

Mobilizing the Right to Food and Student Basic Needs:

A Workshop on the UC Basic Needs Initiative

September 24, 2021



Graduate, Undergraduate
and Equity Affairs

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Session Overview

- Situate the context of emergent student rights and needs
- Introduce the UC Basic Needs Initiative and its origins
- Explore the research and assessment dimensions of advancing the initiative's efforts
- Highlight impacts and successes to date
- Invite curiosity and possibility with breakouts and a collective discussion



Trends in Revenues at US Colleges and Universities, 1987–2013

Peter Hinrichs

“For students, tuition is only one part of the calculation, as food, housing, books and supplies eat up a hefty portion of their budgets, even at low-cost community colleges.

It is no longer feasible for students to work their way through college to pay the bills, according to the project.

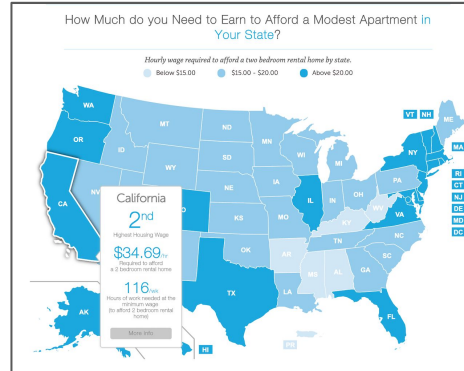
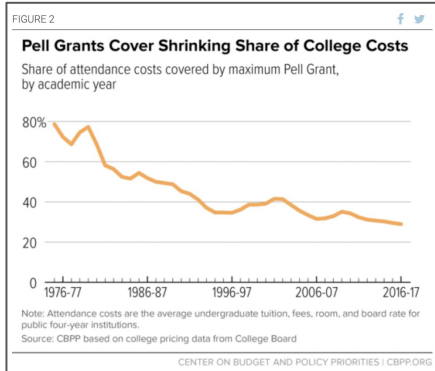
Working 10 hours a week for minimum wage during the school year and 35 hours a week over summer break was enough to pay tuition, room and board at the average public college in the 1960s and 1970s.

Today, the same amount of work covers only one-third of the cost of the average public four-year university because of the increase in prices and decrease in the minimum wage in real terms.”



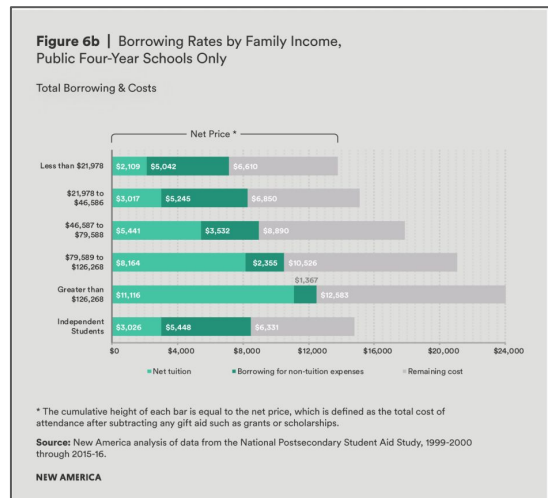
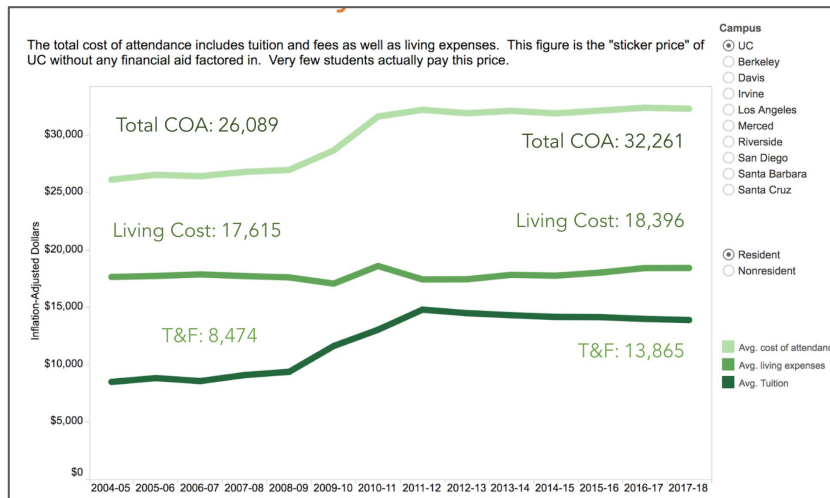
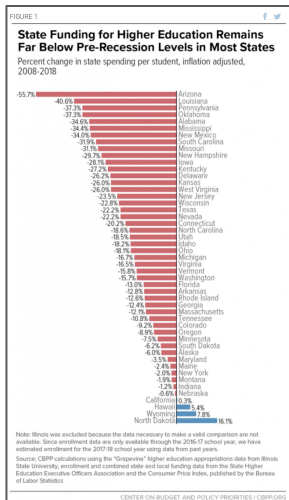
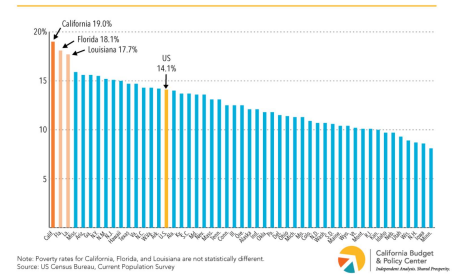
Washington Post; April 4th, 2017

Systems Do What We Allow Them To



California Has One of the Highest Poverty Rates of the 50 States Under the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

State Poverty Rate Under the SPM, 2015-2017





UC at a Glance

- ✕ 10 campuses
- ✕ 5 medical centers
- ✕ 3 national laboratories
- ✕ 150 academic disciplines
- ✕ 600 graduate degree programs
- ✕ Student Populations (F'20):
 - ✕ UG: 226,489
 - ✕ Graduate Academic /Professional : 59,267
- ✕ 167,600 employees
- ✕ 1.8 million living alumni

Interdependent + Emergent + Multi-Generational

AYs 13/14 - 14/15



AY 2020-2021 aka Year 6





Global Food Initiative
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

What is food insecurity

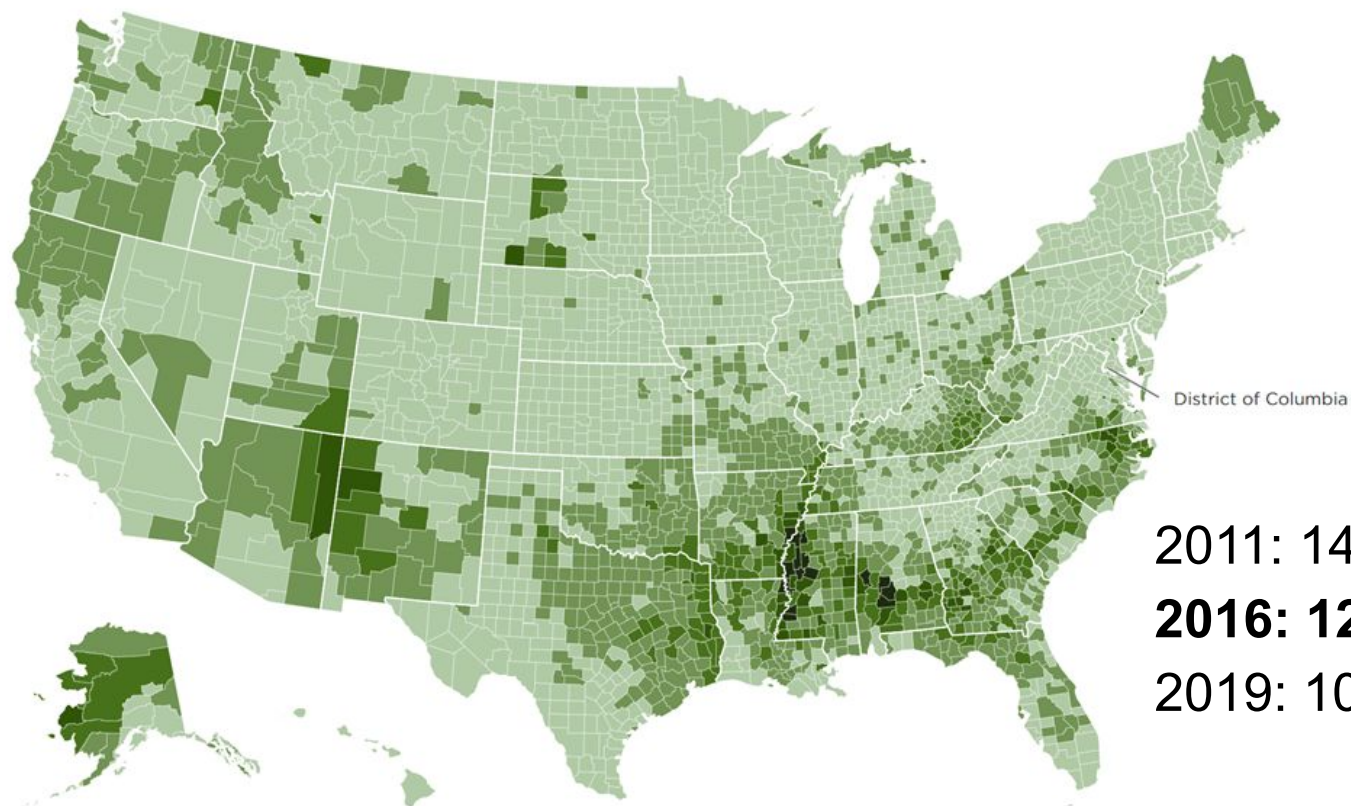


Defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **Limited or uncertain availability** of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or
- **Limited or uncertain ability** to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Available at: www.ers.usda.gov

Food insecurity in U.S. Households



2011: 14.9%

2016: 12.9%

2019: 10.5%

Food Insecurity Rates

4-14%

15-19%

20-24%

25-29%

30% +

USDA ERS data; map: www.feedingamerica.org

“Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits”



U.S. Gov. Accountability Office (Jan. 2019)

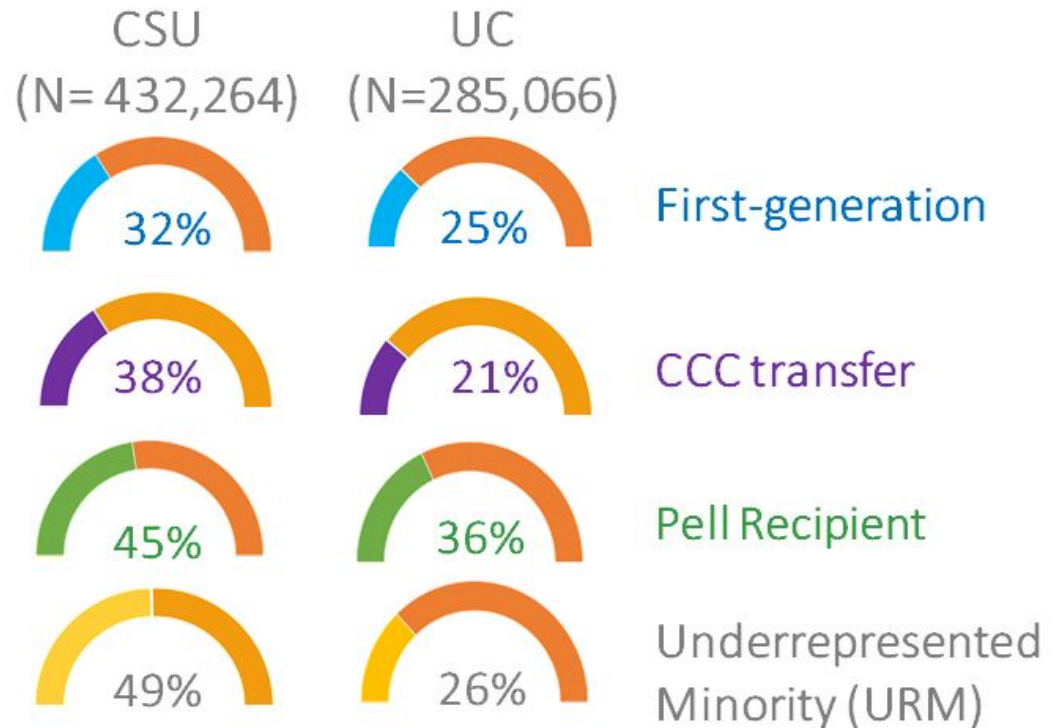
- Total of 31 studies of U.S. college students
- 9% to > 50% food insecurity:

Recommended that USDA FNS:

- Improve student eligibility information on web
- Share information on approaches that state SNAP agencies are taking to help eligible students.

Available at: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-95>

Today's CA Public University 4-year Student



<http://universityofcalifornia.edu/news/how-uc-serves-low-income-students>

<https://www2.calstate.edu/data-center/institutional-research-analyses/Pages/enrollment.aspx>

California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA)

Timeline



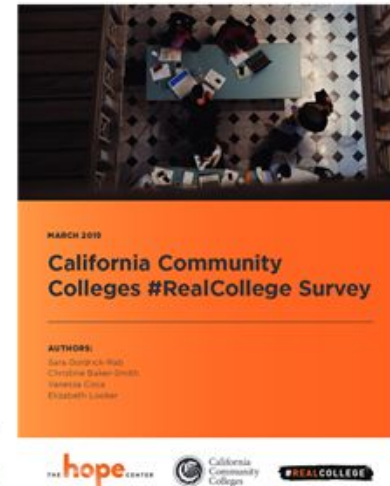
2016

42% UC food insecurity (N = 8,932)

UC = University of California
CSU = California State University
CCC = California Community Colleges

2019

50% CCC food insecurity +
19% unhoused (N = 32,256)



40% UC food insecurity + 5% unhoused
(N = 69,764)
40% CSU food insecurity + 11%
unhoused (N = 24,324)

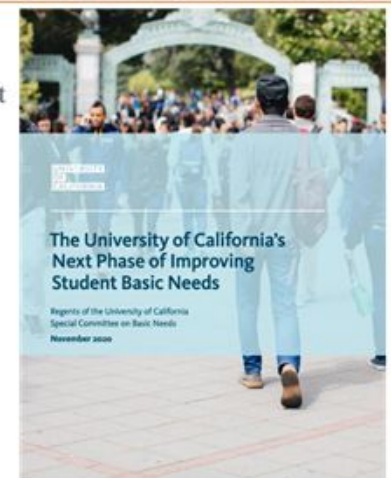
2017-2018

*CHEBNA
begins!



UC Regents Report

2020



*CHEBNA: CA Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance includes CSU, UC and CA Community Colleges



Illustrated by Christopher Paguio

**New University of California
definition:** basic needs as an
ecosystem that goes beyond just
housing + food

healthy and
sufficient food

safe, secure and
adequate housing
(to sleep, study,
cook, and shower)

healthcare to
promote mental
and physical well-
being

affordable
transportation

financial stability

emergency needs
for dependents of
parenting students

Source: Martinez et al., AJHP 2020;
2020 UC Regents Basic Needs Report

Data: Impacts of Food & Housing Insecurity

Student Experience

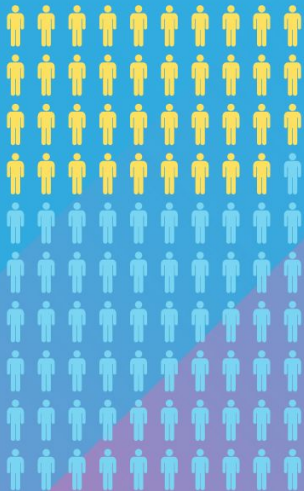
39%

of undergraduate students in 2020 said they have been

FOOD INSECURE

during their enrollment at UC, as did half of students from underrepresented groups (URGs), (African American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian).

(More on page 40)



5%

of undergraduate and graduate students in 2016 said they have been

HOMELESS

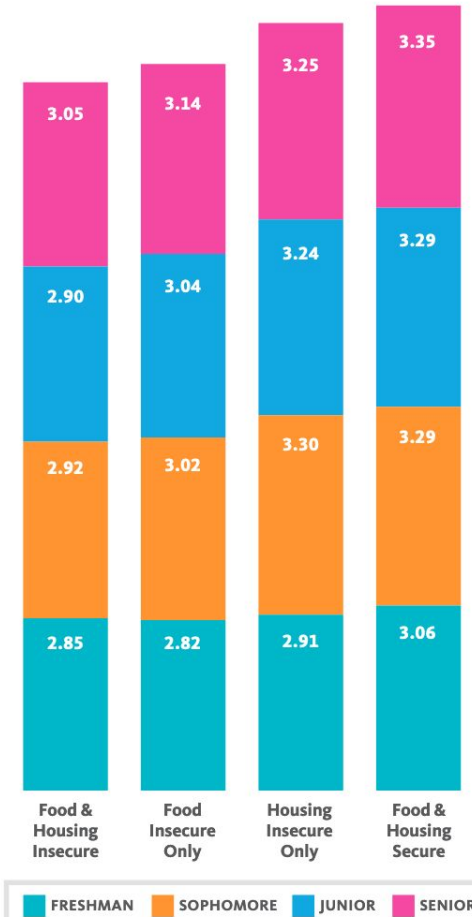
during their enrollment at UC. (2-3 percentage points higher for students from URGs).³

(More on page 36)

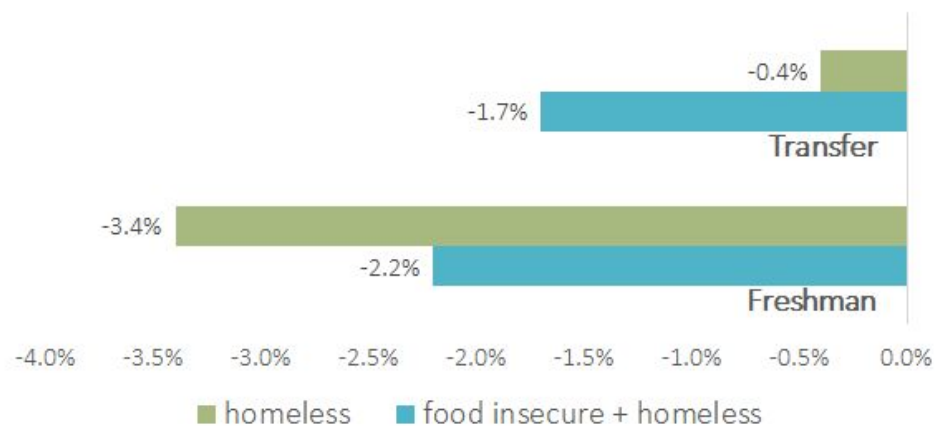


Academic Impacts

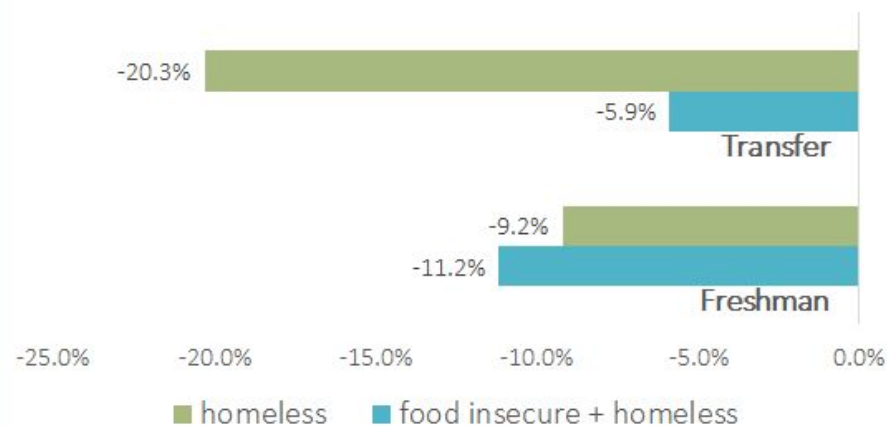
Figure 11. Average undergraduate GPA and basic needs insecurity



1st year persistence rate



Graduation rate (2- or 4-years)



(compared to food + housing secure students)
2016 + 2018 UC data

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/student-basic-needs>

No food for thought: Food insecurity is related to poor mental health and lower academic performance among students in California's public university system

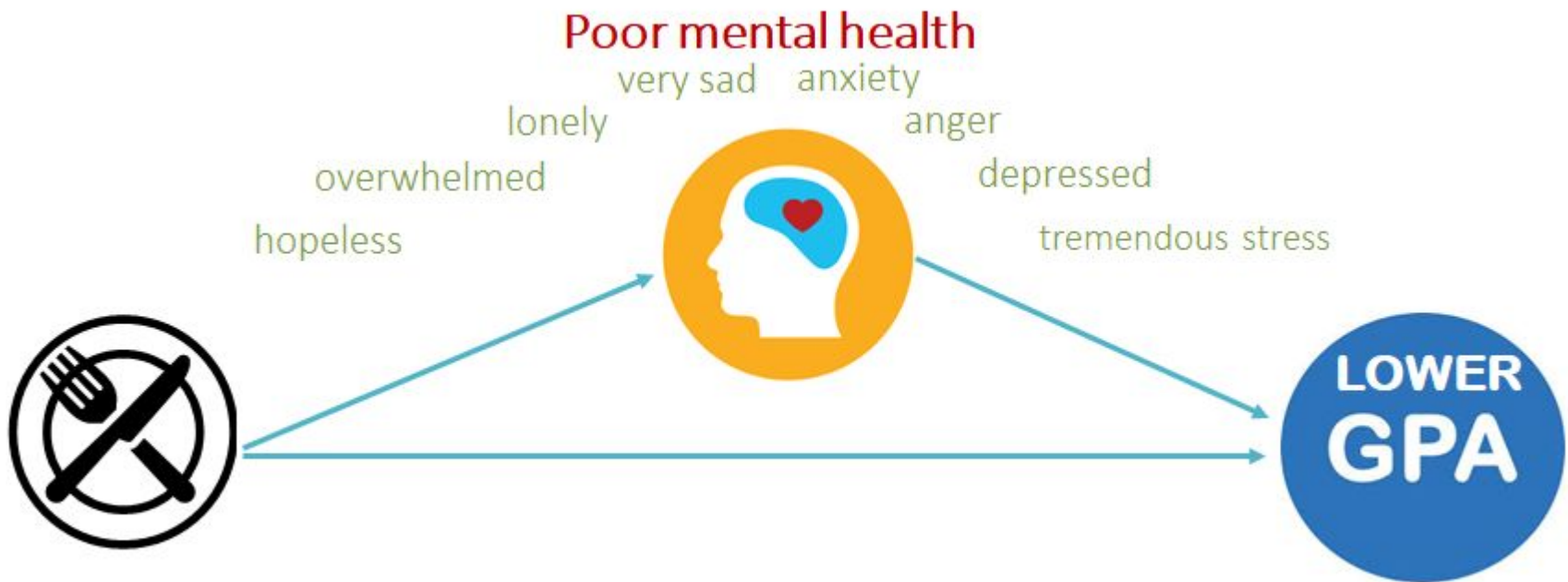
Suzanna M Martinez , Edward A Frongillo, Cindy Leung, more...

[Show all authors](#) v

First Published June 25, 2018 | Research Article | [Find in PubMed](#) |  Check for updates

Study design:

10 UC campuses, 2015 survey
Undergraduates and graduates
(n = 8,705)



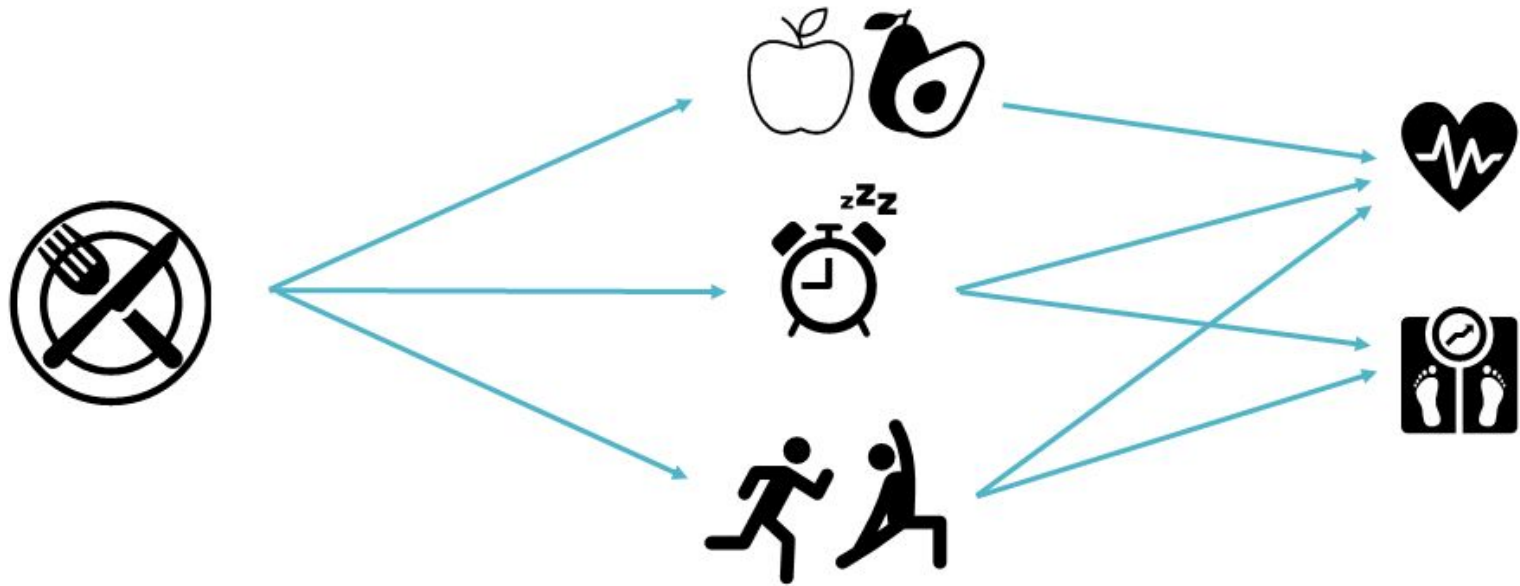
Pathways from Food Insecurity to Health Outcomes among California University Students

Suzanna M. Martinez ^{1,*}, Michael A. Grandner ², Aydin Nazmi ³, Elias Ruben Canedo ⁴ and Lorrene D. Ritchie ⁵

Study design:

10 UC campuses, 2015 survey

Undergraduates and graduates (n = 8,705)



Food insecurity is related to

- poor diet quality
- less sufficient sleep
- lower physical activity

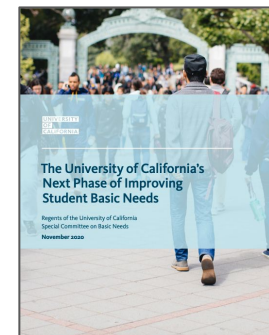
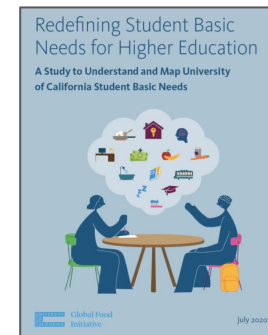
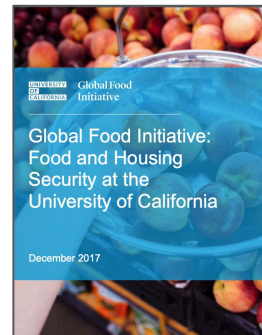
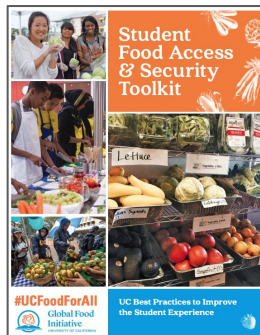
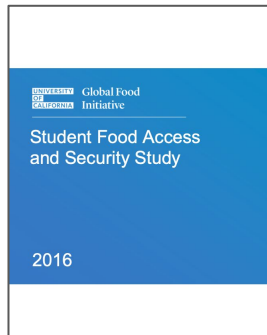


All of which relate to either poor health or higher weight status

Research

Six years of aggregate knowledge across student narratives, service providers narratives, peer academic reviewed publications, campus & system survey data, and administrative reporting confirm:

Prioritizing student Basic Needs can improve UC access, affordability, persistence, academic performance, sense of belonging, time to degree, and graduation rates of both undergraduate and graduate students.



Moving Forward Together

Since 2015, UC has been building infrastructure and sustainable services to address systemic factors that harm our student basic needs



RESEARCH

- Deepen understanding of the student experience
- Evaluation of interventions
- Proactive Reporting

SUSTAINABILITY

- Sustainable efforts
- Institutionalization
- Directly and indirectly impact student basic needs

UC BASIC NEEDS MODEL

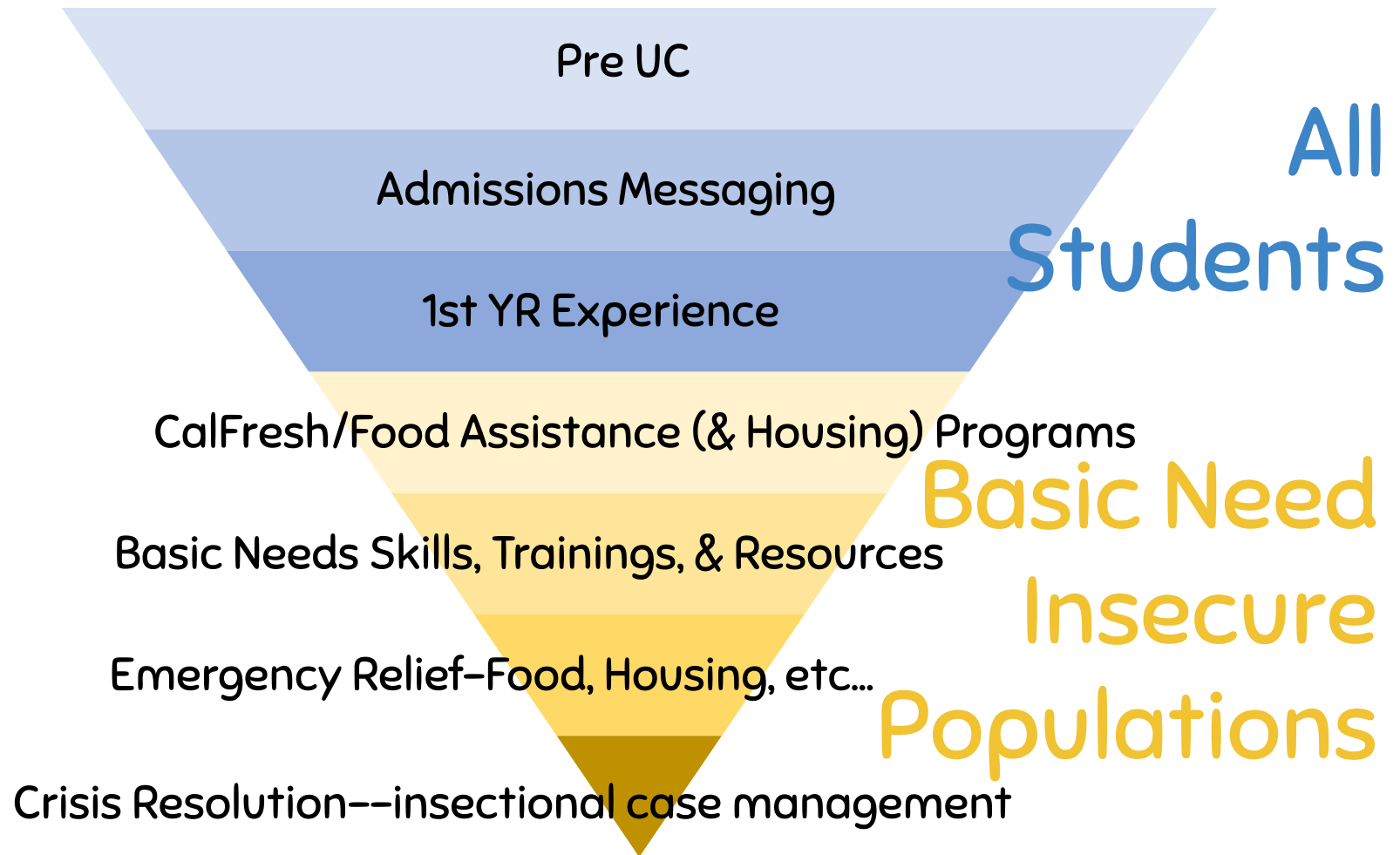
PREVENTION

- Prospective Students
- Admissions
- 1st Year Experience
- CalFresh
- Skills/Services
- Emergency/Crisis

ADVOCACY

- Local, state, regional, and national
- Policies, structures, and decision making processes

Sustainability and Moving Forward in the UC



Basic Needs Programs and Outcomes

Programs

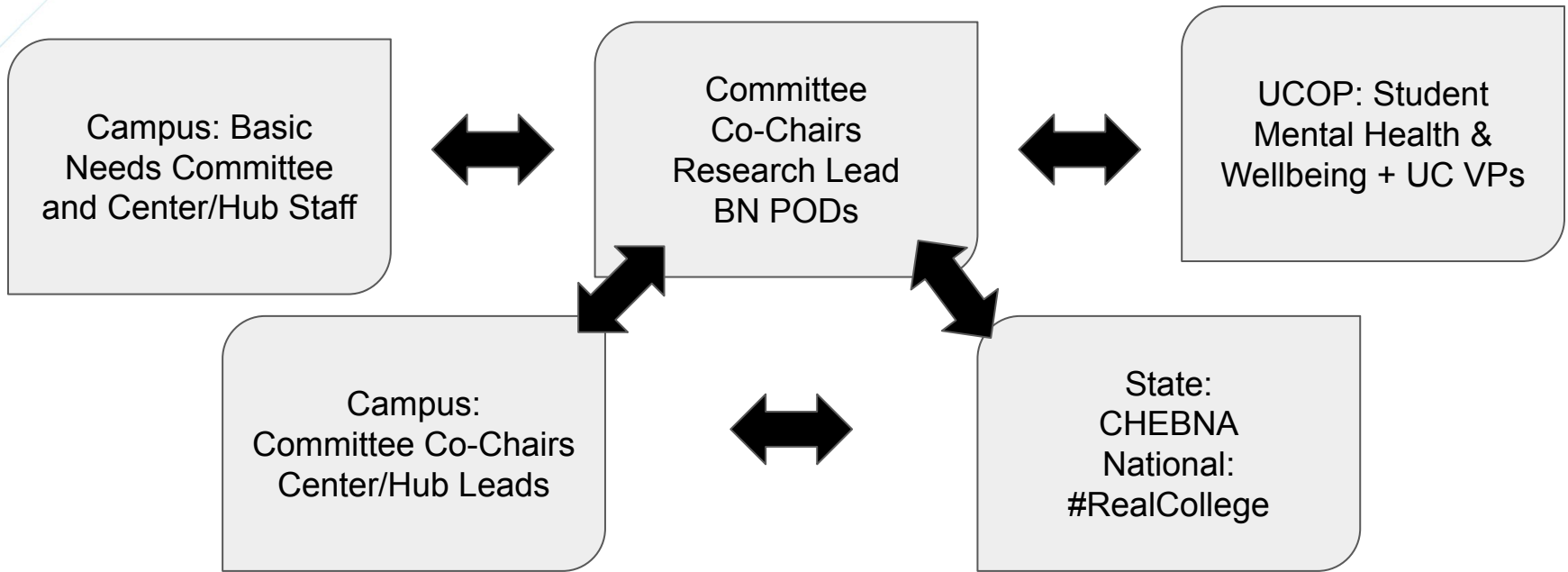
- Food Pantries
- Food Distributions
- Food Rescues
- CalFresh outreach + assistance
- Rapid Rehousing programs
- Emergency case management services
- Partnerships with community partners
- Collaboration with the Department of Social Services
- COVID Support

Outcomes

- **33** staff hired
- **142** student staff hired
- **38** graduate students hired
- **Over 35,432 unique** students served
- **Estimated 205,214** total contacts made

Data reported from
July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Emergent ecosystem for UC BN efforts

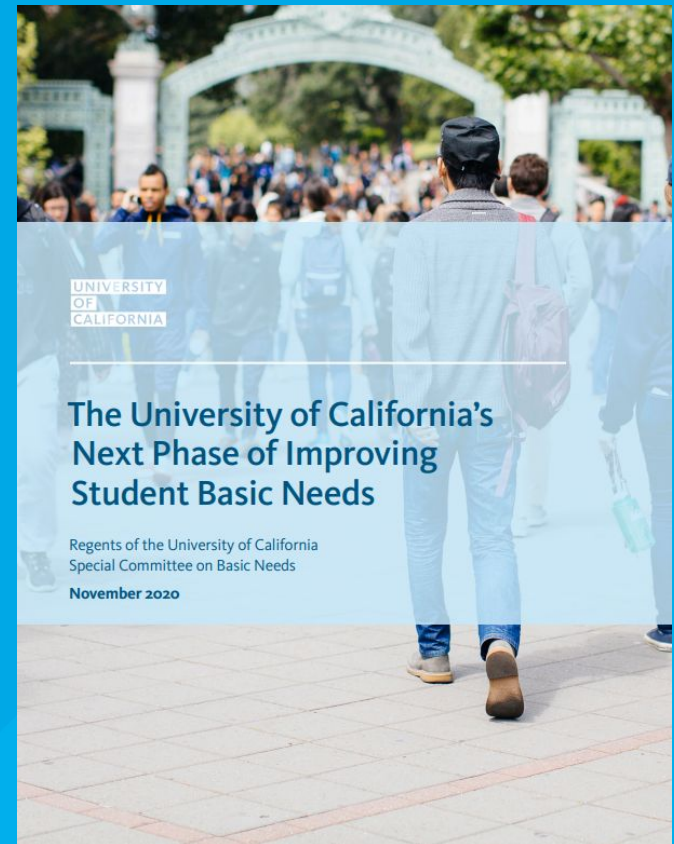


Genie Kim, Director Student Mental Health & Wellbeing (UCOP)	Ruben E. Canedo, Committee Co-Chair (UCB)
Shawn Brick, Director Student Financial Support (UCOP)	Tim Galarneau, Committee Co-Chair (UCSC)
Claire Chevallier, Policy & Program Analyst (UCOP)	Suzanna Martinez, Research/Evaluation (UCSF)

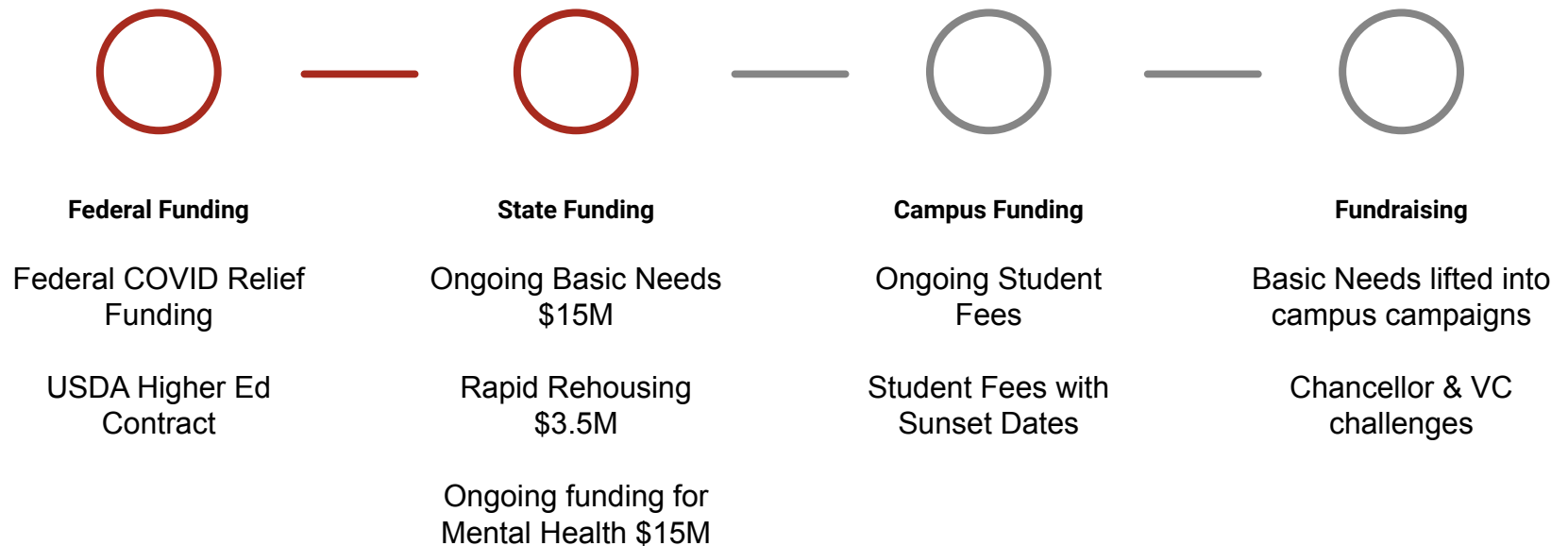
Regents Recommendations

- (Goal) By June 2025, reduce the proportion of undergraduate and graduate students experiencing food and housing insecurity by half.
- Advocate for an increase in mental health funding to ensure the University has capacity to meet demand for students struggling with basic needs.
- Prioritize basic needs resources for students with higher rates of basic needs challenges.
- Prioritize basic needs in divisional/campus fundraising efforts to increase count of students serve.
- Establish relationship with county supervisor and social services leadership to improve care and services to students.
- More details are included on pg 9 of the Regents Report:

<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov20/s1attach.pdf>



Funding landscape of UC BN efforts



- Uneven UC Basic Needs funding landscape since our start as an organized effort in 2013.
- Continue improving equitable and sustainable funding for our UC Basic Needs efforts.
- The recently accomplished ongoing federal and state funding serve as powerful foundations in this next phase to affirm, attract, and scale funding across all 10 campuses.

Equity in Mental Health Funding Plan

\$15 million in ongoing student mental health funding.

Our Goals at a Glance

Based on research, data, and evidence based best practices.

Health for All

Holistic services and support for all students.

Tier 1: Holistic treatment & recovery support

Health Equity

Unencumbered access to services and supports for all students.

Tier 2: Early intervention & collaborative well-being

Healthy Campus Environments

Robust infrastructure that contributes to thriving campus environments.

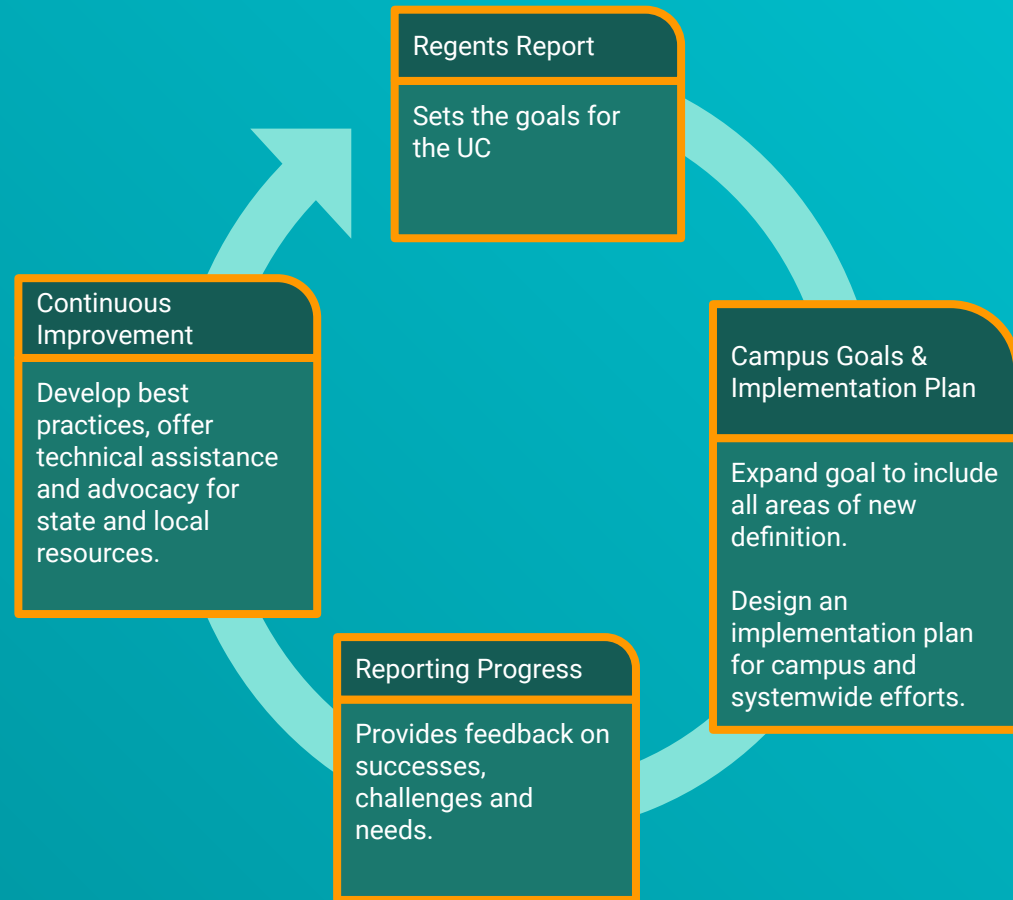
Tier 3: Universal prevention and wellness

Progress in a 6 Year Journey in Advancing Basic Needs in the UC

- ✓ Published largest study to date, on four-year research university student food and housing security
- ✓ 4 campus completed qualitative studies on food insecurity risk factors and lived experiences
- ✓ All UC campuses have established institutional basic needs committees
- ✓ All UC campuses have started to build their basic needs prevention models
- ✓ All UC campuses have started CalFresh application and enrollment efforts
- ✓ All UC campuses have started emergency food provision efforts
- ✓ All UC campuses have launched basic needs skills development efforts
- ✓ All UC campuses have launched Basic Needs Centers to centralize information and services
- ✓ UC Office of the President has provided a total of \$4.18 million in funding
- ✓ UC Regents provided 2 one-time funding monies (\$27 and \$30 million) for Housing Insecurity
- ✓ State Assembly Bills passed in support of college student basic needs AB 1930, 1747, 214, 453, 1326
- ✓ State Legislature provided \$4.0 million in one-time funding across FY 18 & FY 19 via AB453/SB85
- ✓ State Funding Allocations for Food & Housing @ \$15 million and Rapid-Rehousing @ \$3.5 million annually beginning in FY 20
- ✓ AB85 One-Time CalFresh Assistance to all three higher ed sectors (\$650k to the UC)
- ✓ CSU Allocated \$30 million in ongoing and CCC \$100 million one-time and \$30 million ongoing basic needs and health equity efforts

Next Steps

- **Now** - UCOP will operationalize the expanded definition of Basic Needs and track progress towards regents goals and recommendations.
- **September 2021** - UCOP will present on the status of basic needs at UC to the Regents Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee.
- **June 2025** - evaluate progress, update goals, and continue advancing Basic Needs efforts



Discussion and Breakouts

Culture & Institutional Change

- ❑ What aspects of basic needs efforts in higher ed most resonate with you?
- ❑ What is your role in the just transition from blame to solutions in your institution and advocacy for basic needs?
- ❑ What are next steps you can envision in weaving basic needs and a rights based approach to lifting voices and amplifying possibilities?

Contacts

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