



May 31, 2019

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
 Co-Chair, Budget Conference Committee  
 California State Senate  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
 Chair, Budget Conference Committee  
 California State Senate  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support Hunger Free Campuses in the 2019 Budget Act**

Dear California Budget Conference Committee Leaders,

Our organizations are writing to urge your support to fully fund the Hunger Free Campus Initiative in the 2019-20 Budget Act. Specifically, we ask for you to adopt the Assembly Budget action to allocate one-time funding to the Community Colleges in the amount of \$20 Million to support this work. We are grateful of the investments that both houses have made to securing Hunger Free Campuses in all three sectors and ask that you continue to support these investments during the Budget Conference Committee process.

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

According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness. In a survey recently conducted by the University of California Regents, it was found that one in five University of California (UC) students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition. Just this year, research found that nearly half of the over 2 million students of all ages enrolled at a California Community Colleges (CCC) experience hunger.

## **Hunger Free Campuses Gaining Momentum**

Budget investments to launch the Hunger Free Campus Initiative last year are helping campuses gain momentum. Here are some highlights of how funding from last year's budget is helping:

- **Food Pantries:** With funding from last year's budget, all 23 CSU campuses now have either a pantry or food distribution program; 92 CCCs have created or expanded their food pantries; 22 CCCs are planning to open a food pantry in coming months; 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 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.
- **Meal Sharing & Recovery Programs:** Half of CSU campuses now have meal-sharing, and the other half 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.
- **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 very far along in their efforts to establish RMP; and, only two UCs are an RMP counties, but they are in the process of applying.
- **EBT On Campuses:** 6 campuses have already established point of sale (POS) access for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards and many others in are in progress; Santa Monica College, City College of San Francisco, and multiple colleges in LA Community College District in process; 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; 10 CSU campuses report that they now have at least one professional staff member dedicated to coordinating our preventative campus basic needs model; 8 UCs now operate Basic Needs Centers to centralize and coordinate campuses efforts, including anti-hunger help; CSU reports that all 23 campuses have an on-campus task force dedicated strictly to addressing basic needs.

## **2019-20 Budget Act Funds Would Support Forward Momentum**

The forward momentum in preventing hunger on college campuses has been tremendous. In fact, a new report from the General Accounting Office was just released and it highlights California's leadership in this area. These successes would not have been achievable without budget allocations from the last two years. Without continued funding, campus leaders expect to lose this momentum and, even, lose ground. What's more, even while campuses are moving mountains with the small investment made, most have identified that more is needed to meet the need and so is continuity to better support next-step planning. That is why we are hoping that the legislative budget committees can commit to one-time funding that spans over a period of three years.

**Please Support One Time Ask of \$20 Million per year for Hunger Free Campuses**

College is still the single most important investment for Californians seeking to exit poverty. Please continue to support the success of low-income college students by continuing to support the Hunger Free Campus Initiative at for the UC System and the CSU System action taken by both house during the Budget Conference Committee process and support the Assembly Budget Action of allocating \$20 Million in one-time funding for Community Colleges for one more year. Doing so will not only prevent hunger among low-income Californians seeking higher education, but it will draw down tens of millions in federal benefits and it will preserve the investment we have already made toward the education of first-generation college students. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alameda County Community Food Bank  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Community Colleges Student Senate  
Center on Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations  
Community Action Partnership of Orange County - Food Bank  
Food Banks of San Francisco and Marin  
Food For People: The Food Bank of Humboldt County  
Fresno Metro Ministry  
Hunger Action Los Angeles  
MAZON A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA-CAN)  
San Diego Hunger Advocacy Network  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties  
Student Senate for California Community Colleges  
UC Student Association  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Young Invincibles, West Coast

CC: Honorable Toni Atkins, President Pro-Tempore of the California State Senate  
Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the California State Assembly  
Members of the 2019-20 Budget Conference Committee