

1) Glossary of Terms:

- a) *Basic Needs Services and Resources (Student basic needs)* – Education Code Section 66023.4 and 66023.5 defines “basic needs services and resources” as housing, food, clothing, feminine hygiene, diapers, technology, childcare, and mental health resources.¹
- b) *Basic Needs Centers* – A basic needs center is a central location on campus where staff who provide basic needs services and resources are available to students. The center is a one-stop, single location to assist students in gaining access to on- and off- campus resources to address their basic needs insecurity.²
- c) *Basic Needs Coordinator* – A basic needs coordinator is a designated employee who serves as the point of contact for students who need assistance in meeting a basic need. The coordinator is to act as a broker who will identify, support, and link student to on- and off- campus housing, food, mental health, and other basic needs services and resources.³
- d) *Total Cost of Attendance* – The total cost of attendance is the amount it will cost a student to attend a college or university. The total cost of attendance includes: tuition and fees; books and course materials; cost of housing and food; transportation expenses; loan fees; miscellaneous expenses; childcare; costs related to a disability; and reasonable costs for study abroad programs.⁴
- e) *CalFresh and SNAP* - In 1964, President Johnson signed the Food Stamp Act of 1964 thereby creating the SNAP, the nation’s most successful anti-hunger program. SNAP is a federal and state partnership in which federal dollars are distributed by state programs to low-income individuals for the explicit purpose of purchasing nutritious food to alleviate hunger. In California, SNAP is known as CalFresh and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) works in tandem with county human service agencies to distribute the monetary food benefits. According to the CalFresh dashboard, maintained

¹ Education Code Section 66023.4 (a) (1) and Education Code Section 66023.5 (a) (1)

² Education Code Section 66023.4 (b) (2) and Education Code Section 66023.5 (b) (2)

³ Education Code Section 66023.4 (b) (1) and Education Code Section 66023.5 (b) (1)

⁴ <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/what-does-cost-of-attendance-mean>

by CDSS, in July 2025, there were 5,407,495 CalFresh recipients in California with 2,355,072 recipients being between the ages of 18 and 59.

Since CalFresh utilizes federal funds, there are federal qualifications an individual must meet in order to receive the nutritional benefits. To initially qualify, an applicant must be a citizen or a qualifying immigrant, be income eligible, and meet the work requirement; which specifies that individuals without dependents must work or engage in approved work-related activities of 80 hours per month. The monthly allocation for CalFresh for a family of one is \$292 per month.

2) *A Timeline of Student Basic Needs:*

A TIMELINE OF STUDENT BASIC NEEDS

Since 2000	Every few years the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) conducts a student survey to ascertain the total cost of attending a higher education institution. The first survey according to CSAC website was in the year 2000. ⁵
2009	University of California, Los Angeles instituted a food pantry in response to the Great Recession. ⁶
2014	The UC System initiates the <i>UC Global Food Initiative</i> , which requires each UC Campus to create a food pantry that is open to any UC student or employee. ⁵
2016	AB 1747 (Weber), Chapter 290, Statutes of 2016 – required institutionally run food venues to apply to qualify as <i>Restaurant Meals Program</i> providers and required vendors to be given information about the <i>Restaurant Meals Program</i> , if the higher education institution resides in a county where the <i>Restaurant Meals Program</i> exists. <i>As of 2019, the Restaurant Meal Program is a statewide program. The Restaurant Meal Program is available to older adults aged 60 or older, people</i>

⁵ <https://csac.ca.gov/sears/archived-casebooks>

⁶ <https://basicneeds.ucop.edu/about/history.html>

	<i>with disabilities, and homeless persons and their spouses.⁷ To Committee Staff knowledge, every higher education institution has a Restaurant Meal Program on campus, if the institution provides on-campus dining option run by the institution.</i>
2016	Chancellor White of the CSU commissioned a three part study on student basic needs and how the CSU could address the insecurities. The final phase was completed in April 2019 and the CSU Basic Needs Action Report included recommendations that were subsequently implemented by campuses as part of Graduation Initiative 2025. ⁸
2017	AB 214 (Weber), Chapter 134, Statutes of 2017 – required CSAC to notify Cal Grant recipients who qualify for participation in the CalFresh Program based on their financial aid application; and, required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to maintain a list of programs that qualify a student for CalFresh due to the student’s enrollment in a program that would increase their employability.
2017	SB 85 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 23, Statutes of 2017 – established the designation of hunger free campus if campuses of the California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU), and University of California provided specific programs and employees to assist students in addressing food insecurity. The legislation required a meal donation program for CSU and UC campuses, required campuses of all three segments to have an employee to assist students in applying for CalFresh benefits, and required food pantries for all three campuses. \$1.5 million was appropriated for the Hunger Free Campus Designation. ⁵ <i>This language was repealed in in 2022.</i>

⁷ <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/rmp>

⁸ <https://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Pages/Research.aspx>

2019	SB 76 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 52, Statutes of 2019 – transferred \$3.9 million to the Chancellor’s Office of the CCC to address student hunger and student basic needs.
2019	The Legislature through the Budget Act provided ongoing funding to address student hunger and housing needs. This was the first time this line item was included in the budget for specific ongoing funding to address basic needs insecurity for students on collegiate campuses:⁹ • UC - \$15 million to address student hunger and housing needs and \$3.5 million for rapid rehousing;¹⁰ • CSU - \$15 million to address student hunger and housing needs and \$6.5 for rapid rehousing; and • CCC – \$3.9 million to address student hunger and housing and \$9 million for rapid rehousing.
2020	AB 2884 (Berman), Chapter 294, Statutes of 2020, expanded the use of lottery funds at the CCC to include housing and food assistance for community college students.
2020	In fall 2020, CSAC convened a working group of policy experts and practitioners from various agencies, higher education institutions, non-profits, and the Legislature to understand how students interact with CalFresh and to provide recommendations on how to promote and streamline access for students to CalFresh. The recommendations from the report have influenced legislation since its publication. ¹¹
2021	At the behest of the Governor, the Governor’s Postsecondary Education Council created a working group to examine the basic needs challenges of California Students with the purpose of providing recommendations on how

⁹ <https://basicneeds.ucop.edu/about/history.html>

¹⁰ <https://ebudget.ca.gov/publication/e/2019-20/Agency/6013>

¹¹ <https://www.csac.ca.gov/calfresh-students>

	best to position higher education institutions to successfully meet student basic needs. The workgroup’s report includes 20 different recommendations for how institutions can streamline supports, reduce barriers, and maximize student’s use of publicly available resources to address student basic needs insecurities.¹²
2021	AB 132 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021 – after multiple attempts, Asm. Berman is credited with legislation that was adopted into the Postsecondary Education Trailer Bill of 2021 that established the requirement for every CCC to have a basic needs center and a basic need coordinator on campus. The Budget included \$160 million for CCC to address Student Basic Needs - \$100 million one-time funds over three years to address student basic needs; \$30 million ongoing to establish Basic Needs Centers and Basic Needs Coordinators; and, \$30 million ongoing for supporting mental health services.
2021	AB 396 (Gabriel), Chapter 461, Statutes of 2021, required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to issue a guidance letter on the eligibility requirements for a campus-based program to become a local educational program that increases employability for the purpose of qualifying students for CalFresh; requires qualifying campus-based programs of the CCC and the CSU, and requests qualifying campus-based programs of the UC, to apply to become local education programs that increase employability by September 1, 2022; and requires CDSS to issue a report annually, until 2030, regarding the progress of approving campus-based local education programs that increase employability, as specified.

¹² <https://careereducation.gov.ca.gov/initiatives/intersegmental-working-group-on-student-basic-needs/#:~:text=Working%20Group%20Leadership,the%20respective%20statewide%20student%20organizations.>

2021	AB 543 (Davies), Chapter 561, Statutes of 2021, required the CSU and the CCC, and requested the UC to provide CalFresh information to students during their student orientation.
2021	AB 1326 (Arambula), Chapter 570, Statutes of 2021, required each county human services agency to designate an employee to assist college staff in providing county welfare services to students on college campuses within the county.
2021	AB 2881 (Berman), Chapter 935, Statutes of 2022, required the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC) to provide students with information on the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC), as defined; to grant priority registration to student parents, as defined; and to create a website with resources for student parents.
2022	SB 20 (Dodd), Chapter 167, Statutes of 2022 – updated the notification requirements in existing law. Required CSAC to notify all students if they are eligible for CalFresh if CSAC is aware of an exemption that would make the student eligible for CalFresh.
2022	AB 183 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 54, Statutes of 2022 – Required the Trustees of the California State University and requested the Regents of the University of California to, adopt a statement of policy on or before December 31, 2024, on how their institutional aid programs address student basic needs and how these institutional funds are prioritized for disbursement.
2022	AB 2810 (Arambula), Chapter 934, Statutes of 2022, required each campus of the CCC and CSU; and, request the UC and independents and private universities, as defined, to identify and conduct email outreach to students who may be income eligible for CalFresh based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

2023	The Annual Budget Act of 2023 required the CSU and UC to provide an annual systemwide report on student mental health and basic needs supports.
2024	AB 2033 (Reyes), Chapter 913, Statutes of 2024 – Requires the CSU and requests the UC, to establish Basic Needs Coordinators and Basic Needs Centers; develop a document listing services and resources; streamline the application and intake process; develop and implement a plan to identify and provide outreach to students; and, report specified information. The measure also required each campus of the CCC and CSU, and requested each campus of the UC, to identify and apply for at least one general store or a store that sells food on campus to become an authorized retail food store under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and, if approved, ensure the store or stores, within a reasonable time, accept the use of electronic benefits transfer cards.
2025	AB 79 (Arambula) Chapter 607, Statutes of 2025, required CDSS to develop and facilitate a training for basic needs directors and coordinators from campuses of the CCC, the CSU and the UC and requires CDSS to convene a working group to identify and address barriers to student enrollment in social services offered by county health and human service agencies.
2025	SB 271 (Reyes), Chapter 600, Statutes of 2025, establishes a requirement for the CCC and CSU (requests the UC) to have each respective campuses' financial aid office, childcare development center, and basic needs center refer students with dependent children to local resource and referral agencies for the purpose of connecting and informing students of existing childcare services and resources.

3) Food Insecurity Among College students:

Since the first scholarly publication on student basic needs in 2009, student hunger, housing insecurity, and mental health has been researched and documented in scholarly journals

throughout the United States.¹³ In February 2025, the Hope Center for Student Basic Needs at Temple University, published a student survey including data from 91 higher education institutions across 16 states including California.¹⁴ Student anecdotal and empirical data was collected in the form of surveys between the spring 2023 and summer 2024. The following are data points from the survey:

- 59% of students surveyed experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity with 41% experiencing food insecurity; 48% experiencing housing insecurity; and, 14% experience homelessness;
- 75% of Black and Indigenous students experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity where as 55% of White students identified as experiencing a basic needs insecurity;
- When the survey factored in mental health, child care, transportation, and technology access as a basic needs, the percentage of students experiencing a basic needs insecurity rose to 73%;
- 53% of those experiencing food insecurity were recipients of the Pell Grant;
- In terms of the effect of experiencing basic needs insecurities – 44% of students reported experiencing anxiety and depression and 79% had previously stopped attending college or were considering dropping out due to basic needs insecurities; and,
- Of those experiencing basic needs insecurities, 51% did not receive any public benefits and 48% stated they did not use any campus supports.¹⁵

In January 2025, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research published a report with recommendations for ways to increase student use of the CalFresh Program entitled “SNAP on College Campuses: Findings and Recommendations to Address Food Insecurity.”¹⁶ The authors of the report worked with basic needs offices at all three public higher education institutions;

¹³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8913502/#B13>

¹⁴ <https://hope.temple.edu/research/hope-center-basic-needs-survey/2023-2024-student-basic-needs-survey-report>

¹⁵ <https://hope.temple.edu/research/hope-center-basic-needs-survey/2023-2024-student-basic-needs-survey-report>

¹⁶ <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/newsroom/blog/calfresh-college-students-food-insecurity>

specifically, UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, UC Davis, Fresno State, Los Angeles Mission Community College, and Napa Valley Community College.¹⁷ The report found the following:

- 50% of California college students surveyed experienced food insecurity;
- More than 70% of Community College students identified as food insecure;
- 50% of CSU students identified as food insecure;
- 42% of UC students identified as food insecure; and,
- Of those students 50.3% did not think they were eligible for CalFresh; and,
- 45% of food insecure students at the CCC were unaware of the food pantry on campus; where as 12% of CSU and UC students were unaware. Despite awareness of the food pantry, 1/3 of CSU and UC food insecure students did not use the pantry.¹⁸

4) ***Student Basic Needs Support by Public Higher Education Segment:***

California Community Colleges (CCC):

The annual Budget Act provided the CCC with a total appropriation of \$43.5 million to address student basic needs (including housing). In May 2025, the Chancellor's Office published the "2023-2024 Basic Needs Centers Legislative Report." *Committee staff note the Chancellor's Office is required by law to provide an annual report to the Legislature.*¹⁹ Of the 115 colleges who are mandated by law to share data with the Chancellor's Office on the use of funding to provide student basic needs supports, only 80% provided data to the Chancellor's Office for the report. The following are highlights from the report:

- 77,732 food insecure students were served by the basic needs centers in fall 2023 (1.4 million CCC students were enrolled in fall 2023) and 82,768 students were served in spring 2024 (1.3 million CCC students were enrolled in fall 2023);
- In spring 2024, following students were provided the following services through the basic needs centers:

¹⁷ <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/publications/food-insecurity-college-students-calfresh-report-2025>

¹⁸ <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/2025-02/food-insecurity-college-students-calfresh-report-2025.pdf>

- 2,429 students received childcare supports;
 - 22,799 students received technology support;
 - 16,116 received health services;
 - 9,664 received mental health services; and,
 - 23,285 received transportation services;
- The report estimates 10% of students are receiving CalFresh benefits; and,
 - A Chancellor’s Office survey indicates 100% of colleges are providing some form of basic needs services with 67% having a fully operational basic needs center.¹⁹

To further access to CalFresh benefits, the Chancellor’s Office is working with CDSS to develop a new state-level data sharing agreement that would provide data sharing between local CCC and their local health and human service agency to streamline the application process. The Chancellor’s Office has encouraged colleges to enter into local partnerships and data sharing agreement to assist in access to CalFresh and MediCal.

Compton College has entered a data sharing agreement with their local health and human services agency. The President of Compton College has reported that access to CalFresh benefits has exponentially increased due to this partnership. Furthermore, Compton College has leveraged lottery funds to provide one free meal per day to every student on campus in the current academic year.²⁰

In the CCC, “2026-2027 Board of Governors Budget and Legislative Request”, the system is asking for \$1.5 million in one tie funds to scale and strengthen a pilot to target outreach of CalFresh through CCCApply (the CCC application system) and to conduct a feasibility test for data integration between CCCApply and BenefitsCA.²¹

California State University (CSU):

¹⁹ [https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/202324basicneedscentersreport13a11y.pdf?la=en&hash=10CAFE63AF544C10C7168DE8EF0C691867C3D8B7)

[Website/docs/report/202324basicneedscentersreport13a11y.pdf?la=en&hash=10CAFE63AF544C10C7168DE8EF0C691867C3D8B7](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/202324basicneedscentersreport13a11y.pdf?la=en&hash=10CAFE63AF544C10C7168DE8EF0C691867C3D8B7)

²⁰ <https://www.compton.edu/student-support/resources/food-resources.aspx>

²¹ <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/general/2026-27-shared-advocacy-request-bog-approved-a11y.pdf>

The Budget Act of 2023 provided \$15.8 million for student health resources and \$26.3 million for the CSU Basic Needs Initiative. *Committee staff note no additional funding was provided in subsequent budget years.*

The CSU is statutorily required to provide an annual report on student mental health and basic needs initiatives. The latest report on file is from April 2025 and contains the following data points:

- 79,391 students received support from their campus food pantry and increase of 17% from the previous year;
- 35,952 students completed CalFresh applications;
- 13 universities accept EBT (CalFresh Electronic Benefits) on campus and six are working towards accepting EBT on campus (see page 5 of the report for a full accounting of the campuses);
- Six campuses currently offer CalFresh Restaurant Meals Programs with five additional universities working towards participation (see page 6 of the report for a full accounting of the campuses);
- 22 campuses have established partnerships with local food banks to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students through the campus pantry; and,
- The CSU also conducted a survey of students to see if the provision of services has helped them retain access to university system, 71% indicated that accessing these services helped them stay enrolled, while 79% reported an enhanced sense of belonging.²²

The report highlights each campus for their innovative solutions to addressing student basic needs and provides the amount of funding each campus received for mental health and student basic needs supports. Some highlights of innovative basic needs programs from CSU campuses include:

- Chico State provides a pantry to plate cooking class to help student prepare nutritious meals using pantry staples and the campus' local farm provides fruits and vegetables for the food pantry (see page 10 of the report);

- CSU Fullerton provides students up to three weeks of access to the Titan Dining Hall if students are facing food insecurity (see page 11 of the report);
- CSU Monterey Bay provides emergency grants to students up to \$500 for basic needs and provides one on one mentoring for student parents through the Parenting Otter Program (see page 16/17 of the report); and,
- San Diego State partner's with local business to provide up to \$100 gift cards to students for Vons and Trader Joe's, this amount increases if the student is parent to \$200 (see page 20 of the report).²²

The report also provides a breakdown of mental health services provided by each campus. Every campus served at least 200 students (CSU Maritime being the lowest with 231 students receiving mental health services and Sac State the highest with 7810 students receiving mental health services).²²

The current budget request from the CSU does not contain any initiatives or requests for funding for student basic needs services or mental health services.²³

University of California (UC).

In the Budget Act of 2023, the UC was provided \$15.8 million for student basic needs, \$3.7 million in rapid rehousing, and \$21.3 million in mental health. These funds were ongoing and no budget augmentation (to the knowledge of Committee staff) has occurred since.

In February 2025, the UC published the “Basic Needs, Mental Health, and Rapid Rehousing Legislative Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.”²⁴ The annually statutorily required report including the following data points:

- 73,623 students were served by the basic needs centers on UC campuses;
- UC campuses used the following as methods to reduce stigma and to encourage students to engage with the basic needs centers for support services:

²² <https://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/government/Advocacy-and-State-Relations/legislative-reports1/Mental-Health-and-Basic-Needs-Legislative-Report-2025-Signed.pdf>

²³ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/budget/2026-27-operating-budget/Documents/2026-27-Operating-Budget-Book.pdf>

²⁴ https://www.ucop.edu/operating-budget/_files/legreports/2024-25/uc_basic_needs_mental_health_rapid_rehousing_legislative_report.pdf

- Teaching kitchens and cooking classes
 - Non-transactional coffee shops where students can get nutritious food in a supportive and dignified environment
 - Food trucks offering free or low-cost, nutritious food
 - Free food and hygiene supply vending machines
 - Pop-up food pantries, including those that offer fresh produce
 - Free produce distributions with food sourced directly from the campus farm
 - CalFresh application events, with staff from the Department of Social Services present, that offer same-day EBT cards to eligible students
 - Same-day food recovery opportunities
 - Secure space for students to store food for the day
 - Social media outreach and engagement;
- 17,281 students submitted a CalFresh application; and,
 - 215,877 students received mental health services.²⁴

The UC had previously set a goal of reducing undergraduate student food insecurity to 24% by 2025. In 2022 a student survey indicated 43% of undergraduate students identified as food insecure.²⁵ The UC set a goal of reducing graduate student food insecurity to 14% by 2025; and in 2023, 35% of all graduate students identified as food insecure.²⁵ These goals were set by the Regents in 2020 and new experience survey data has yet to be published to determine if the UC met its goal.²⁶

The UC Regents will discuss on their November 19, 2026 meeting the system's 2026-2027 Budget for Current Operation and State Requests for Capital Projects.²⁷ The proposed budget asks for \$20 million in one-time funds for emergency basic needs supports across the system.

5) Federal Changes to Student Basic Needs Support:

²⁵ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/student-basic-needs>

²⁶ <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may22/a4.pdf>

²⁷ <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov25/fin.pdf>

- a) *CalFresh Cuts* – The congressional bill, H. R. 1 included historic cuts to the CalFresh program which currently feeds over 5 million Californians. The bill cut the entire programs budget by 20% and it is estimated these cuts will affect 97% of CalFresh recipients.²⁸ The bill restricted CalFresh benefits to three months across three years for older adults, caregivers, veterans, former foster youth, and people experiencing homelessness unless they can prove they are meeting the 20 hour per week work requirement or have a disability.²⁹ The bill also shifts a portion of the SNAP total cost to state if the state has made a payment error above 6%.³⁰ The bill eliminates food assistance for many lawfully present immigrants affecting up to 74,000 Californians.³¹ The California Budget and Policy Center estimates due to the changes in H.R. 1, at least 740,000 people will lose their entire monthly budget with over 3 million facing reduction for a total loss of federal funding between \$2.5 to 4.5 billion.³¹
- b) *Child Care Access Means Parents In school (CCAMPIS) program* – Since 2011, the USDE has provided grants to postsecondary education institutions to support or establish campus-based child care programs and/or before-and after-school services for low-income parents. Past recipients of the grant included 46 different CCC, CSU, and UC campuses. The average award in fiscal year 2023 was \$317,108. In September 2025, the U.S. Department announced some recipients would have their CCAMPIS grant discontinued due to concern the recipients' policies and practices were in conflict with the federal government's policies.³² According to the CSU, Cal State LA lost their CCAMPIS funding of \$450,000.³³

²⁸ <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/federal-funding-cuts-to-snap-calfresh-will-have-sweeping-impacts-on-californians/>

²⁹ <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/hr1-and-the-federal-budget-how-california-leaders-can-respond-to-trumps-cuts/#h-food-assistance>

³⁰ <https://ticas.org/affordability-2/provisions-affecting-higher-education-in-the-reconciliation-law/#:~:text=to%20receive%20relief.,Cuts%20to%20the%20SNAP%20and%20Medicaid%20Programs,-SNAP%20Cuts>

³¹ <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/federal-funding-cuts-to-snap-calfresh-will-have-sweeping-impacts-on-californians/>

³² <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/09/02/education-department-cuts-ccampis-funding-some-colleges>

³³ <https://www.calstate.edu/weekly-updates/Pages/default.aspx#825>