



Securing Student Basic Needs: Intersecting Needs, Intersecting Solutions

**April 1, 2024
Austin, Texas**

As organizations dedicated to collecting data and providing technical assistance on **basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid** to colleges and universities, we are excited to gather in this space to discuss, share, and explore:

- Current efforts in Texas
- Whom is being served and who is not?
- Avenues for better integrating and connecting basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid efforts
- Ongoing needs and opportunities for collaboration

Many thanks to the **Prentice & Alline Brown Foundation** and **Trellis Foundation** for providing funding in support of this event and to the **Texas Student Success Center** for hosting. Thank you to EVERYONE for your assistance in planning and making this gathering a reality.

Access Program Materials here: https://hope.temple.edu/texas_convening

- Relevant and related reports and resources
- Organization and initiative descriptions
- College participation data
- Full Compendium of Basic Needs, Mental Health, and Emergency Aid Work with Texas Colleges and Universities (2020-2024)



Note: Presented information is based on what was submitted by participating organizations. We are interested to continue to update, grow, expand, and adapt these materials. Please reach out if you would like to submit additions or have ideas about how the information can be most useful.

Questions? Want to stay in touch? Have ideas for next steps and following up? Reach out:

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The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs, Temple University School of Medicine

Department of Urban Health & Population Science



Agenda

10:00 AM	Coffee & Hellos
10:10 AM	Welcoming Remarks
10:20 AM	Lightening Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One representative from each organization to share (3 minutes or less, prompts below)
12:00 PM	Working Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:00 Get your lunch and pick a room• 12:15 Small group discussions (see below)• 12:45 Make your way back to the main conference room
1:00 PM	Ongoing needs, collaboration opportunities, next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report out on lunch discussions• Group discussion on opportunities and next steps
2:15 PM	Closing Remarks

Wifi:

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Introductions

One representative per organization, in three minutes or less:

- Names and roles of organizational representatives in attendance
- Top 1-2 findings from your organization's basic needs, mental health, and/or emergency aid efforts with Texas colleges
- Biggest 1-2 gaps/remaining needs you see
- You/your organization's unique role/offering to future work

Participant List

Sara Abelson	Assistant Professor and Senior Director	The Hope Center, Temple University
Stacy Priniski	Assistant Professor	The Hope Center, Temple University
Renny Perla	Project Coordinator	The Hope Center, Temple University
Cynthia Ferrell	Executive Director	Texas Association of Community Colleges
Christine Bailie	Senior Director of Institutional Strategy	Texas Success Center
Martha Ellis	Senior Pathways Lead	Texas Success Center
Kristina Flores	Senior Director of Research & Evaluation	Texas Success Center
Will Davies	Director of Policy and Data	Breakthrough Central Texas
Courtney Adkins	Associate Director	CCCSE
Linda Garcia	Executive Director	CCCSE
Jonathan Feinstein	Texas State Director	The Education Trust
Andrea Thurston	Sr. Policy Analyst - Texas Higher Education	The Education Trust
Samantha Boiser	Associate, Policy & Advocacy	Educate Texas
Kimberly Clarida	Higher Education Senior Policy Analyst	Every Texan
Chandra Villanueva	Director of Policy and Advocacy	Every Texan
Marcus Ware	Strategic Partnerships Manager	Generation Hope
Jamie Williams	Director of Learning and Innovation	Generation Hope
Sue McMillin	President & CEO	Greater Texas Foundation
Rebekah Skelton	Policy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement Intern; TLEEC Fellow	IDRA

Elizabeth Puthoff	President	Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas
Katy Launius	Strategy Officer for Student Success	Lumina Foundation
Jen Esterline	Senior Vice President for Child and Family Policy	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Michelle Harper	Executive Vice President for Child and Family Wellness	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Tegan Henke	Senior Vice President of Community Systems Innovation	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Leilani Lamb	Director of Cross-Systems Policy and Practice	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Jenna Parro	Director of Cross-Systems Strategy and Practice	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Garridon Hankins	Program Officer	Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
Becky Calahan	Director	Philanthropy Advocates
Jennielle Strother	Assistant Commissioner for Student Success	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Holly Kosiewicz	Researcher	Texas Schools Project, University of Texas at Dallas
Lucia Mendez	Student Success Officer	The Hector and Gloria López Foundation
Zainab Okolo	Senior Vice President Policy, Advocacy & Government Relations	The Jed Foundation
Kate Shannon	Director of Grants Administration & Evaluation	The Powell Foundation
Jenny Achilles	Sr. Program Officer	Trellis Foundation
Kristin Boyer	Executive Director	Trellis Foundation
Bryan Ashton	Managing Director	Trellis Strategies
Becca Bice	Director of Family Pathways	United Way for Greater Austin
Ashley R. Harris	Director of Public Policy & Advocacy	United Ways of Texas
Kasey Corpus	Southern Policy Manager	Young Invincibles

Lunch Discussion Groups

*Check out the data you shared
on college participation to inform your discussion*



- **Group 1: What is working well to connect basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid efforts?**
 - Where are connections between these areas being made well? Where is work being integrated?
 - Where and how are we seamlessly helping students with mental health, basic needs, and emergency aid?
 - What are shining examples of this in our organizational efforts, trainings, technical assistance, and data collection initiatives?
 - What shining examples exist from an institutional level? What colleges are doing this well? How?
- **Group 2: Enhancing impact for active colleges.** Several colleges are participating actively in basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid data collection and technical assistance.
 - As leaders of these efforts, how can we maximize impact and value for highly active colleges who are participating frequently and in multiple initiatives?
 - Beyond repeated/frequent participation, what other avenues are there for identifying and sharing shining institutional examples of colleges doing great work in one or more of these areas?
 - What opportunities are there to showcase, celebrate, and learn from these colleges?
- **Group 3: Reaching those not currently being served.** Several colleges are not participating in current training, technical assistance, and data collection efforts.
 - What is needed to better serve and reach those who are not currently participating and involved?
 - Beyond examining participation data across initiatives and identifying schools with minimal to no participation, what other avenues are there for identifying who isn't being served by current efforts?
 - In your own work, are there student populations or institution types or characteristics that you think or hear from participants aren't being well served by current efforts?
- **Group 4: Opportunities to enhance integration and wholistic supports.** For schools with a more singular focus or emphasis in one area (e.g., food, housing, transportation, technology, childcare, mental health, emergency aid):
 - What opportunities are there to help these schools meet student needs more wholistically?
 - How do we develop pathways for colleges across and between initiatives and our organizations (e.g., "oh you've made amazing strides with mental health working with us; you should consider strengthening your emergency aid efforts")?
 - What opportunities are there to better integrate our efforts and offerings as provider organizations (so that colleges don't always have to go one initiative to another or one survey to another)? Within our own programming and efforts, what opportunities are there to help colleges integrate their mental health, basic needs, and emergency aid efforts, wholistically meet student needs, and integrate, not silo, their services?

Great efforts are taking place across the state to help Texas colleges strengthen their basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid efforts. For a snapshot, check out these resources:

- [A Compendium of Basic Needs, Mental Health, and Emergency Aid Work with Texas Colleges and Universities \(2020-2024\)](#) - compiled with your data
- [The Hope Center - Accelerating Student Success at Texas Colleges Through Supporting Student Basic Needs: A Report on The Hope Center's Efforts in Texas in 2022-2023](#)
- [Breakthrough Central Texas - Student & Family Support Fund Report](#)
- [CCCSE – Mission Critical - The Role of Community Colleges in Meeting Students' Basic Needs](#)
- [Ed Trust Texas - For Student Parents The Biggest Hurdles to a Higher Education Are Cost and Finding Child Care](#)
- [Ed Trust Texas - Who Received Federal Emergency Aid Funding in Texas A Closer look at the Pandemic Funding Awarded to Postsecondary Students](#)
- [Generation Hope - FamilyU Seal, Student Parent Success Core Competencies, and Transforming Campus Communities for Student Parents \(3 documents\)](#)
- [Greater Texas Foundation - Small Dollars For Big Impact - How Texas Community Colleges are Creating Effective Models for Emergency Aid](#)
- [Texas Schools Project & RAND - Understanding How Texas Community College Campuses Are Supporting Student Mental Health](#)
- [Texas Success Center - Basic Needs Insecurity in Texas Community Colleges Landscape Analysis](#)
- [Trellis Strategies - Student Financial Wellness Survey Fall 2023 Semester Report Texas Community Colleges](#)
- [Trellis Strategies - Texas Community Colleges Student Financial Wellness Survey Results Fall 2023 \(Infographic\)](#)
- [Young Invincibles - More Than Self Care: Students Speaking Out for Mental Health](#)

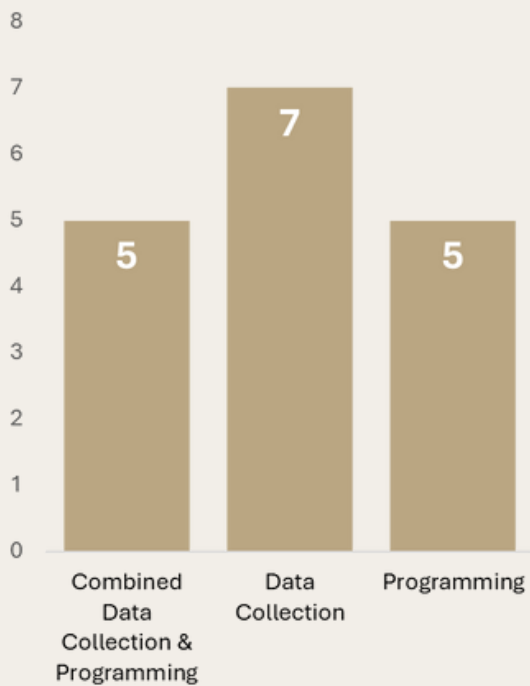


Links and resources available here:

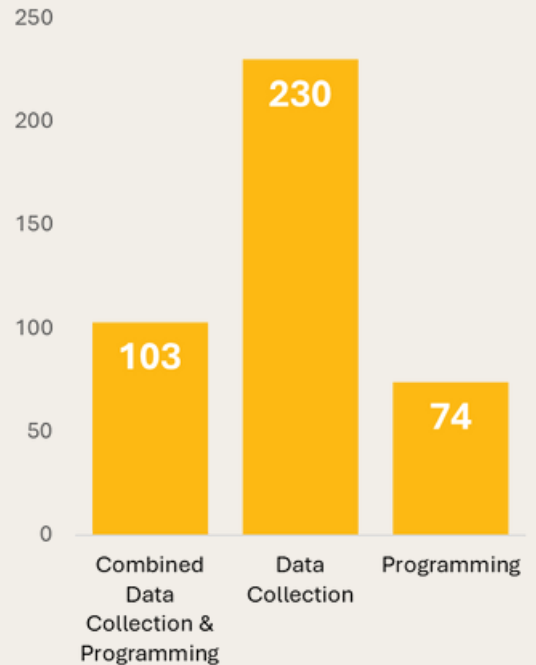


Data Collection & Programming Participation Visualized*

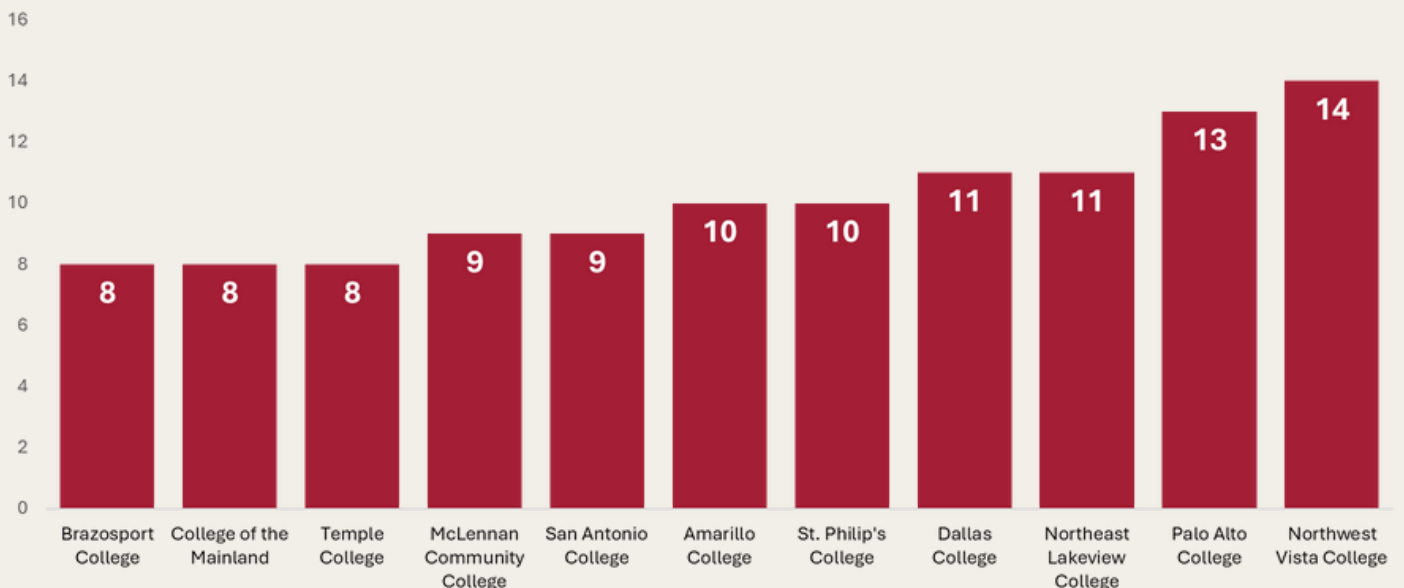
Number of Initiatives in Texas



Number of College Participations



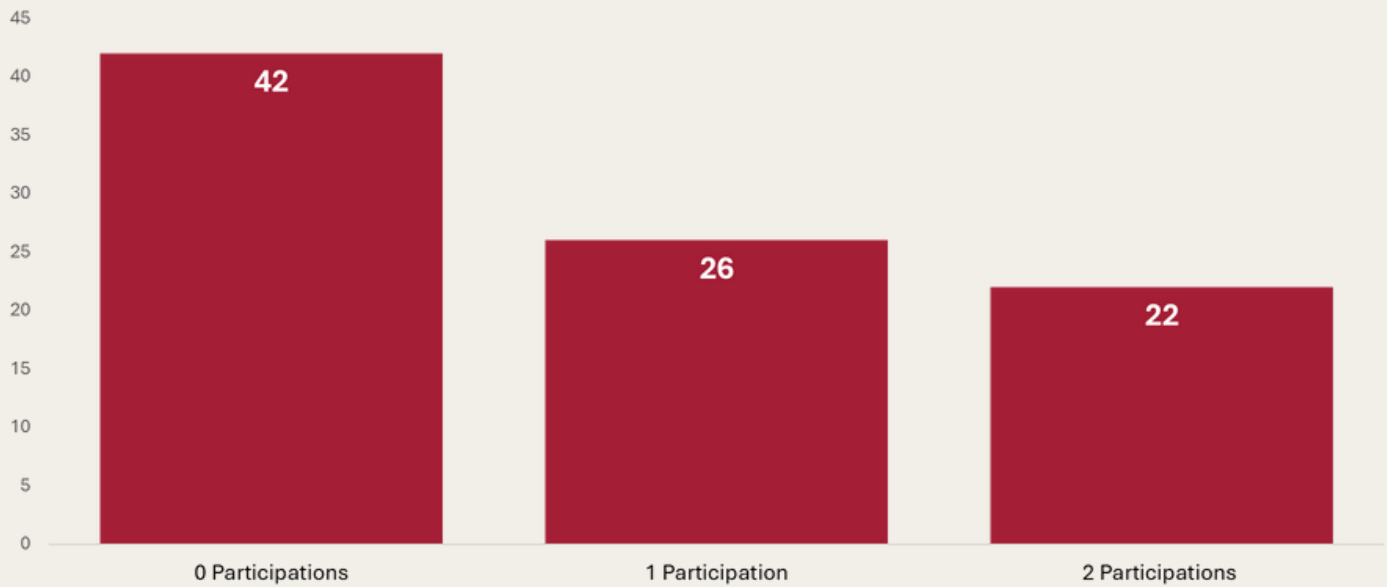
Highest Participation Colleges



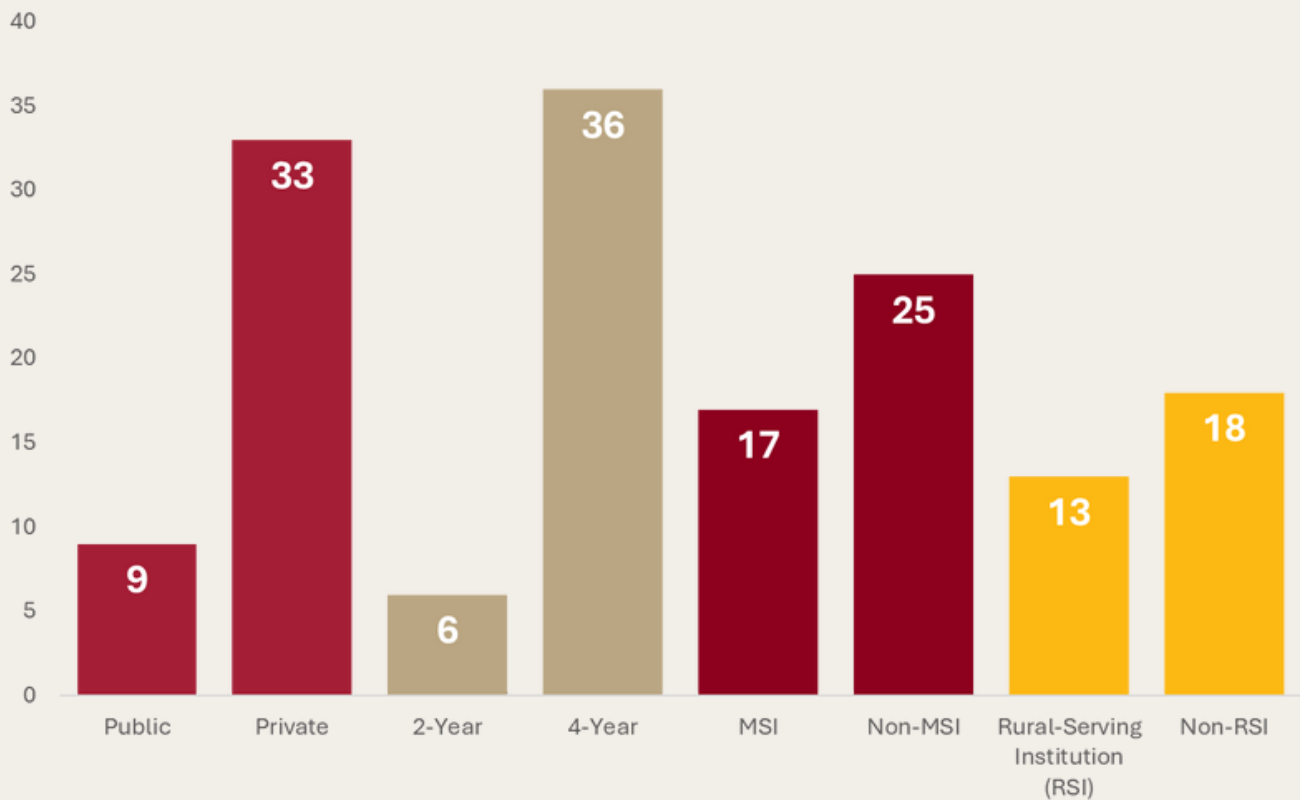
*We invited convening participants to submit information about their data collection and programming initiatives related to basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid in Texas. These figures summarize trends in institutional participation from those submissions.

Non- and Infrequent Participation Visualized*

Number of Colleges that Have Not Participated or Participated Infrequently



Non-Participating Institution Characteristics



*We invited convening participants to submit information about their data collection and programming initiatives related to basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid in Texas. These figures summarize trends in institutional participation from those submissions.

Organization Profiles

Breakthrough Central Texas

Breakthrough Central Texas creates a path to and through college for Central Texas students who will become the first in their families to earn a college degree. Starting in middle school, Breakthrough provides **extended learning, personal advising and leadership experiences through the entire phase of a student's schooling** (middle school, high school, and college). Breakthrough extends the amount of learning each student receives outside of school by offering academically challenging summer programs, after-school tutoring, Saturday enrichment programs and SAT/ACT preparation. **We also offer college-financing counseling and individualized college guidance.**

Breakthrough advisers serve each student, 24/7, as their **go-to, knowledgeable, personal advocate and champion**. Advisers are a special key to our model's success. Our professional advisers, work one-on-one with students through middle school, high school, and college. Breakthrough engages students in **rich, meaningful experiences** that develop leadership and instill confidence and a sense of real-life achievement. These experiences develop important non-cognitive skills such as motivation and perseverance that are crucial for college success and success in life.

In 2024, Breakthrough will serve more than 3,500 students and their families in 6th grade through postsecondary completion. **We partner with school districts, social services providers, and institutions of higher education** to help provide or access holistic supports that ensure our students personal, academic, and professional success. **We are the largest Breakthrough affiliate in the country**, about twice the size by budget, staffing, and students of the next closest affiliate.

Breakthrough's work in this area has two major strands. First, our college completion advisers work directly with students and IHE partners **to help students access existing institutional or publicly provided social services** including emergency aid and health services. Second, since March of 2020, Breakthrough's Student & Family Support Fund (SSF) **provides mental health services through a partnership with the Vida Clinic, gap tuition assistance, and direct financial assistance to students and their families** who suddenly find themselves without means to pay rent, mortgage or utility bills or buy groceries. Because of our 12-year commitment and the trusting relationships our staff has established with families, Breakthrough is uniquely positioned to respond to these very real and critical needs. In 2023, **the organization allocated over \$500k** directly to the SSF with hundreds of college-aged students receiving support.



Center for Community College Student Engagement

In 2001, The University of Texas' College of Education established CCCSE as a service and research initiative for community and technical colleges interested in **improving educational quality** through strengthened student engagement and student success. CCCSE delivers "aha" moments about the community college student experience based on insights that matter through survey research, focus group work, and related services. Since its inception, **CCCSE has surveyed more than three million community college students** from over 900 institutions. Member colleges represent an overwhelming majority of all accredited, public, associate-degree-granting two-year institutions in the United States.



Ed Trust Texas

The Education Trust in Texas is a state office of The Education Trust, a national 501(c)3 nonprofit committed to advancing policies and practices **to dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in the American education system**. In Texas, we pursue this mission by strengthening state and local coalitions and developing the advocacy capacity of under-represented stakeholders, especially students, parents, and educators **whose needs and potential are often overlooked**. We are advancing a broad state policy agenda that includes higher education priorities focused on investing in community college access and success; **addressing students' financial and basic needs**; and expanding postsecondary access and re-entry for incarcerated learners.

In early 2022, EdTrust and coalition partners formed the **Community College Student Advisory Council** with members representing the diversity of students and communities served by the state's community colleges. During and since the Commission on Community College Finance and passage of HB 8, **we support members to connect their lived experience to relevant policy and research** while facilitating opportunities for them to actively participate in the policymaking process. Members of our newly-formed 2024 cohort are eager to support effective implementation of HB 8 and identify policy opportunities to further improve student success.

EdTrust is also completing our quantitative and qualitative analysis of federal Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) funds in Texas **to better understand trends, impact, and lessons learned from the distribution of more than \$2.5 billion in student emergency aid**. Our qualitative study has included focus groups with students and practitioners from 10 Texas institutions, of which 7 are community colleges. EdTrust has continued to build upon our work **to quantify the "affordability gap" specifically for parenting students** by incorporating the cost of child care. We also recently released a framework to understand campus racial climate and recommendations to ensure positive climates.



Generation Hope

Generation Hope is a nonprofit, national organization. Our mission is to ensure all student parents have the **opportunities to succeed, experience economic mobility, and build wealth** by engaging education and policy partners to drive systemic change and by providing direct support to teen **parents in college as well as their children** through holistic, two-generation programming.

To date, we have provided **more than \$1 million in tuition assistance**, supported over 300 teen parents in college, and celebrated nearly 150 degrees earned through our Scholar programs in DC and New Orleans. In addition to offering shorter-term training and technical assistance to institutions and organizations interested in better promoting student parent success, we have **provided comprehensive, evidence-based capacity building technical assistance** to 16 colleges and universities participating in our two-year, national FamilyU Cohort program.

Beyond working directly with students and institutions, Generation Hope elevates the **experiences of teen/student parents at the intersection of race and education** to pursue national and local policy change. Generation Hope also partners with other organizations and agencies to conduct research and generate reports and resources that **can assist educators, advocates, lawmakers, and parents** in eliminating barriers to opportunity and in closing achievement gaps for a population that is often invisible in the education space.

At the Texas Success Center's Pathways Institute in 2022, Generation Hope provided training and insights on **the parenting identity of students and how basic needs insecurity intersects with this identity**. Currently, Austin Community College District (Year 2), Houston Community College (Year 2), and Dallas College are engaging in Generation Hope's **FamilyU Cohort program**. During this customized engagement, Generation Hope provides coaching, training, technical assistance, best practices, and resources for institutions **to better support the unique needs** (including basic needs, mental health, financial assistance, child care, etc.) of students with children.

Additionally, during the second year of engagement, **Generation Hope funds and supports a student parent enrolled** at each FamilyU institution to join the institutional team as the Student Parent Fellow and offer additional firsthand insights and expertise as well as **an advocate for other parenting students**.



Greater Texas Foundation

Greater Texas Foundation supports efforts to ensure all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, persist in, and complete postsecondary education. We put particular focus on **helping underserved and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations**. We pursue our mission by forming partnerships, supporting research, sharing knowledge, and making grants. Our vision is for all Texas students to have **equal opportunity to access and succeed in postsecondary education**.

Greater Texas Foundation has supported grants in the areas of **mental health and emergency aid**. These include grants to Education Trust, Meadows Mental Health, and a cohort of 10 community colleges that participate in our **Texas Emergency Aid Roadmap**.

The Education Trust grant investigates the equity and impact of HEERF emergency aid disbursements across Texas **to highlight best practices and replicable examples** with the goal to better understand how emergency aid can support college completion and ensure that such practices result in equitable outcomes for all.

The 23-month, \$700,000 Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute grant supports the partnership with the Texas Success Center to initiate the Minding College Minds Project. This initiative will design **a unique framework and curriculum of evidence-based practices**, fostering the capacity of community colleges to establish comprehensive postsecondary mental health systems, with a **focus on rural-serving community colleges**.

Lastly, Greater Texas Foundation established the Texas Emergency Aid Roadmap program in 2021 to support a cohort of 10 community colleges in their emergency aid delivery. This is **a three-year, \$1.5 million grant program** funded by GTF to develop efficient, equitable, sustainable emergency aid programs. Each participating college receives \$122,500 over three years to be awarded to students as emergency aid. A cross-campus team of staff from each college also takes part in **professional development/technical assistance** led by Reos Partners to help ensure their program demonstrates the hallmarks of effective emergency aid.

In 2024, we will select a second cohort of 10 community colleges **to provide emergency financial assistance to students and receive technical assistance** to implement a sustainable emergency aid programs. Targeted technical assistance will be provided by Reos Partners based on Reos's Emergency Aid Roadmap to develop and implement **effective, efficient, and robust emergency aid** programs that increase retention, completion, and student success.



Healthy Minds Network

The Healthy Minds Network is one of the nation's premier research organizations contributing to adolescent and young adult mental health. HMN is dedicated to **improving the mental and emotional well-being** of young people through innovative, multidisciplinary scholarship. HMN spans coast to coast with our principal investigators at the University of California-Los Angeles, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Boston University. **Our network proudly serves as a resource** for post-secondary education administrators, students, researchers, clinicians, policy-makers, and the greater public.

For 15 years, the network has administered the Healthy Minds Study (HMS), a population-level survey of post-secondary student mental health, collecting over **740,000 responses from students at more than 530 colleges and universities**. The network's research efforts have expanded into other facets of mental health in educational settings, including the role and health of faculty and staff.



Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Independent and nonpartisan, the Meadows Institute works at the intersection of policy and programs **to create equitable systemic changes** so all people in Texas, the nation, and the world can obtain the health care they need. The Meadows Institute provides state and national leaders with **data-driven, trusted policy and program guidance**, and works to shift the focus of new investments toward early intervention for children and families, address the mental health crisis in our jails and emergency rooms, and **help all people with mental health needs** recover and be well.

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (Meadows Institute) is a trusted partner and resource for postsecondary institutions in mental health policy and practice. To date, we have provided resources for **more than 50 institutions** of higher education in Texas, reaching **more than 450,000 students**. Drawing from our extensive experience at the intersection of community, state, and federal policy, we work with postsecondary institutions across Texas to bring a multi-**systems perspective** to addressing mental health needs in postsecondary settings.



Texas Schools Project: University of Texas at Dallas

Texas Schools Project supports and conducts research **to improve academic achievement** and teacher effectiveness, increase transitions to and success in postsecondary education, and **improve labor market outcomes of students** in Texas and the nation.

Texas Schools Project conducted a study with the RAND Corporation to examine how **community colleges were supporting student mental health.**



Texas Success Center

The Texas Success Center, a member of the national Student Success Center Network, designs and manages the coherent, statewide framework for action and supports the 50 community college districts in the state as they evaluate, align, and integrate their work **to increase student success through Talent Strong Texas Pathways**. This comprehensive reform strategy reflects the Texas Association of Community Colleges' **dedication to socioeconomic mobility** through career-focused postsecondary success.

The association founded the Texas Success Center to provide statewide coordination of student success strategies and **to tighten the linkages between practice, research, and policy**. Texas community colleges have committed to Talent Strong Texas Pathways to implement guided pathways at scale. The Texas Success Center supports all community colleges as they **build capacity to implement and scale practices to help more students** earn meaningful credentials, transfer to universities with no loss of credit, and gain employment in careers with value in the labor market.

Talent Strong Texas Pathways (TSTP) is a strategic plan to support community colleges to build capacity **to implement structured academic and career pathways at scale for all students**. The guided pathways strategy is an integrated, system-wide approach to student success that guides students from the selection of their high school endorsement through postsecondary education to **attainment of high-quality credentials and careers** with value in the labor market.

TSTP ensures that students attend a college that addresses the **students' sense of belonging and wellness** as the foundation for success. Students engage in a cycle of learning that supports connection, entry, progression, and success in well-designed credentials of value. TSTP colleges are **redesigning the student experience** by scaling essential practices organized in four pillars, with support from curated institute curriculum, technical assistance, and expert coaching provided by the Texas Success Center. As part of this support, the Center supports colleges to **implement, scale, and improve basic needs, mental health, and emergency aid practices** to reach all students.



The Hope Center

The Hope Center at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University is a leading national action research center removing barriers to student success through:

- **Research:** investigating students' lived experiences with basic needs insecurity and evaluating interventions;
- **Policy:** informing and advocating for systemic policy change to make college more affordable and secure student basic needs; and
- **Practice:** collaborative coaching and training with colleges, universities, systems, and states to meet student basic needs through institutional systems transformation.

We are **researchers, scholars, advocates, conveners, and storytellers** who envision a world where basic needs insecurity is no longer a barrier to pursuing and completing college. We take a **systems-change approach** to creating a higher education landscape where educational opportunity is universal and equitable.

During the 2022-2023 school year, The Hope Center partnered with colleges throughout Texas **to enhance capacity for providing comprehensive student support services** that secure students' basic needs and improve student success. With support from the Prentice Farrar Brown and Alline Ford Foundation, we provided Hope Impact Partnerships **training and technical assistance to 39 Texas community colleges.**

We also partnered with The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to provide **training and technical assistance to 59 Texas colleges** as part of the Texas Student Success Acceleration Program. For the THECB project, The Hope Center served alongside fellow technical assistance providers and focused specifically on supporting colleges' **basic needs and mental health efforts.**

Both initiatives grew out of **needs revealed and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.** They aimed to provide essential supports for responding to Texas' pandemic-related 2020 spike in unemployment and decline in college enrollment and built on significant past Hope Center partnerships with Texas colleges and policymakers. These included **studies of student basic needs** during the pandemic, collaborations with the Texas Success Center to enhance supports and benefits access as Texas community colleges, and research with colleges, such as Amarillo College, **to evaluate strategies to reduce basic needs insecurity.**



The JED Foundation

The JED Foundation (JED) empowers teens and young adults by building resiliency and **life skills**, promoting social connectedness, and **encouraging help-seeking** and help-giving behaviors through our **nationally recognized programs**, digital channels, and partnerships, as well as through the media.

JED **strengthens schools** by working directly with high schools, colleges, and universities — representing millions of students — to put systems, programs, and policies in place **to create a culture of caring** that protects **student mental health**, builds life skills, and makes it more likely that struggling students will seek help and be recognized, connected to care, and supported. **We mobilize communities** by providing education, training, and tools to families, friends, media, and others.



Trellis Company

Trellis Company is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation focused on **helping people** leverage the **power of post-secondary education** and learning to improve their quality of life and the communities where they live.

Trellis Research provides colleges and policymakers insight into student success through the lens of **higher education affordability**. With more than three decades of experience studying key issues such as student debt, student loan counseling, and the **financial barriers to attainment**, our research team explores the roles of personal finance, financial literacy, and financial aid in higher education.



Trellis Strategies

Trellis Strategies is a leading strategic research and consulting firm focused on **advancing postsecondary education and strengthening the workforce**. Our commitment is to provide unparalleled insights into the modern learner experience, spanning from application through graduation. Leveraging over four decades of experience in serving higher education institutions and assisting students in navigating intricate processes, Trellis Strategies' dedicated team possesses the knowledge, insight, and expertise **to empower organizations to turn data into impactful action and tangible results**.

As experts in gathering and analyzing both local and national data, we **identify opportunities and provide scalable, tailored solutions** for our partners. Our approach involves the transformation of institutions through the enhancement of the learner experience leading to higher enrollment yields, retention rates, and improved student post-graduation outcomes.

Guided by our mission, we navigate the non-linear landscape of postsecondary education, assisting institutions **in adapting policies and programs to accommodate diverse learner journeys**. By dismantling barriers in policy and processes, we aim to enhance learner outcomes and **rebuilding trust in the credentialing process**. We are dedicated to the belief that education serves as the cornerstone for unlocking new opportunities, **fostering individual economic mobility, and growing community prosperity**. For more information, visit our website: www.trellisstrategies.org

