



New Tools to Reduce College Campus Hunger AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Fact Sheet – October 1, 2016

According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness.ⁱ In a survey recently conducted by the University of California Regents, it was found that one in ten University of California (UC) students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition.ⁱⁱ Furthermore, nationwide lab reports show that half of all community college students are struggling with housing and/or food insecurity.ⁱⁱⁱ

Assembly Bill 1747, authored by Dr. Shirley Weber and signed by Governor Jerry Brown last month, addresses growing hunger among low-income college students in California.^{iv} The bill provides the state with several new tools to draw down federal resources and aims to improve coordination between anti-hunger efforts on college campuses and anti-hunger efforts in the surrounding communities.^v

CalFresh Hunger Relief & EBT Access Out Of Reach for Many College Students

CalFresh is California's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides federally funded food benefits for low-income Californians. CalFresh has sometimes proven difficult to access for students.^{vi} While some may have applied for benefits and/or were denied, state laws implemented in 2014 (AB 1930, Chaptered Bills of 2014), has reduced student barriers to applying for CalFresh.^{vii} Still, many students remain unaware of policy changes, don't know that they may qualify for the program, or simply do not know how to apply.

Even if a student successfully applies and receives CalFresh benefits, very few college campuses have an on-campus location where CalFresh beneficiaries can purchase food using their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. The EBT card is used to distribute CalFresh benefits and cash assistance through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. CalFresh benefits can only be used to purchase food at retailers that meet very specific stocking requirements certified by the United States Department of Agriculture. CalWORKs benefits can be used to purchase anything where the EBT card is accepted (i.e. book store). Small and specialty retailers, like those found on college campuses, do not meet requirements for regular issuance CalFresh EBT use, though retailers that sell prepared food and meet other requirements could choose to participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP), whereby serving some of the most vulnerable college students. Additionally, there are very few restrictions for retailers in accepting CalWORKs EBT for food or non-food purchases. Still few campuses accept the EBT card.

What are the Provisions of AB 1747 (Weber) to Address Hunger on College Campuses?

While AB 1747 does not mandate any campuses to accept EBT on campus, it will increase access to food for food insecure students by increasing the likelihood that on-campus restaurants or cafeterias will participate in the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP).^{viii} The Restaurant Meals Program permits food to be purchased by beneficiaries who are homeless, elderly or disabled, thus reaching specific food insecure communities^{ix}. Although AB 1747 does not provide funding for campuses to implement its policy, it does establish a funding account to support collaboration between on-campus food pantries and CDSS-contracting food banks. Finally, AB 1747 codifies existing practices to include public institutions in the state CalFresh Outreach Plan.

What is the Restaurant Meal Program?

The California Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) allows eligible CalFresh recipients who are homeless, disabled, and/or elderly to use their benefits to purchase hot, prepared food from participating restaurants in California.^x The CalFresh RMP also prevents hunger by allowing vulnerable populations, who may not have a safe space or the ability to prepare their own food, to use their benefits to purchase discounted prepared meals at participating restaurants in participating counties.

Which Campuses Must Comply with the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program?

In California, county participation in the Restaurant Meals Program is optional.^{xi} Currently, there are only 7 of 58 counties participating in the program.^{xii} A college campus located outside of one of these counties cannot currently participate in the CalFresh RMP. Therefore, colleges located outside of one of these counties are not required to comply with this provision of the bill. However, colleges located in a county not currently participating in the CalFresh RMP should regularly monitor whether their county has decided to participate and can participate at that time. For a current list of campuses that must comply with the CalFresh RMP provision of AB 1747, see Appendix A of this factsheet.

How Can A County Participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program?

Any interested county can submit a proposal requesting approval to implement RMP to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The County must include in their application a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be used with participating restaurants. The MOU must detail obligations of both the county and the restaurant.^{xiii}

Which Recipients are Eligible for the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program?

Only people who are homeless, elderly, or disabled and receiving CalFresh are eligible to participate in the RMP. Client eligibility is established regardless of whether or not the county participates in CalFresh RMP. This means that a recipient who is elderly, homeless or disabled and receives benefits in one county that does not participate in RMP can purchase a meal at a participating restaurant located in a county that does participate in RMP. The point-of-sale (POS) equipment at approved restaurants should verify client eligibility at the time of the transaction. Denial codes displayed on POS equipment vary by processor. If a recipient who is declared elderly, disabled or elderly receives a denial code at a POS at a participating restaurant, they should contact a worker at their county of residence to request that their card be coded properly.

Which Restaurants Can Participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program?

In order to participate in RMP, a restaurant must be located within a county that has chosen to participate.^{xiv} A restaurant interested in participating in the RMP must sign a MOU with the county. This MOU must be submitted to the USDA with a Meals Service Application to participate in the Food Stamp Program for Communal Dining Facilities, FNS-252-22.^{xv} Once enrolled in the program, a restaurant must have or obtain Point of Sale (POS) equipment that can process EBT transactions. The Point of Sale equipment must include a personal identification number (PIN) pad. The POS equipment used to accept most major credit cards and debit cards is usually able to accept EBT. All that is required for most restaurants is that they inform their POS "Third Party Processor," that they would like to accept this form of payment.

If approved, each restaurant must agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for SNAP acceptance and redemption. The restaurant must notify the county when it receives authorization of its application. Restaurants are prohibited from charging sales tax, meal tax or tips on prepared foods purchased with EBT food benefits, such as CalFresh or SNAP benefits. However, prepared foods purchased with EBT cash benefits are taxable.

Does AB 1747 Provide Grants for College Campus Food Pantries & Food Bank to Partner?

AB 1747 establishes a fund to support collaboration with on-campus food pantries and CDSS-contracting food banks. However, additional appropriations would need to be taken in order for the fund to have money for distribution. Western Center will continue to work with food bank and campus anti-hunger advocates to identify funds to support these partnerships. There are actions that campus pantries and food banks can begin to take to improve collaboration and strengthen hunger-fighting efforts even without the funds. Appendix B offers examples of campus food pantry and food bank collaborations.

How does AB 1747 Impact CalFresh Outreach on College Campuses?

AB 1747 clarifies existing law related to CalFresh outreach federal reimbursements and codifies the existing practice that public institutions may also claim for the federal reimbursements by participating in the states CalFresh Outreach Plan.^{xvi} California's CalFresh Outreach Plan for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016-2017 includes federal reimbursement for seven California State University campuses: CSU Chico, list 6 others.^{xvii} By participating in the CalFresh Outreach Plan, these Universities will be able to draw down a 50% reimbursement for allowable and approved outreach activities. No other public colleges currently participate in the CalFresh Outreach Plan, but with the codification of this practice in AB 1747, the bill author and sponsors are hopeful that other public colleges and universities will follow the lead of the CSU system or partner with one of the community based organizations listed in the CalFresh Outreach Plan to conduct on-campus outreach events, such as meeting with low-income students, orientations for work-study recipients or meetings for former or transitioning foster youth.

Acknowledgments We are grateful to the following people:

- *Dr. Shirley Weber* for her diligence to pass this important legislation and her leadership as the Chairperson of the California State Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate.
- *Governor Brown* and the Department of Social Services have been diligently working to improve access to CalFresh for eligible low-income Californians.
- *The Student Aid Commission, the California State University Chancellor, the California Community College Chancellor's Office and the University of California, Office of the President* who are documenting *College Student Hunger* and working with students and faculty to find solutions.
- *Members of the AB 1930 (Skinner) Implementation Workgroup*, who met for over two years to develop policies that help maximize participation among college students who are federally eligible.
- *Katrina Padilla*, a policy fellow placed through UC Center Sacramento, who co-wrote this implementation guide and to *Stephanie Nishio* of the California Food Bank Association who helped review this guide for accuracy and for clarity.
- *Food Research and Action Center* and *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger*, which have provided key technical assistance and funding for this work.

Western Center on Law and Poverty serves as a support center for California’s legal aid community and leads the way in large-scale impact litigation, administrative advocacy, budget advocacy and legislative advocacy to ensure that low-income Californians can easily access safe and affordable housing, adequate health care, and safety net services. For more information about Western Center’s anti-hunger advocacy, contact: Jessica Bartholow, jbartholow@wclp.org or visit www.wclp.org.

Young Invincibles is a national non-profit organization working to expand opportunity for young adults ages 18 to 34 and amplify the voice of our generation in the nation. For more information about Young Invincible’s efforts to reduce hunger among low-income college students, contact: Kristin McGuire at kristin.mcguire@younginvincibles.org or visit www.younginvincibles.org.

ⁱ Source: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-cal-state-homelessness-20160620-snap-story.html>

ⁱⁱ Student Food Security and Access,” <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july16/e1attach.pdf>

This report was made possible by funding from the University of California (UC) Office of the President Global Food Initiative. For more information about this initiative, visit: www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative.

ⁱⁱⁱ Source: http://wihopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin_hope_lab_hungry_to_learn.pdf

^{iv} AB 1747 was sponsored by the UC Student Association, San Diego Hunger Advocacy Network, The Young Invincibles and Western Center on Law and Poverty. Text of the bill can be found at:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1747

^v For a look into advocacy efforts by students themselves, see “A Plate at the Table: Student Stories and Recommendations regarding Hunger and Basic Needs Insecurity”, published by the University of California Student Associations and Accessible at <http://ucsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Report-A-Plate-At-The-Table.pdf>

^{vi} For an overview on barriers to college students applying for CalFresh, see: <http://www.cafoodbanks.org/cal-fresh-outreach-resources#student-eligibility>

^{vii} Three All County Letters were issued to implement the bill following a very successful workgroup process led by the Department of Social Services CalFresh Branch. These ACLs are: (a) [ACL 15-70 \(September 17, 2015\)](#), which represents the first step in implementing [AB 1930 \(Skinner\)](#), co-sponsored by Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, requiring CDSS to identify programs that would qualify college students for exemptions from the CalFresh student rules; (b) [ACIN 1-89-15 \(December 31, 2015\)](#) which all exemptions to the 20-hour-work rule and instruct counties of how to verify these exemptions; and, (c) [ACIN I-66-16 \(September 12, 2016\)](#) which establishes several new programs designated by the state to qualify a student for an exemptions to the CalFresh student rules.

^{viii} <http://www.hungercenter.org/publications/a-primer-on-the-restaurant-meals-program-in-california-preventing-hunger-among-the-elderly-disabled-homeless-in-the-golden-state/>

^{ix} <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-cal-state-homelessness-20160620-snap-story.html>

^x <http://www.ebtproject.ca.gov/ClientInformation/cal-freshrmp.shtml>

^{xi} Participating counties can be found at <http://www.ebtproject.ca.gov/ClientInformation/cal-freshrmp.shtml> you may also contact the county’s Department of Social Services or Department of Health and Human Services.

^{xii} The seven counties participating in the restaurant meals program are Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Clara. Source, CDSS at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/foodstamps/PG3665.htm>

^{xiii} An example of the proposal and other requirements for the county are included in the All County Information Notice 1-31-04.

^{xiv} See <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/foodstamps/PG839.htm> for county contact information or call (916) 654-2236.

^{xv} SNAP Retailer Service Center at 1-877-823-4369 has paper Meal Service Application, Form FNS-252-2.

^{xvi} For more information, see http://www.frac.org/pdf/roadmap_snap_outreach_plan.pdf and http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cal-fresh-outreach/res/pdf/Outreach_Stateplan15_16.pdf

^{xvii} http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cal-fresh-outreach/res/pdf/Outreach_Stateplan15_16.pdf

AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Guide

Appendix A - College Campuses in RMP Participating Counties

Alameda County

Academy Of Chinese Culture And Health Sciences
Acupuncture And Integrative Medicine College-
Berkeley

Alameda Beauty College

American Baptist Seminary Of The West

Argosy University-San Francisco Bay Area

Berkeley City College

California College Of The Arts

California State University-East Bay

Chabot College

Church Divinity School Of The Pacific

College Of Alameda

Dominican School Of Philosophy And Theology

English Center For International Women

Everest College-Hayward

Ex-Pression College For Digital Arts

Franciscan School Of Theology

Graduate Theological Union

Heald College-Hayward

Holy Names University

Jesuit School Of Theology At Berkeley

Laney College

Las Positas College

Life Chiropractic College-West

Lincoln University

Merritt College

Mills College

Moler Barber College

National Holistic Institute

Northwestern Polytechnic University

Ohlone College

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Pacific School Of Religion

Patten University

Samuel Merritt College

School Of Urban Missions

Starr King School For Ministry

The Wright Institute

University Of California-Berkeley

Vallecitos CET Inc

Wyotech-Fremont

Wyotech-Oakland Campus

Los Angeles County

Academy Of Barbering Arts

Adelante Career Institute

Advanced College

Alhambra Beauty College

Alliant International University

American Academy Of Dramatic Arts-West

American Auto Institute

American Beauty College

American Career College

American Film Institute Conservatory

American Intercontinental University

American Jewish University

American Medical Sciences Center

American Pacific College

American University Of Health Sciences

Antelope Valley College

Antelope Valley Medical College

Antioch University-Los Angeles Branch

Argosy University-Los Angeles

AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Guide

Appendix A - College Campuses in RMP Participating Counties

Art Center College Of Design	Baldwin Park Adult & Community Education
Associated Technical College	Biola University
ATI College	Brooks College
Azusa Pacific University	
Bryan College	Harvey Mudd College
California Career College	Hebrew Union College-California Branch
California Design College	Hypnosis Motivation Institute
California Healing Arts College	ICDC College
California Institute Of Technology	Intercoast Colleges
California Institute Of The Arts	International School Of Cosmetology
California School Of Culinary Arts	ITT Technical Institute-San Dimas
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona	ITT Technical Institute-Sylmar
California State University-Dominguez Hills	ITT Technical Institute-Torrance
California State University-Long Beach	John Wesley International Barber And Beauty College
California State University-Los Angeles	Keck Graduate Institute
California State University-Northridge	King's College And Seminary
Career Care Institute	La College International
Career Colleges Of America	Ladera Career Paths Training Centers
Casa Loma College-Hawthorne	Lancaster Beauty School
Casa Loma College-Van Nuys	Liberty Training Institute
Cerritos College	Life Pacific College
CES College	Long Beach City College
Charles Drew University Of Medicine And Science	Los Angeles City College
Citrus College	Los Angeles County College Of Nursing And Allied Health
City Of Hope Graduate School Of Biological Science	Los Angeles Film School
Claremont Graduate University	Los Angeles Harbor College
Claremont Mckenna College	Los Angeles Mission College
Claremont School Of Theology	Los Angeles Music Academy
Glendale Community College	Los Angeles ORT Technical Institute
Gnomon School Of Visual Effects	Los Angeles ORT Technical Institute-Sherman Oaks
Golden Gate University-Los Angeles	Los Angeles Pierce College
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District-Adult Education	Los Angeles Recording School

AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Guide

Appendix A - College Campuses in RMP Participating Counties

Los Angeles Southwest College	Occidental College
Los Angeles Trade Technical College	Otis College Of Art And Design
Los Angeles Valley College	Pacific Oaks College
Loyola Marymount University	Pacific States University
Make-Up Designory College	Palace Beauty College
Marian Health Careers Center	Palladium Technical Academy
Maric College-North Hollywood	Pardee Rand Graduate School Of Policy Studies
Maric College-Panorama City	Pasadena City College
Marinello School Of Beauty	PCI College
Marymount College	Pepperdine University
Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center	Phillips Graduate Institute
Meridian Institute	Pitzer College
Montebello Beauty College	Platt College-Los Angeles
Mount Saint Mary's College	Pomona College
Mt San Antonio College	Rosemead Beauty School
Musicians Institute	Samra University of Oriental Medicine
National Polytechnic College Of Engineering And Oceanering	Scripps College
Newberry School Of Beauty	University of California-Los Angeles
Newbridge College-Long Beach	University of Southern California
Newbridge College-Monterey Park	University of The West
North-West College-Glendale	University of La Verne
North-West College-Pasadena	Rio Hondo College
North-West College-Pomona	Santa Monica College
North-West College-West Covina	Valley College of Medical Careers
NTMA Training Centers Of Southern California	Premiere Career College
Pomona Unified School District Adult And Career Education	Professional Institute Of Beauty
Sound Master Recording Engineer School-Audio/Video	The Art Institute Of California-Los Angeles
Southern California Institute Of Architecture	The Fashion Institute Of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles
Southern California University Of Health Sciences	The Master's College And Seminary
Southwestern Law School	Thuy Princess Beauty College
St. Francis Career College	Union Institute & University

AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Guide

Appendix A - College Campuses in RMP Participating Counties

United Beauty College Inc
 United Education Institute-El Monte Campus
 United Education Institute-Huntington Park
 United Education Institute-Van Nuys Campus
 Universal College Of Beauty Inc
 Video Symphony Entertraining
 Virginia Sewing Machines And School Center
 Walter Jay MD Institute An Educational Center
 West Coast Ultrasound Institute
 West Coast University
 West Los Angeles College
 Western Beauty Institute
 Western University Of Health Sciences
 Whittier College
 Woodbury University
 World Mission University
 Wyotech-Long Beach
 Yeshiva Ohr Elchonon Chabad West Coast
 Talmudical Seminary
 Yo San University Of Traditional Chinese
 Medicine

Sacramento County

Alliant International Colleges
 American River College
 Bryan College
 California Institute Of The Healing Arts And
 Sciences
 California State University-Sacramento
 CET-Sacramento
 Charles Jones Skills & Business Education Center
 Cosumnes River College
 Elite Progressive School Of Cosmetology

Federico Beauty Institute
 Folsom Lake College
 Heald College-Rancho Cordova
 High-Tech Institute-Sacramento
 International Academy Of Design And Technology
 ITT Technical Institute-Rancho Cordova
 Maric College-Sacramento Campus
 MTI College
 My Le's Beauty College
 National Career Education
 Sacramento City College
 San Joaquin Valley College-Rancho Cordova
 The Art Institute Of California-Sacramento
 Trinity Life Bible College
 Union Institute & University
 Universal Technical Institute Of Northern
 California Inc
 University Of Phoenix-Sacramento Valley Campus
 Western Seminary-Sacramento

San Diego County

Academy Of Hair Design-Poway
 Alliant International University
 Argosy University-San Diego
 Associated Technical College
 Avance Beauty College
 Bay Vista College Of Beauty
 Bethel Seminary San Diego
 California College-San Diego
 California Hair Design Academy
 California State University-San Marcos
 California Western School Of Law
 CET-San Diego

AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Guide

Appendix A - College Campuses in RMP Participating Counties

Coleman College
Concorde Career Colleges
Cuyamaca College
Design Institute Of San Diego
Fashion Careers College
Gemological Institute Of America
Glendale Career College-Oceanside
Grossmont College
Interamerican College
ITT Technical Institute-San Diego
J Boutique College Of Beauty
Maric College-San Diego
Maric College-Vista
Marinello School Of Beauty
Miracosta College
Mueller College Of Holistic Studies
National University
Newschool Of Architecture And Design
Occupational Training Services Inc
Oceanside College Of Beauty
Pacific College Of Oriental Medicine
Palomar College
Palomar Institute Of Cosmetology
Paul Mitchell The School-San Diego
Pima Medical Institute
Platt College-San Diego
Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego Christian College
San Diego City College
San Diego Golf Academy
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
San Diego State University
Southern California Seminary

Southwestern College
The Art Institute Of California-San Diego
The Fashion Institute Of Design & Merchandising-San Diego
Thomas Jefferson School Of Law
United Education Institute-Chula Vista
United Education Institute-San Diego Campus
University Of California-San Diego
University Of Phoenix-San Diego Campus
University Of San Diego
Valley Career College
Westminster Theological Seminary In California

San Francisco County

Academy Of Art University
Alliant International University
American College Of Traditional Chinese Medicine
American Conservatory Theater
California Culinary Academy
California Institute Of Integral Studies
City College Of San Francisco
Everest College-San Francisco
Golden Gate University-San Francisco
Heald College-San Francisco
Miami Ad School-San Francisco
Miss Martys Hair Academy And Esthetics Institute
San Francisco Art Institute
San Francisco Conservatory Of Music
San Francisco State University
Saybrook Graduate School And Research Center
The Art Institute Of California-San Francisco
The Fashion Institute Of Design & Merchandising-San Francisco
University Of California Hastings College Of Law

AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Guide

Appendix A - College Campuses in RMP Participating Counties

University Of California-San Francisco

University Of San Francisco

San Luis Obispo County

CA Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo

Central California School

Cuesta College

Design's School Of Cosmetology

Santa Clara County

Brooks College

California Cosmetology College

CET-Gilroy

CET-Sobrato

Cogswell Polytechnical College

De Anza College

Evergreen Valley College

Foothill College

Gavilan College

Golden Gate University-San Jose

Heald College-San Jose

Institute For Business And Technology

Institute Of Transpersonal Psychology

Mission College

Pacific Graduate School Of Psychology

Palmer College Of Chiropractic-West

San Jose City College

San Jose State University

Santa Clara University

Silicon Valley University

Stanford University

The National Hispanic University

University Of East-West Medicine

University Of Phoenix-Bay Area Campus

West Valley College

Western Seminary-San Jose

AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Guide

Appendix B - College Community Partnerships Examples

San Diego County

The *San Diego Food Bank* has partnered with **Miramar Community College** to provide food products to food insecure members of the San Diego community. The San Diego City College Emergency Food Pantry supports enrolled students in need by providing pre-packaged items suitable for an on-campus lunch or meal. The City College Emergency Food Pantry is a project operated by student interns and generously supported through in-kind donations from staff, faculty, and community partners. Though only an emergency food bank is located on campus, Miramar College also works closely with the San Diego Food Bank to provide extended food resources to students and the local community.

The San Diego Food Bank has played a significant role in partnering with **UC San Diego**. UC San Diego coordinates its pantry and its advertising, while the food bank provides support assistance to determine student eligibility for CalFresh. Through the UC San Diego and San Diego Food Pantries partnership, UCSD is able to purchase food for 19 cents, or less, per pound (with bread and produce free of charge). The pantry has also partnered with the Educational Opportunity Program to perform CalFresh outreach. This partnership is one example of how the local community, in partnership with California's colleges, can be incredibly effective.

Humboldt County

Humboldt State University also serves as an example of the effectiveness of community partnerships with campus food pantries. In the first six months of opening, over 1,000 students visited the pantry for first time. **Humboldt State University** currently provides shuttle service to and from the HSU campus to the Arcata Food Pantry, and the Farmers' Market. Some farmers markets are expanding their services to include accepting CalFresh benefits, which allows low-income students in the area to access healthy food items.

San Bernardino County

The **California State University San Bernardino** food pantry is currently partnered with the Helping Hands Pantry. The Helping Hands food bank does not receive state funding. The Helping Hands college program also provides food delivery to student's to residence, in the event that the student does not have transportation to and from the pantry. In addition, 15% of the food bank's funding comes from the auxiliary fund from CSUSB. Religious organizations and local philanthropies also assist in providing in-kind donations to the CSUSB pantry. This partnership between CSUSB and the local food bank makes it so that the university is able to make direct requests on items to the food bank. It also allows for excess food that the university receives during food drives to be donated back to the pantry, and has contributed to an increase in the number of student volunteers serving at the local pantry.

County of Merced

In a partnership with the *USDA*, *The United Way*, and the *Merced Food Bank*, UC Merced is offering a monthly food assistance program to all UC Merced students, faculty, and staff members who have a need for additional assistance. This program is free and provides participants with a monthly food allotment.