



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

FACT SHEET



Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce

Real Solutions to Real Challenges

SUMMARY

The Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) established the CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce to provide system-wide recommendations to address housing and food insecurities faced daily by our students. This Taskforce will review and discuss research literature, participate in discussions with leading scholars, and hear from students regarding their challenges with housing and hunger. The Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce will provide recommendations to the CEOCCC Board by February 15, 2019. The Taskforce is co-chaired by Dr. Pamela Luster, President of San Diego Mesa College and Dr. Keith Curry, President of Compton College.

GOALS

- ◆ Administer Food and Housing Insecurity Inventory at 114 community colleges to gain in depth perspective of the structure of campus-based efforts designed to repress food and housing insecurities.
- ◆ Create support and awareness in our regions and convey best practices.
- ◆ Host a Legislative Briefing on January 28, 2019.
- ◆ Provide recommendations to the CEOCCC Board by February 15, 2019.

TRAILER BILLS IN SUPPORT OF FOOD AND HOUSING INSECURE STUDENTS

AB 214, which was signed into law in July 2017, requires students be provided information that could help them verify their eligibility for CalFresh and clarifies that on-campus food retailers that sell prepared food which is meant for onsite consumption are required to participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program. A student who is enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education is ineligible for the federal Food Stamp Program, unless the student qualifies for one of the exemptions. AB 214 requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to maintain a list of programs which allow for exemption, including the Educational Opportunity Program, the Guardian Scholar programs, and College Disabled Students Programs and Services.

AB 801, which went into effect in January 2017, requires California Community Colleges and California State Universities to, and requests that the University of California, designate a staff member to serve as a Homeless and Foster Student Liaison and to inform current and prospective students of the institution about student financial aid and other assistance available to homeless youth and current and former foster youth.

Additionally, AB 801 requires California Community Colleges and California State Universities and requests for the University of California to extend priority enrollment to homeless students until 2020, and eliminates the sunset date for priority enrollment for foster youth thereby extending their priority enrollment indefinitely.

Homeless Youth, for the purposes of AB 801 and other such bills, are defined as: a student under 25 years of age, who has been verified at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the receipt of his or her application for admission, as homeless. Homeless, as defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, means lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This can include those sharing the housing of other person; those who are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds; and those living in emergency or transitional shelters.

AB 1714, which went into effect January 2017, requires Universities & Colleges receiving public funds to accept the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. Additionally, it requires each public and private postsecondary education institution that is located in a county that participates in the Restaurant Meals Program to apply to become an approved food vendor for participation in this program, which allows homeless recipients to use their CalFresh benefits to purchase lower cost prepared meals at approved participating restaurants in certain counties.

AB 1228, which was signed into law in October 2015, requires the California State University system to provide priority for homeless youth in receiving on campus housing; and requests the campuses of the California Community Colleges while requiring the campuses of the California State University, and of the University of California, if they maintain student housing facilities, to provide housing for uninterrupted year-round occupation to current and former homeless youth and current and former foster youth at no extra cost during academic or campus breaks.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DATA POINTS

- ◆ 43% of the cost of being a CCC student is housing 30% of students are solely responsible for their housing costs.
- ◆ Grant aid at CCCs covers a third of the total true cost of attendance, and relatively few students have access to loans.
- ◆ In recent years, about 40% of students had very low food security, and 25% of students experienced homelessness.
- ◆ Basic needs insecure students were concentrated in developmental (remedial) education at rates as high as 60-70%.
- ◆ Food insecure students, in particular, were more likely to indicate intention to drop out, and were much less likely to feel confident in their academic abilities.
- ◆ Inflation-adjusted median rent in Los Angeles County increased by almost 25% and rents in Sacramento specifically grew 7.4% over just a year period from 2016 to 2017, compared to a 4.3% average year-over-year increase across California.
- ◆ Culture and Perception: Normalizing the ‘starving student’ as part of the traditional college experience hinders efforts to address the problem.
- ◆ Staff at the CCCs expressed reluctance at the district and college level to take on tasks and challenges that were once considered outside of their mission. Another perception issue is the stigma of students being labeled as ‘needy.’
- ◆ A financial aid administrator provides a homeless determination based on documentation provided. This determination allows students to qualify for aid or services.
- ◆ More than a quarter of California schools reported in 2017 that they had zero homeless students among their school population and provided no services as a result.
- ◆ Average amount of grant aid available per low-income student in 2015-16 was \$5,400 at CCCs, \$10,300 at CSU, and \$25,200 at UC.
- ◆ The Legislative Analyst’s Office found that grant aid at CCCs covers only one-third of the cost of attendance, half the cost of attendance at UC, and half at CSU.
- ◆ Less than 10 percent of CCC students borrow federal loans.

- ◆ In seven of the nine areas where a UC is located, the CCC option actually had the highest net price of the public institutions.
- ◆ Only about 20% of CCCs offer any student housing on campus.
- ◆ Six of the top 10 cities nationwide with the highest year-over-year increases in this period were in California: Sacramento, Anaheim, Oakland, Fresno, Santa Ana, and Riverside. survey in August 2016 of faculty and staff to gauge familiarity with food and housing insecurity.
- ◆ According to a 2016 CCC staff survey, only 15% said campuses were adequately prepared to support students with food and housing access challenges.
- ◆ 56 percent of students were food insecure, and nearly half were either experiencing housing insecurity (35 percent) or homelessness (14 percent).
- ◆ A fall 2017 survey of California community colleges found 56.8 percent of respondents had direct contact with students experiencing basic needs insecurity multiple times per week or every day.

(Report created by the Assembly Office of Research, July 2018)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Community College League of California has included reports, best practices and other resources. Please go to the following link: <https://www.ccleague.org/resources/focus-areas/affordability-taskforce> to access additional information. For questions about the Taskforce contact the CCLC staff at lizette@ccleague.org.

TERMS

- ◆ **Basic Needs Insecure:** Food and housing insecurity, usually referring to the state of an individual or group.
- ◆ **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY):** 2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) and guidance from the federal Department of Education - youth, generally aged 18-24, homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Taskforce Membership

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| ◆ Co-Chair Keith Curry, President, Compton College | ◆ Diana Z. Rodriguez, President, San Bernardino Valley College |
| ◆ Co-Chair Pamela Luster, President, San Diego Mesa College | ◆ Stephen Schoonmaker, Superintendent/President, College of the Siskiyous |
| ◆ Marvin Martinez, President, East Los Angeles College | ◆ Matt Wetstein, Superintendent/President, Cabrillo College |
| ◆ Tom Burke, Chancellor, Kern CCD | ◆ Michael White, President, Woodland Community College |
| ◆ Martha Garcia, Superintendent/President, Imperial Valley College | ◆ JoAnna Schilling, President, Cypress College |
| ◆ Tameil Gilkerson, President, Laney College | ◆ James Limbaugh, President, West LA College |
| ◆ Adrienne Grey, Trustee, West-Valley Mission CCD | ◆ Larry Galizio, President & CEO, CCLC |
| ◆ Andra Hofman, Trustee, LACCD | ◆ Lizette Navarette, Vice President, CCLC |
| ◆ Linda Wah, Trustee, Pasadena City College | |