Leveraging State & Federal Resources to Fight Student Hunger

Community College League of California · 2018 Annual Convention

November 15, 2018
Presented by:

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Presentation Overview

• Food, Housing & Basic Needs Efforts
  Chancellor’s Office Updates

• Foundation for California Community Colleges
  Equity Programs

• CalFresh Outreach

• Fresh Success
  CalFresh Employment & Training Program

• LA Trade Tech
  EBT Application & Restaurant Meals Program
Food, Housing & Basic Needs Efforts

Chancellor’s Office Updates

• Guided Pathways & Vision for Success

Student Challenges in Meeting their Basic Needs

• Recent Study from the Wisconsin Hope Lab of 70 community colleges indicated
  • 56% of students were food insecure
  • Nearly half were experiencing housing insecurity (35%) or homelessness (14%)
  • Fall 2017 survey of California community colleges found 56.8% of respondents had direct contact with students experiencing basic needs insecurity.
#RealCollege Survey

- Chancellor’s Office partnered with the Hope Lab from Temple University to complete a third wave of the #RealCollege student survey
- CCC’s were sent communications in August 2018 for voluntary college participation
- Colleges will receive individual data reports
- 54 California community colleges participated in the Fall 2018 survey
Food, Housing & Basic Needs Efforts

Food Security

• Distributed funds for CalFresh enrollment services and establish campus-based pantries.
  • 17-18 Budget $2.5 Million
  • 18-19 Budget $10 Million

• Approximately 111 campuses have food pantries partially due to this funding.

• Coordinated with the California Association of Food Banks to bring CalFresh Outreach workers on campus to support students with CalFresh enrollment & leverage low cost food to stock campus food pantries.

• CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program & EBT on campuses
  • Working with food/housing advocates & CDSS on supporting colleges to participate
  • Los Angeles Trade Tech – presenting about their Restaurant Meals Program
About the Foundation

We are the official non-profit supporting the Chancellor’s Office and Board of Governors.

Our mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community Colleges - the largest system of higher education in the nation.

Our programs and services support students, colleges, college foundations, and the system as a whole – in alignment with statewide priorities and initiatives.
Programs & Services
Partnering across the system

Our areas of impact include:

- Student Success
- Workforce Development
- Equity
- Community Impact
- System Support and Services

Learn more at foundationccc.org
Chancellors Office & Foundation Joint Initiatives

Workgroups

• Hosted Food, Housing, and Basic Needs workgroup to identify, strategize and promote best practices and identify resource gaps

• Working with California Department of Social Services on a CalFresh eligibility AB 1930 workgroup to identify student exemption listed on ACL 1705

• Participate in leading an Intersegmental Higher Education Basic Needs Workgroup with CSU and UC to support development of best practices and advocacy around policy to address student needs around food and housing

• Hosted system-wide Basic Needs Summit in April 2018, over 300 attendees
CalFresh Outreach
• Contract through Chico State – Center for Health Communities
• 15 California Community Colleges
• Expansion to additional CCC’s

Student Outreach Ambassadors
• Exploring funding opportunities to expand Student Wellness Ambassador program to include CalFresh Outreach
  ▪ Trained in peer outreach and mental health and wellness
  ▪ Equipped with outreach materials
  ▪ Complete 1 to 1 outreach, presentations, activities and events
Chancellors Office & Foundation Joint Initiatives

• The California Community Colleges Student Mental Health Program launched in 2011 and is a statewide effort focusing on prevention and early intervention (PEI) strategies which address the mental health needs of California community college students.

• Partnership between the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, Foundation for California Community Colleges.

• Mental Health and Wellness materials, information, trainings, for CCC faculty, staff and students.
Resource Website

- CCCstudentmentalhealth.org
- Mental health, health, basic needs, homelessness and foster youth resources/information
- New fact sheet – Basic Needs & Mental Health

E-Newsletter

- Sign-up Sheet
CCC Student Mental Health Program

- 107 of 114 California Community Colleges have access to all 6 Kognito modules
- Over 80,000 CCC faculty, staff, and students are accessing Kognito
- Tips and Resources for campus promotion
CCC Student Mental Health Program

- Crisis Text Line - launched in May 2017
- Free 24/7 Crisis Support
- “COURAGE” – CCC key word data
Addressing Student Food Insecurity through CalFresh

Jessica Smith, Foundation for California Community Colleges
Student Hunger

Over half of college students face food insecurity

Up to 62.7% of LACCD students experience some level of food insecurity

Study by Wisconsin HOPE Lab, 2017
Campus food pantries / community food banks

2018-19 budget: $10 million one-time funds for food security programs

CalFresh!
CalFresh Benefits

- California’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Previously known as “food stamps”
- Federally funded
- **AB 1930** makes many more students eligible for CalFresh (see **ACL 17-05**)
- Money for groceries and other non-prepared foods
Assembly Bill 1930

• Previously, most students were ineligible for SNAP (CalFresh) unless they met very specific exemptions

But now...

• “for the purposes of determining eligibility, certain educational programs, as determined by the State Department of Social Services, shall be considered employment training programs, thereby qualifying a student participating in one of those programs for an exemption”
The bill also required CDSS, in consultation with representatives from other specified organizations (CCCCO, CSU Chancellor’s Office, UCOP), to establish a protocol to identify and verify all potential exemptions and to identify and verify participation in educational programs, including self-initiated placements, that would qualify a student for an exemption.
“Certain educational programs”? Enter All County Letter 17-05

In order to be eligible for CalFresh, a student must be working a minimum of 20 hours/week OR satisfy one of the exemption criteria:

• Working in paid employment for 20 hours per week OR 80 hours averaged monthly;
• Approved for (or awarded or accepted) for federal or state work study and anticipating a placement;
• Enrolled in a state-funded program that increases employability (EOP, EOPS, WIOA, DSPS, CARE, UC McNair, Puente, or MESA);
• Enrolled in a program that increases employability for current and former foster youth (Guardian Scholars, FYSI, CAFYES, Chafee (ETV), or Extended Foster Care);
“Certain educational programs”? Enter **All County Letter 17-05**

*Continued…*

- Parent with a dependent child under age 6;
- Parent with a dependent child between age 6-12 and lack adequate childcare (as determined by the county on a case-by-case basis);
- Enrolled full time in an institution of higher education and a single parent of a dependent household member under the age of 12;
- Receiving CalGrant A or B (most CCC students do not)
- Participating in the CalFresh Employment and Training Program (CFET) or be a recipient of CalWorks or JOBS

And more…. Check [CDSS CalFresh Student Eligibility: Approved Programs list](#)
Many students are eligible for CalFresh benefits

Current and former foster youth are largely not accessing CalFresh

Approx. 60% of current and former foster youth are not receiving CalFresh

We can help with this!
CA ranks 3rd to last nationwide for SNAP/CalFresh participation

• 3 million Californians are eligible but not participating in CalFresh

• CA misses out on $2.5 billion/year in federal dollars as CalFresh benefits

• CA misses out on a potential $4.5 billion/year in generated economic activity
Outreach to students about CalFresh matters! Why...?

3%
Percent of all college students (nationally) receive that SNAP benefits

18%
Percent of all college students (nationally) that are actually eligible for SNAP benefits
Encourage students to apply!

Many students don’t even know they are eligible.

Eligibility is based off income, household size, student status, and several other factors.

“Congrats! You applied for (or qualified for) financial aid, now don’t forget to apply for ‘food aid’.”
CalFresh Outreach partnerships

CHC

CODE for AMERICA

Kroger

California Community Colleges
CalFresh outreach so far...

• CalFresh outreach toolkits to each campus (coming 2019)

• Training, support, technical assistance to both subcontracted and non-subcontracted campuses

• Resource distribution

• Support with leveraging local programs (local food banks, county offices, etc.)

• More to come!
Student Eligibility Basics
Between the ages of 18 and 49

"Student"

Enrolled at least half time (6 units/semester CCC)

Others not considered a "student" under CalFresh eligibility can disregard student rules and apply normally
## MONTHLY INCOME LIMITS

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**CalFresh Income Eligibility Guidelines**  
(figures effective October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019)
What counts as income?

• Income from a job
• Stipends (if paid directly to the student)
• Money/allowances from a parent
• Private grants and scholarships (after allowable educational expenses are subtracted)

For additional guidance please refer to the LSNC Guide to CalFresh Benefits
Does financial aid count as income?

- Grants, scholarships and work study are not counted as income when determining CalFresh eligibility. They are considered exempt income.

Examples: Pell grant, Chafee grant, Cal Grants, Stafford, Perkins, PLUS, and consolidation loans.

*CalFresh benefits do not count as income and do not affect taxes or financial aid eligibility*
How does CalFresh define a “household”? 

• An individual or unit of individuals that **buy and prepare food together.**

A CalFresh household must meet income guidelines and reside in California as a legal resident or citizen.
If you are a student (as defined by CalFresh) and also meet income eligibility, you must also meet any **ONE** of the following:

- Working in paid employment for 20 hours per week OR 80 hours averaged monthly;
- Approved for (or awarded or accepted) for federal or state work study and anticipating a placement;
- Enrolled in a state-funded program that increases employability (EOP, EOPS, WIOA, DSPS, CARE, UC McNair, Puente, or MESA);
- Enrolled in a program that increases employability for current and former foster youth (Guardian Scholars, FYSI, CAFYES, Chafee (ETV), or Extended Foster Care);
Student Eligibility

Continued...

• Parent with a dependent child under age 6;
• Parent with a dependent child between age 6-12 and lack adequate childcare (as determined by the county on a case-by-case basis);
• Enrolled full time in an institution of higher education and a single parent of a dependent household member under the age of 12;
• Receiving CalGrant A or B (most CCC students do not)
• Participating in the CalFresh Employment and Training Program (CFET) or be a recipient of CalWorks or JOBS
Tips for students experiencing homelessness when applying for CalFresh benefits:

- Reliable (or updated) phone number
- Free PO box using general delivery at their local post office
- Many campuses allow students to receive mail on campus
- Other immediate food assistance resources available (food pantry, community food bank, gift cards, etc.)
- Expedited benefits

For additional guidance please refer to the LSNC Guide to CalFresh Benefits
30-Day Application Process:

1. Submit application (Today)
2. Complete an interview (about 1 week)
3. Submit documents to verify eligibility (within 30 days)
4. Submit semi-annual report to reconsider eligibility (6 months after application was submitted)
5. Submit annual report to reconsider eligibility (1 year after application was submitted)
Typical Required Verification Documents*:

- Identification
- Pay stubs (if employed)
- Proof of residency (a piece of mail with current address)
- Utility bill (can sign own affidavit if obtaining this is a barrier or bill is not in applicant’s name)
- Financial Aid/Work Study award letter
- Proof of enrollment and number of units

*other documentation may be requested
Students can apply online at:

students.getcalfresh.org/s/ccc

ANYONE WHO COULDN’T FIND FREE PIZZA AT A CLUB MEETING TONIGHT.

CalFresh is a state program that awards you up to $193 a month for groceries.

Select your county — Get started
CalFresh Outreach Video
Coming Soon!

CalFresh Outreach toolkits:
• Sticker decals, postcards, posters, etc.

Increase awareness

Destigmatize

Encourage students to apply!
Questions?

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Fresh Success

Helping Low-Income Californians Become More Employable
What is Fresh Success?

• Helps colleges and community-based organizations access federal SNAP Employment & Training funding

• Funding allows partners to expand services for low-income participants to improve their employability

• Improves student food security
What is Fresh Success?

- Video available at https://foundationccc.org/What-We-Do/Student-Services/FreshSuccess
How is Fresh Success funded?

• Federal reimbursement program funded by USDA SNAP Employment and Training (E&T)

• Sustainable and non-competitive
How much funding is available?

- The amount of federal funding depends upon your available non-federal funding

Provider spends $1.80 on allowable program costs

Provider receives $0.80 in federal reimbursement funds
What qualifies for reimbursement?

- Non-federal funds that
  - are being spent on allowable services to qualifying participants
  - are not already being used as match for another federal program

- Possible sources include Student Equity, EOPS, California Promise Grants (BOG Fee Waiver), Strong Workforce, AB86 Adult Ed, district funds, philanthropic funds
What are allowable activities?

- Providing employment and training services
- Reimbursing participants for certain costs
- Program administration and evaluation
Program Services

• Supportive services
  • Academic and career counseling
  • Academic monitoring
  • Career and job readiness workshops
  • Tutoring
  • Homework labs
  • Case management
  • Job search, placement, and retention services
Program Services

• Financial help to reduce barriers to participation, such as reimbursement for
  • transportation
  • textbooks
  • course supplies
  • testing fees
  • emergency rent and one-time utility payments to avoid shut-off
  • eye exams/glasses and minor dental work
  • dependent care
Who is a qualifying participant?

To qualify for Fresh Success, a potential participant must:

- be a CalFresh recipient (current or eligible to enroll)
- not be in CalWORKs (timed out CalWORKs students are eligible!)
- (for colleges) taking at least one CTE, ESL, GED, or basic skills class
- have the skills, interest, and capacity to benefit from Fresh Success
Participant Survey

Student Perceptions of Fresh Success

- Fresh Success helps me stay in college: 78% strongly agree, 22% agree, 0% neither agree nor disagree.
- I am able to take more units/credits per term because of Fresh Success: 78% strongly agree, 22% agree, 0% neither agree nor disagree.
- Participating in Fresh Success improves the skills I need to get a job or a better paying job: 61% strongly agree, 22% agree, 0% neither agree nor disagree.

“Fresh Success has helped me pay for books which I wouldn’t have been able to pay. Plus they give me gas cards to be able to get to college. Without Fresh Success I wouldn’t have been able to afford to stay in school this semester.”
Early Results

As of September 30, 2018:

• 343 students served (597 total participants)

• Over $420,000 in federal reimbursement to 3 colleges

• Over $290,000 in direct participant supports
What is the Foundation’s role?

- Engage potential new Fresh Success providers
- Contract directly with providers
- Offer tools, training, and technical assistance
- Facilitate partnership between the provider and County
- Act as a liaison with state and federal E&T agencies
- Conduct program and fiscal reviews
How do I know if my college is a good fit for Fresh Success?

- Interest in expanding services and/or participants
- Interest in diversifying funding (infusion of federal dollars)
- Able to administer program with support from Foundation
- Commitment from County
Current Fresh Success Partners

Coming soon: Contra Costa CCD and Foothill-De Anza CCD
I’m interested. What’s next?

Foundation staff will work with you to:

• Introduce Fresh Success to other key decision makers in your organization

• Review potential program budget

• Confirm commitment from the County

• Discuss timing for becoming a new Fresh Success provider
Contact Information

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Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) System

CASH BENEFITS

- All cardholders may use their EBT (Golden State Advantage) card at participating retailers with a Point-of-Sale (POS) device.
CalFresh SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps) is for people with limited income to pay for food.

Benefits come on the EBT card that works like a debit card.

College students can get CalFresh if they meet student requirements.

Can be used at most grocery stores and many farmers markets.

Individuals may qualify for CalFresh benefits even if they receive money from a job, Disability, Unemployment, Social Security, CalWORKs, General Assistance or Retirement.
State Mandates

- AB 1714, which went into effect January 2017, requires Universities and Colleges receiving public funds to accept the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.
  - Additionally, it requires each public and private postsecondary education institution that is located in a county that participates in the Restaurant Meals Program to apply to become an approved food vendor that participates in this program.

- AB 214, signed into law July 2017, requires students be provided information on CalFresh eligibility and clarifies that on-campus food retailers that sell prepared food meant for onsite consumption are required to participate in the CalFresh Retailer or Restaurant Meals Program.
Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) System

SNAP RETAILER

- USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is the only source that authorizes retailers. FNS does not work with outside entities to authorize retailers for SNAP.
- For information on becoming a SNAP Retailer: https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply
- After successful authorization, retailer is issued a SNAP Permit, which includes the store name, store location.

RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM

- CalFresh RMP MOU with LA County Department of Public Social Services is required to participate.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Application with USDA is also required.
- Approval by USDA/FNS required.
- Special equipment to process CalFresh RMP benefits is required.
- Not all counties in California participate.
The following California counties participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP).

- Alameda County
- Los Angeles County
- Orange County
- Riverside County
- Sacramento County
- San Diego County
- San Francisco County
- San Luis Obispo County
- Santa Clara County
- Santa Cruz County

Any college, in any county, can apply for SNAP Retailer Permit.
POP UP PANTRY PROJECT

- https://www.dropbox.com/s/8yrkq3gr89ahsf5/FoodPantry_Vid.mp4?dl=0
LATTC STUDENT SUPPORT

➤ Pop-up Food Pantry
  ➤ Fresh fruits and vegetables/easy to prepare foods/fresh pre-packaged food. Every Tuesday. Partnership with St. Francis.

➤ Hot meals at St. Francis:
  (across the street from LATTC)
  ➤ Breakfast is served:
    Monday-7:30 a.m.- 8:00 a.m.
    Tuesday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
    Saturday-8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.
LACC FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- **Pop-up Food Pantry**
  - Fresh fruits and vegetables/easy to prepare foods/pre-packaged food

- **Mid-Term and Final Exam Free Breakfast**
  - Providing hot meal or bagged cold meal
  - Partnering with Campus instruction or vendors (i.e. Office Depot)
    - Office Depot Core List Pricing

- **Partner with L.A. Regional Food Bank**
  - Partner agencies must have 501(c)3 status
  - Provide food pantry support or mobile food truck (MFT)
LAVC Helping Hands Food Pantry

Helping Hands is a consortium of committed campus volunteers. The campus is working to formally institutionalize the resources and services.

The LAVC Helping Hands Food Pantry distribution takes place twice per week to accommodate all students: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 am – 1 pm. It is currently run by CalWORKS and student workers.

Food Forward provides fresh, organic produce weekly for our pantry.

Monday through Friday, breakfast is brought in from a local elementary school for our food-insecure students.

The Pantry is stocked through weekly food pick-ups from MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity), a distribution point for the LA Food Bank.

We have leveraged funds and partnerships to conserve SB 85 funds and to expand resources for students, workforce training participants, student athletes, and student parents.

Oversees case management for over 100 students per semester to provide food and housing.
Next Steps:

- Curate and share best practices in food interventions.
- Develop and support policy that allows us to engage in positive change.
- Develop research to better understand impact of food insecurity interventions.

QUESTIONS?
Thank you