



## College Hunger Free Campus Initiative

*September 29, 2018*

California is entering its second year of the Hunger Free Campus Initiative. This Initiative was launched following its funding in the 2017-18 Budget Act. This brief describes the Initiative, its purpose and the documented outcomes of its first year.

### **High Rates of Hunger Have Been Documented in all Three Education Sectors**

According to a recent report, the number of food banks springing up at university and college campuses is on the rise.<sup>i</sup> According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness.<sup>ii iii iv</sup> According to University of California (UC), four in ten (44%) undergraduates and one in four (25%) graduate students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition.<sup>v</sup> Furthermore, nationwide lab reports show that half of all community college students are struggling with housing and/or food insecurity.<sup>vi</sup> A study conducted in 2013 of Pell Grant recipients at California State University Sacramento found that 23% of these high performing students from low-income families experience at least one day each month in which they go without food and 12% reported having unintentionally lost weight because they could not afford food. These findings are consistent with findings from other university research documenting a prevalence of hunger among college students, impeding graduation rates and learning.<sup>vii</sup>

### **Hunger Free Campuses Gaining Momentum**

California's investments to launch the Hunger Free Campus Initiative made in the 2017-18 Budget Act are helping campuses gain momentum. Here are some highlights:

- **Food Pantries:** With funding from last year's budget, all 23 CSU campuses now have either a pantry or food distribution program; 110 CCCs have created or expanded their food pantries/campus food distribution; 3 UC campuses were able to open new food pantries; and 7 campuses were able to increase and improve services.
- **CalFresh Access:** While the CCCs would need increased capacity to track outcomes of CalFresh outreach and application assistance, roughly 2000 CSU students and 3,545 UC students have enrolled into CalFresh. These federally funded benefits equal \$12,908,760.00 in annual federal benefit draw down and \$224,612.42 in additional federal economic activity. Also, as a result of the Initiative, it is expected that 15 of the CCCs are going to be included as a participant in the CDSS CalFresh Outreach Program, joining as a partner with CSU Chico State. For the 2020 CFO contract, CSU Chico plans to work with 40+ campuses in California to expand engagement and application assistance for college students statewide.
- **Meal Sharing & Recovery Programs:** Half of CSU campuses now have meal-sharing, and the other half are in progress; CCCs are not required, but Santa Monica CC is developing a meal sharing program; 8 UC campuses have operationalized swipe donation programs; and, 6 UC campuses have launched food recovery efforts to minimize wasted food counts and provide food to students in need. The CSU has also implemented technology as a food recovery strategy. 10 campuses have implemented an app that alerts students about available food leftover from on-campus catered events.

- **Restaurant Meal Programs:** 2 CSU campuses have launched a Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) thus far and several are in the beginning stages; Los Angeles CCCs are far along in their efforts to establish RMP; and, the two UCs in an RMP county are in the process of applying.
- **EBT On Campuses:** 6 CSU campuses have already established point of sale (POS) access for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards and several others are in progress; Santa Monica College, City College of San Francisco, and multiple colleges in LA Community College District is approved to accept EBT cash benefits and they are working towards RMP EBT.; and, 7 UC campuses have been approved to establish EBT on campus with several other UC campuses in the process of applying.
- **Improved Support for Students & for Ending Hunger On Campus:** The CCC's just hosted their first ever statewide basic needs summit and the CSU had their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual summit earlier this year; all CSU campuses report having a single-point-of-contact (SPOC) for basic needs on campus, in addition to all CSUs having an on-campus task force dedicated addressing basic needs. 8 UCs now operate Basic Needs Centers to centralize and coordinate campuses efforts, including anti-hunger help.

### **2018-19 Budget Act Funds Should Support Forward Momentum & Next Step Planning**

College is still the single most important investment for Californians seeking to exit poverty. Western Center and a coalition of anti-hunger and student rights activists advocates called for continued and increased funding for the Hunger Free Campus Initiative in the 2018-19 Budget Act. Our request was set at \$5 Million for the UC System, \$5 Million for the CSU System and \$20 Million for Community Colleges. The final Budget Act investments approved \$10 Million for Community Colleges, it failed to fully fund both the UC and CSU System Programs, awarding each only \$1.5 Million. We will continue to advocate for increased funding and permanency of funding for this work in coming budget years. We believe that by preventing hunger on California's college campuses, will not only reduce physical harm and humility experienced by low-income Californians seeking higher education, but it will draw down millions in federal benefits and it will preserve the investment we have already made toward the education of first-generation college students.

### ***About Western Center on Law and Poverty***

Western Center on Law and Poverty leads the fight in the courts, counties, and capital to secure housing, health care and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. Learn more at: [www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org). For more information about our work against college hunger, contact: Jessica Bartholow at [jbartholow@wclp.org](mailto:jbartholow@wclp.org) or (916) 282-5119.

<sup>i</sup> "More College Students Battle Hunger As Education and Cost of Living Costs Rise," The Washington Post, April 9, 2014.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/more-college-students-battle-hunger-as-education-and-living-costs-rise/2014/04/09/60208db6-bb63-11e3-9a05-c739f29ccb08\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/more-college-students-battle-hunger-as-education-and-living-costs-rise/2014/04/09/60208db6-bb63-11e3-9a05-c739f29ccb08_story.html)

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

<sup>iii</sup> Serving Displaced and Food Insecure Students in the CSU (Feb 2016): <https://presspage-production-content.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/1487/cohomelessstudy.pdf?10000>

<sup>iv</sup> In Cal State universities, 42% of students are food insecure and 11% are homeless. [https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy\\_phaseII\\_withAccessibilityComments.pdf](https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy_phaseII_withAccessibilityComments.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> Student Food Security and Access," <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july16/e1attach.pdf>  
<https://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/files/food-housing-security.pdf>

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<sup>vi</sup> Source: [http://wihopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin\\_hope\\_lab\\_hungry\\_to\\_learn.pdf](http://wihopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin_hope_lab_hungry_to_learn.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> A University of Oregon conducted this year found that 59 percent of students at Western Oregon University had recently experienced food insecurity. The figure was 21 percent in a 2009 report on students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.