.edu. Responses are provided promptly during café hours.

Virtual drop-in spaces and meetings are a great option for online students and students who visit campus infrequently to learn about available resources. They can also help to expand capacity beyond regular business hours for students who have classes, work, or other obligations during the day.



Visible Responses to Data & Feedback

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the University of South Alabama website. The header includes the USA logo and the text "UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA FLAGSHIP OF THE GULF COAST." on the left, and "Logins", "A-Z", and a search icon on the right. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with links for "Full Menu", "Programs", "Admission", and "Donate". A left-hand navigation menu lists "COM Home", "Administration", "M.D. Program", "Ph.D. Program", "Postdoctoral Fellows", "Residents & Fellows", and "Faculty & Staff". The main content area features a banner for the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine with the text "You asked. We listened." and a graphic of four arrows pointing right, with the text "You asked... ..We listened." overlaid.

Students who take surveys or fill out feedback forms often wonder whether anyone will actually **do** anything with their responses. Show you care by explicitly sharing out your findings and your action plan.

Communicating with Faculty & Staff



Students are most likely to seek help from people they already know and trust. Because of their frequent interactions, faculty and student-facing staff are also often the first to notice that a student may need support. Equip them with the knowledge and tools to identify signs of need and connect students with available resources.



Training & Professional Development Opportunities

Basic Needs Services Training

📅 Tuesday, February 25, 2020 ⌚ 4:30pm - 5:30pm

📍 Procrastinator Theater in Strand Union Building

[RSVP FOR THIS EVENT](#)

[+iCal](#) [Gcal](#)



The Bounty of the Bridgers MSU Food Pantry and CrashPad Crisis Housing Program are launching a training for staff, faculty, and students that will:

- Give you information on programs that support housing and food security on campus
- Help you identify students who may be housing or food insecure
- Provide tools to guide tough conversations with students who may be in need and properly refer them

This training will be of use to you if you interact with students on a daily basis on or off campus. You might find this

Dedicated training sessions are a great way to inform faculty and staff about available resources and provide tools to help them successfully connect students with support.



In-Service or Retreat Content

Reflection Questions

5 minutes: on your own

10 minutes: with your neighbor

10 minutes: whole group reports out

- What do you notice (individual data points, patterns/trends/relationships)?
- What is surprising to you? What isn't?
- In the work that you do, what is a tangible action you could take to address an issue that you see?

Leverage existing opportunities—such as in-service, retreat, or welcome back presentations—to build awareness and normalize conversations about student basic needs insecurity.

In-Class Presentations

Don't Cancel That Class

We know that life happens, and it requires faculty to have to cancel classes sometimes. Whether you know far in advance that you have to present at a conference or if you have an unexpected personal matter pop up, there are folks on campus that would love the chance to engage with the audience that is your classroom.

Below is a list of pre-built workshops and presentations provided by your colleagues with skills or expertise in these areas. Select a workshop for a description and access to the request form. Upon completing the form, your submission will be sent to the appropriate workshop facilitator. They will contact you after to confirm, get more details, etc.

Thank you for utilizing this service. The more we can maximize student attention for engagement and learning opportunities, the better!

Select a Session*

Select a session to view a description and submit a "Don't Cancel That Class" request.

- Ally 101
- Food Insecurity
- Intro to Trauma

Prepare a presentation to inform students about available resources. You can schedule a time to visit a class or offer to give the presentation any time an instructor would otherwise need to cancel.



LMS Page or Course Shell

A basic needs course shell or learning management system page is a helpful tool that faculty can use to share resource information across all their classes. This will prevent faculty from having to memorize resource information or make updates each semester AND ensures that students are receiving consistent information.

Highline College

Basic Needs > Pages > Basic Needs Resources

- Home
- IgniteAI Search
- Modules
- Panopto Recordings
- Parchment Badges

Basic Needs Resources

For Highline Students

If you are using a mobile device, it may be better to view this resources page in landscape/horizontal mode.

If you are experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, financial hardship or are in need of other basic needs support, please utilize the resources below.

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Resource Referral Cards & Reminder Bookmark

CARE CARD - (front side)

CARE CARD - (back side)



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

CARE CARD

	University Police Serves and protects the USFSP community, provides safety prevention and preparedness	(727) 873-4444 or 911 Download Safe App	
	Wellness Center Provides medical, psychiatric, counseling, victims advocacy, and prevention services	(727) 873-4422 www.usfsp.edu/wellness	
	Student Outreach & Support Provides care coordination services and linkage to on/off campus resources	(727) 873-4278 www.usfsp.edu/SOS	
	COMPASS One-on-one academic support, peer mentoring, and transitional services	(727) 873-4003 www.usfsp.edu/compass	



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

ALWAYS call 911 or UPD for life threatening issues then seek secondary support. After-hours consultation for medical, counseling, or advocacy needs call (727) 873-4422

When and Where to Seek Help

Mental/Emotional 	Missing Assignments/Exams 
Academic Support 	Social/Peer Connection 
Academic Skills Needs 	Alcohol/Substance Use 
Grief/Loss 	Multiple Life Stressors 
Food Insecurity 	Homelessness 
Suicidal/Self-Harm 	Stress Management Needs 
Stalking/Harassment 	Eating Disorder 
	Bizarre Behavior 



MAAC

Information, Referrals, and Advocacy for:

- Weekly Bus Pass
- Child Care Assistance
- Job Leads / Résumé
- Driver's License Recovery
- Legal Assistance
- Housing
- Dry Goods Food Pantry
- Referrals to Full-Access Food Pantries
- Referrals for Energy and Rent Assistance
- Referrals for FSET Eligibility
- Mental Health / Counseling Services
- Additional Community Resources
- Domestic Violence Advocacy and Support

matc.edu/student/resources/student_resources.cfm

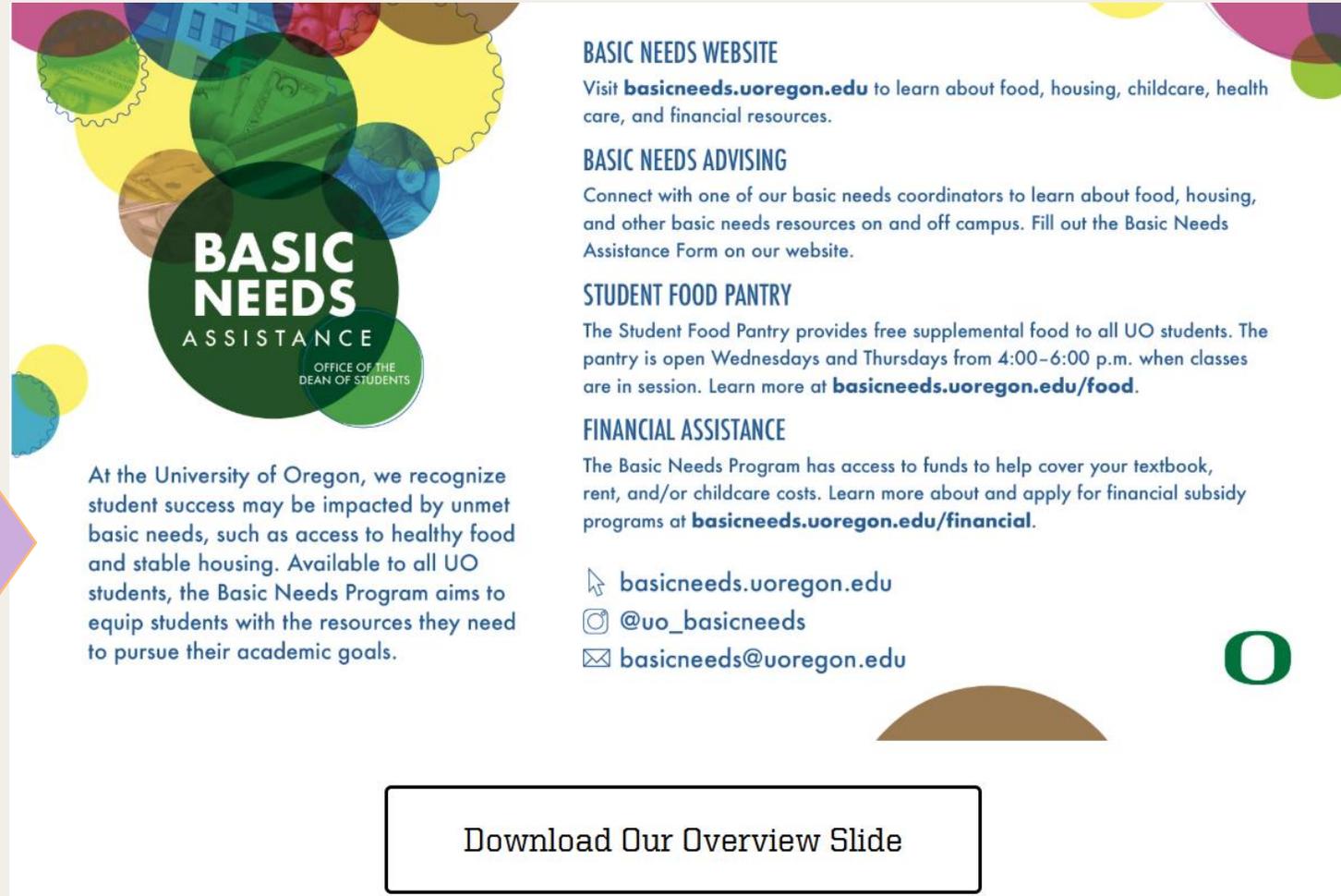
8th Floor Foundation Hall

Faculty and staff can use resource referral cards to help guide their conversations with students. Reminder bookmarks are also helpful tools to refresh their minds about available resources. Both can also be handed out to students.



Student Orientation or First Day of Class Resource Slide

Like an LMS page or course shell, a template basic needs slide enables faculty to share resource information with students without having to worry about constantly creating or updating content.



BASIC NEEDS ASSISTANCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

At the University of Oregon, we recognize student success may be impacted by unmet basic needs, such as access to healthy food and stable housing. Available to all UO students, the Basic Needs Program aims to equip students with the resources they need to pursue their academic goals.

BASIC NEEDS WEBSITE
Visit basicneeds.uoregon.edu to learn about food, housing, childcare, health care, and financial resources.

BASIC NEEDS ADVISING
Connect with one of our basic needs coordinators to learn about food, housing, and other basic needs resources on and off campus. Fill out the Basic Needs Assistance Form on our website.

STUDENT FOOD PANTRY
The Student Food Pantry provides free supplemental food to all UO students. The pantry is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:00–6:00 p.m. when classes are in session. Learn more at basicneeds.uoregon.edu/food.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
The Basic Needs Program has access to funds to help cover your textbook, rent, and/or childcare costs. Learn more about and apply for financial subsidy programs at basicneeds.uoregon.edu/financial.

basicneeds.uoregon.edu
[@uo_basicneeds](https://www.instagram.com/uo_basicneeds)
basicneeds@uoregon.edu

[Download Our Overview Slide](#)



Communicating with Leadership

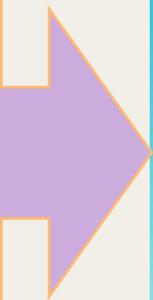


Whether you are building consensus that basic needs services should be a part of the campus strategic plan or advocating for a budget increase, preparation is key. Institutional leaders are short on time and long on competing priorities. A strong presentation can be paired with a one-pager, handout, or brochure.



Sharing Current Efforts & Pursuing Additional Resources

Get to know your leadership, what motivates them, and what evidence they find compelling. Make a case for what you need and outline a strong plan with outcome metrics.



MOORPARK COLLEGE

IMPLEMENTATION OF A BASIC NEEDS CENTER

Presented by the MC Basic Needs Workgroup
Anaisa Alonzo, Johnny Conley, Howard Davis, Kim Korinke, Sharon Manakas,
Vance Manakas, Marnie Melendez, Kristen Robinson, Claudia Sitlington,
and Maria Thayer, with support from Emma Hawes, Matthew Morgan, and Ruth Bennington

OUR MAIN TOPICS TODAY

- What does it mean to address students' basic needs?
- Management and location of a Basic Needs Center
- Financing and sustainability of a Basic Needs Center
- Implementation and assessment of a Basic Needs Center



Communicating with the Community



Outreach is the foundation of sustainable partnerships. Share materials and opportunities to connect with local agencies, businesses, and other community members. When the community learns more about your work, it creates possibilities for warm handoffs, partnerships, and donations.



Marketing Templates

Share downloadable logos and flyers with community partners so that they can advertise your work in their spaces. Seeing your branding may help students feel more comfortable when accessing community services. It can also spark outreach from potential new partners and funders.

Marketing Materials

We encourage campus and community partners to share information about the BNC to broaden our reach. BNC stands for Basic Needs Collective, not Basic Needs Center or Basic Needs Collaborative. Use either Basic Needs Collective or BNC when promoting our content. Please share information from this webpage and our social media pages as well as the approved graphics below.

The image displays three marketing material templates for the Basic Needs Collective. The first template is a logo featuring the University of Utah 'U' logo, the text 'THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH', and 'BASIC NEEDS COLLECTIVE'. The second template is a social media flyer with a hand holding a globe, the text 'BASIC NEEDS COLLECTIVE', a grid of icons for Food, Financial, Childcare, Tech & Tutoring, Health, Apparel, Housing, Transportation, and Legal, the website 'basicneeds.utah.edu', and the University of Utah logo. The third template is a flyer with a hand holding a globe, the text 'BASIC NEEDS COLLECTIVE', the same grid of icons, the website 'basicneeds.utah.edu', and the University of Utah logo. Each template has a 'DOWNLOAD' button at the bottom.

Basic Needs Collective News

If you have any questions about the work of the Basic Needs Collective (BNC) and are looking to cover the BNC in upcoming news story, or would like to get involved in supporting the basic needs of students, contact us at BasicNeedsCollective@sa.utah.edu.

2024 Ivory Community Leadership Award: Thrift Pop-up Shop



Community Conversations

The poster features a blue header with the Minnesota state capitol dome logo in the top left. Below it, a yellow banner reads "CENTRAL MINNESOTA". The main title "FOOD INSECURITY SUMMIT" is in large, bold, blue letters with a yellow outline. To the right is a blue map of Minnesota with a yellow star, and below it is a colorful illustration of various food items including a banana, a turkey, a bowl of soup, a tomato, an egg, and salmon. A circular inset photo shows Senator Aric Putnam speaking into a microphone. At the bottom, there is a basket of fresh vegetables like corn, tomatoes, and leafy greens.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA

FOOD INSECURITY SUMMIT

TUESDAY, NOV. 12TH
6:30PM – 8:30PM

**St Cloud Public Library,
Mississippi Room 106**

Sen. Aric Putnam

Please join Senator Aric Putnam for an evening of networking and discussion on how to tackle the problem of Food Insecurity in Central MN.

Community awareness of student basic needs insecurity may be limited. Hosting conversations can build greater understanding and spark new collaborations.



Communicating with Policymakers



Policy advocacy is a critical extension of basic needs work, translating students' lived experiences into systemic change that removes barriers to success. Basic needs professionals can help shape policies that are more aligned with the realities students navigate—by reaching out to policymakers and by empowering students to do so.



Student Meetings with Legislators

Students are the experts of their own needs and lived experiences. Create opportunities for them to connect directly with legislators to advocate for investments and improvements to basic needs resources.

Swipe Out Hunger and Young Invincibles are great partners for student advocacy work.

Hunger Free Campus Briefing and Advocacy Day at the State House

Blog Post March 28, 2024 | MASSPIRG Students

Boston, MA (March 28, 2024) – Yesterday, nearly 100 students, campus leaders, and advocates from across the state, convened by the MA Hunger Free Campus Coalition and MASSPIRG Students, joined for a briefing and advocacy day in support of ending hunger on college campuses.

As 37 percent of public university students in Massachusetts face food insecurity, advocates uplifted the challenges that too many students face from not being able to afford food and the urgent need for legislation and funding to address these basic needs. The event focused on investing in student wellbeing and building the Commonwealth's future workforce by removing equitable access to food as a barrier to higher education for students at community colleges, public universities, and minority-serving institutions across Massachusetts.

The briefing centered the voices of students experiencing food insecurity on campus and basic needs staff from UMass Lowell, Ben Franklin Cummings Technical Institute, and Springfield Technical Community College, who shared about the impact that previous funding for the initiative has made.



MASSPIRG Student Advocates at the Hunger Free Campus Initiative Briefing and Advocacy Day.



Conference Presentations

Conferences can be a useful opportunity to get in front of new audiences to build awareness and buy-in around supporting student basic needs. These could include regional or national conferences for professional staff—such as financial aid or business officers—as well as more local gatherings related to community and workforce organizations.

Plenary Session XI

Hunger on Campus

Student food insecurity has been exacerbated in the pandemic era. Policy advocates are working to expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for college students in the current Farm Bill reauthorization. Colleges and communities are working on the ground to help fight hunger on campus. Hear how these two efforts could combine to address hunger on campus.

MODERATOR:

Tina S. Holland, Ph.D., *President, Franciscan University (LA)*

SPEAKERS:

Mark Huelsman, Ed.D., *Director of Policy and Advocacy, The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice, Temple University (PA)*

Carrie Welton, *Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy: Anti-Poverty and Basic Needs, The Institute for College Access and Success*



Communicating with Funders



Whether you are applying for a federal grant or crafting an appeal to alumni donors, combining data with student stories strengthens your case.



Grant Proposals

Abstract

In March 2019, the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, in collaboration with the California Community College Chancellor's Office and the Institute for College Access and Success, released a report titled the California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey. The survey examined food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness among California community college students.

RCCD students were found to have higher rates of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness than California community colleges, with more than 65% of students experiencing at least one of these basic needs insecurities over the past year.

Streamline the process of applying for grants or pursuing other funding opportunities by developing template language for student need and available resources at your institution. This can help reduce the time it takes to complete each application, enabling you to pursue additional funding opportunities.

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING TO INCREASE CAPACITY FOR BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES AT MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

February 2021

SUMMARY

Basic Needs Resources is seeking increased and ongoing funding to build capacity to address the wide range of basic needs of Mt. SAC students, which includes housing resources for homeless students. A comprehensive "basic needs plan" advances Mt. SAC's commitment to "value diversity in all aspects of the human condition" and "creating an atmosphere of safety and support" for all students. Basic Needs Resources is specifically designed to reach out to students experiencing basic needs insecurities and providing them access to resources on and off-campus to enable them to complete their educational goals.

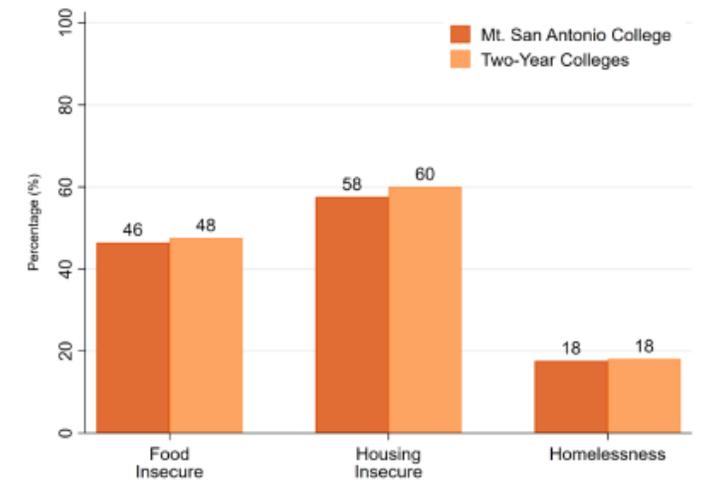
PROBLEM

Students in college face significant challenges. This is particularly true of students facing basic needs challenges who enroll in community college. Poverty, pervasive inequalities in schooling, and lack of supportive social and intellectual communities on campus are among the factors that undermine the success of housing and food

insecure students who are more likely to leave college without completing a degree or certificate.

A survey conducted in 2018 by the Hope Center through their College Survey Project revealed that at Mt. SAC, 18% of students reported being homeless at some point within the previous year; 46% were housing insecure in the previous year; and 46% were food insecure in the previous year.

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM



About

Suggested Citation

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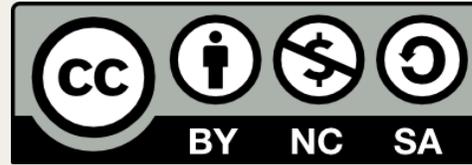
About the INTuitN-STEM Hub

With support from the [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF), the [INTuitN-STEM Hub](#) (Investigating Non-Tuition Needs among community college STEM students) (a) conducts collaborative research with S-STEM programs to understand and address basic needs insecurity and student access to non-tuition supports and resources and (b) creates a broader community of institutions interested in building knowledge around supporting students' basic needs. Join our community by emailing us at hopestem@temple.edu.

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