

Affordability, Food, & Housing Access Taskforce 2021-2022 CEO Priority Guidance Survey
 September 2, 2021

Who answered the survey?

In total 41 respondents answered the survey, including 1 Chancellor, 34 Superintendent/President or Presidents, and 6 “other” positions. The response rate among the 116 colleges was 34%. The colleges represented include:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Alameda | Feather River | San Bernardino Vly |
| Allan Hancock | Fresno City | San Diego Adult |
| American River | Gavilan | San Diego Mesa |
| Cabrillo | Golden West | San Jose City |
| Canyons | Grossmont | Santa Ana |
| Cerro Coso | Imperial | Santa Monica |
| Clovis | Irvine | Santiago Canyon |
| Compton | LA Swest | Shasta |
| Copper Mountain | Las Positas | Sierra |
| Crafton Hills | Marin | Solano |
| Cuesta | Merced | Ventura |
| Cuyamaca | Merritt | West LA |
| Cypress | Palomar | Yuba |
| Evergreen Valley | Pasadena | |

Since 2018 the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce has been advocating in support of student basic needs. As we prepare for the 2021-2022 year, what areas do you think we need to focus on that are most pressing for your college/district. Please rank the areas in order of importance: Drag and drop the items into order.

Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Count
Housing	1.00	4.00	1.68	38
Food insecurity	1.00	4.00	2.16	38
Calfresh	1.00	6.00	3.39	38
Technology	1.00	6.00	3.74	38
Transportation	2.00	5.00	4.21	38
Other	1.00	6.00	5.82	38

Question	1		2		3		4		5		6		Total
Food insecurity	248%	9	42%	16	29%	11	5 %	2	0%	0	0%	0	38
Calfresh	8%	3	16%	6	26%	10	32%	12	16%	6	3%	1	38
Housing	58%	22	21%	8	16%	6	5%	2	0%	0	0%	0	38
Transportation	0%	0	5%	2	16%	6	2%	12	47%	18	0%	0	38
Technology	8%	3	16%	6	13%	5	24%	9	37%	14	3%	1	38
Other	3%	1	0%	0	0%	0	3%	1	0%	0	95%	36	38

Please provide detail about the top two areas you selected. Why did you rank these items as the most important for your college/district? What specific challenges are you facing in 2021-2022?

Students cannot focus on classes when they have poor health which is often tied to nutrition. And housing relates to having a safe environment in which to live and study with a power source to operate technology used to support class work, a running water for sanitation and physical health care. And mental health is affected by all of the things cited above. The issues of homeless and hungry students create compound and complex dilemmas. Hard to just pull out the top two when they all are so interrelated.

We are seeing an increase in the number of students that don't have stable housing

Continuing to focus on simplifying the application process for CalFresh is really important and maybe helping community colleges with marketing materials and/or strategies would be good. Before COVID, we did a good job of distributing food every day on our campus. During COVID, we did a good job of working with community partners to make food available since we did not have folks on campus to process food shipments and students weren't coming to campus. We also did a good job of sending electronic grocery cards and meal delivery. Now that we are partially in person, but mostly virtual, meeting the needs of both populations simultaneously is hard.

Housing is a primary concern in North County San Diego due to the high cost of living. Food insecurity continues to be an issue with lack of access to healthy meals and cooking facilities.

Housing costs and availability are a challenge on the Central Coast. We have partnered with a local food bank to provide twice monthly distribution on our campuses and have a Cougar Pantry that provides ready to eat and ready to prepare options for students. We are providing a hot meal each day to students on campus with our HERF funds, but this is a one-year solution to a long-term problem.

Our area experienced a rapid increase in housing costs during the pandemic causing affordable housing challenges. With the impending eviction moratorium end, I think the next year or two could be very difficult for our students and housing. In a rural area, we don't have a lot of options or resources.

Affordable housing in our region and food insecurity continue to be pressing challenges. The SOCCCD has commissioned a housing feasibility study that will begin this fall and will assess student needs, demand and identify specific strategies for the district.

Pressing need. We don't have a housing program now

We have many, many students who are homeless or facing homelessness. The colleges don't have budgets to address these issues or ample community resources to refer people to. Food Insecurity continues to be an issue. We rely on local food banks to supply goods for our pantries and may or may not have additional options if those supplies are not available from food banks.

According to our student survey of fall enrolled students, financial reliability is the top concern for being able to stay in school. This could involve employment to childcare costs, and we are unpacking that right now. Technology continues to be a critical need.

Housing: the College resides in the City of Santa Clarita and there are currently no viable local solutions for the housing needs of our students when they find themselves unhoused in a moments notice. We are currently hiring a consulting firm to conduct a housing feasibility study to determine if there are viable solutions to this concern. Food Insecurity: the high cost of living in Santa Clarita and surrounding areas causes students to make difficult choices between paying other bills or for food on the table. Ultimately, housing and food insecurity are economic issues driven by a disparity in wages/income versus expenses faced by students. Challenges in 2021-2022: The fact that we are still delivering most of our courses online means we do not have the same level of contact with our students as we did when they are here on campus. That fact makes it harder to to know and address students' basic needs in the moment.

Consistent and healthy access to food is one of the struggles of our students. While we provide resources, fighting through the stigma and creating self-efficacy (i.e. cooking classes) while addressing food insecurity has proven to be more difficult.

Technology and housing insecurities are perhaps the most pressing issues facing today's students. The pandemic has exposed the digital divide that our students face. Many do not have computers and lack reliable internet services. This has caused many students to drop out or reduce their course load. Many also, particularly our special populations, i.e. formerly incarcerated, foster youth, and older students, lack the technology literacy to be successful in an online environment. Housing is another major barrier to student success. Many students do not have adequate personal space to be successful; they are couch surfing, living in public places, or on the street. It is nearly impossible to have sustained academic success under these conditions, especially considering many of our facilities are not available at previous rates due to the pandemic.

1. Housing is increasingly more expensive and unattainable for students who are not working full-time. In order to focus on college affordable housing is needed so that students can reduce the number of work hours needed. 2. Food insecurity has been and continues to be an issue for our most at risk and vulnerable students. We have a number of programs that we have been putting into place but this has to remain a priority. This is especially true following the pandemic as the impact on students has been great.

Housing costs are astronomical, and without appropriate levels of support in Cal Grants to cover the true cost of attendance, CC students are left vulnerable to homelessness at the cost of their success and wellbeing. Food insecurity follows quickly behind that item, and Cal Fresh is really a response to that.

Especially with the pandemic, access to food and technology are the chronic issues that our students have faced for the past sixteen months.

WE continue to struggle with housing- we hear there are pots of money, but no centralized information on how to access it.

Being in the Dixie Fire, we have lost two entire communities, including the staff and students who lived there. Our county is 75% state/federal forest, so there is not open land to build. Now the displaced residents will compete with students for an even tighter housing market. Secondly, broadband is non-existent in some rural areas. I can show you million dollar homes that will not sell because they lack high-speed internet. Our students lack the resources and cannot overcome the obstacles of poor internet. We have some who live off of hotspots or dial-up. Others do without. This exacerbated the pandemic transition to online where our students had difficulty accessing classes and services due to a lack of connectivity.

Housing affordability is a chronic problem statewide, but particularly acute in my region of the state (SF Bay Area and Monterey Bay). CalFresh policy changes to simplify the process and federal law changes are necessary to expand access to healthy food options. We have worked locally with our Congressman to introduce legislation to expand the restaurant meals program to more students.

Cost of housing is going up everywhere, even in more rural areas. Fires destroying homes is exacerbating this issue in our region. Technology - I selected this especially as it relates to access to high speed internet and the way in which that lack of access has been highlighted by the pandemic and the shift to on-line education.

There are limited local, affordable housing options for students in our service area. The population we struggle to support the most, as it relates to housing, is the foster youth population.

As we all continue to experience challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, access to quality education online remains a priority and ensuring students have the means to participate is critical. Along those lines, the ability to pay rent has and will continue to be a challenge for some in our community, especially in the bay area with a high cost of living, housing as a priority before the COVID-19 pandemic and it is even more of a priority now.

Food and Housing remain the most critical issues for our students. This year we are able to use HEERF funding to provide free food on campus every day, as well as our regular food pantry distribution - funds to offer hot meals everyday are critically needed in more than just "emergency" times. And housing is our #1 basic needs issue. We are moving closer to identifying options but its expensive and slow going. All the other items are important but if students have their food and housing needs met the others can be handled more easily.

Usually housing and transportation insecurity go together for our students. Like everyone, health care and mental health services are needed too.

The two top areas are based on student surveys and listening sessions. Addressing the impact of the COVID pandemic continues to be a challenge, especially in the area of mental health. During this time, wealth inequality has widened in our region as well, and housing costs continue to be so high.

Our students are continue to struggle with food insecurity and housing. The homelessness issue due to COVID-19 has only increased in South Central Los Angeles.

We discovered during the last 18 months that there are areas of our county which have no internet connection or very little at best. Affordable housing continues to be an issue for our students and employees for that matter.

We live in a "reasonable" part of the state in relation to rents, and it's still out of reach for most students. Students do not have a place to study at home because multiple families are crammed into a single family unit.

Given the feedback that we have received from our students, housing and food insecurity are the two most pressing areas. We recently met with the office of a member of the State Assembly to disseminate information regarding the statewide moratorium on evictions (and now that initiative may be imperiled by court decisions last week).

We will begin a feasibility study this fall on student housing. We are working on stronger front-end integration on CalFresh as a priority as well.

Gavilan has participated in the CalFresh program from the beginning, but are interested in any efforts to scale up the services as we continue to focus on student basic needs. Regarding housing, we need guidance on federal and state funds available for local housing projects. At Gavilan, we did a preliminary market analysis and there was strong support. We have land, but need support in developing private/public partnerships.

Housing and transportation are major issues in a majority of the rural communities we serve. The availability of affordable housing is scarce. Given the size of the college's service area, and the remote

locations of our campuses, reliable transportation is also a barrier. The lack of affordable housing, and need for transportation/gas money, food insecurities are worsened.

Food Insecurity and Housing are my top two as these are the two prevalent concerns at our college. We offer bus passes and laptop check outs to address the other needs.

In Joshua Tree and the surrounding communities (like many other tourist areas), vacation rentals owned by out-of-town investors have decimated the long-term rental market for both current students and families with children. This is not only impacting the College but also the National Park and Marine Corps base, as seasonal and stationed employees and families are not able to secure housing and are being forced to commute.

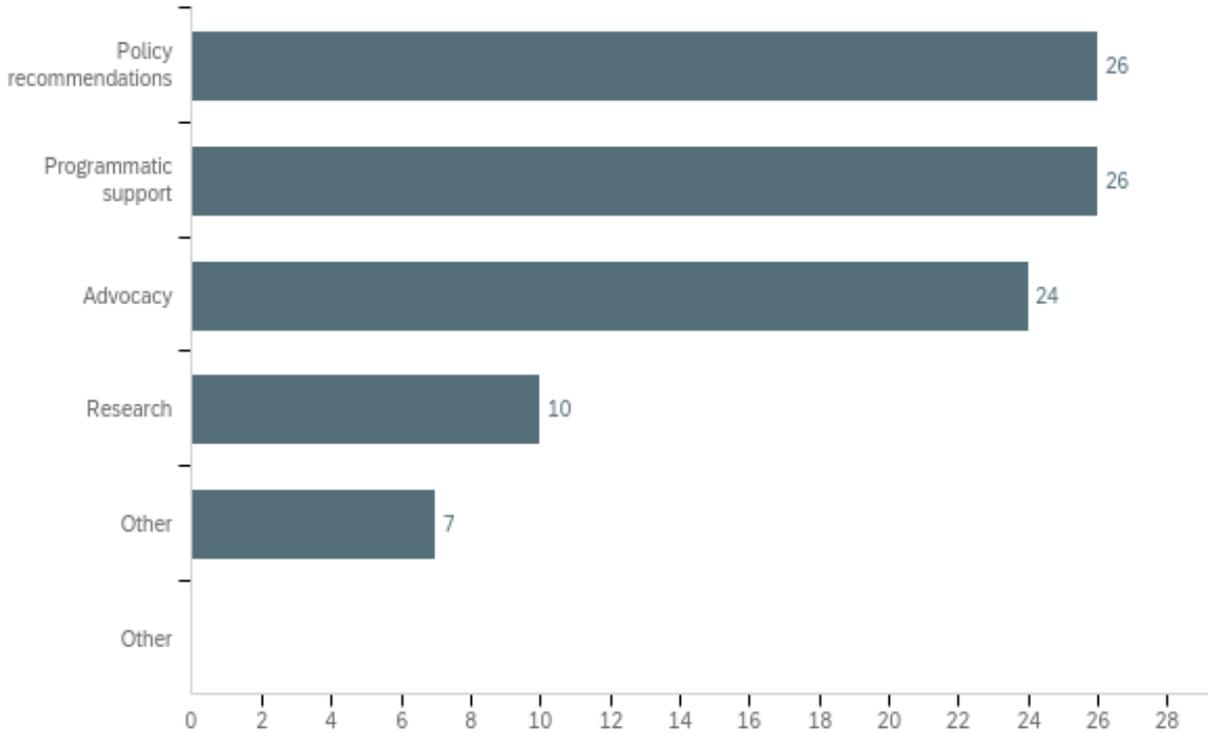
Calfresh is a long-term solution for food insecurity and we have a partnership with the county for Calfresh data sharing. Housing, with the need to focus on building housing. The challenges for 2021-2022 will be staying focused on the work we are doing.

My top two are actually Food insecurities and Housing (I wasn't able to reorder them in the survey for some reason!). I feel that although we have been focusing on these two areas in recent years, they continue to be the two primary areas where our students tell us that they need our support.

The survey did not allow me to change the rankings. The following is recommended ranking for Continuing Education students at SDCCE: 1) Housing; 2) Transportation; 3) Food Insecurity; 4) Technology; 5) CalFRESH. SDCCE has implemented successful food insecurity and CalFRESH programming partnering with Feeding San Diego, San Diego Food Bank, Hunger Coalition through SDRM, and Health and Human Services providing on campus access to apply for CalFRESH and cash-aid programs. SDCCE has no direct housing funding or resources available outside of City, County, and community organization programs. Supporting self-sustainable housing is critical and even more so difficult in San Diego due to astronomical housing costs and sky rocketing cost of living in all communities. Transportation is a major challenge for students as bus lines are inefficient and take up to 4 hours each way to get to and from campuses. This adds to the challenges of working, completing education, and taking care of family and children. Technology impacts most students with no or poor connectivity, no access to reliable devices to complete online and hybrid courses, and a lack of digital literacy needed in the workplace for most jobs in any industry. There is a need for digital literacy training in various languages as well to better serve immigrant and refugee populations entering San Diego daily.

Food insecurity and homelessness seem to be the biggest concerns. Housing is just unaffordable.

What types of support from the taskforce might help address the challenges you outlined?



Other

Social change to ensure people have housing and food. This would be a huge help. So advocacy with legislators is critical.

Funding (4)

Partnerships with large health care providers who can serve students

Expanding noncredit research, policy, and funding

Please provide any additional details about the desired support from the Taskforce.

Policy recommendations that are supported with funding as well as legal support that will address liability issues.

Research and Advocacy would help in the areas that I've identified.

many of these issues are best addressed collectively as a system acknowledging local conditions and unique characteristics. Advocacy with the state legislature to address these issues has been helpful and should continue to be a priority. Research is helpful to continuously assess and understand student's basic needs.

It would be really helpful to get some good data, studies, and research on student needs during this pandemic and how the federal and state stimulus dollars could help.

Work with the Legislature and CCCCO to ensure new ongoing funds dedicated to basic needs and mental health never go away. Also, encourage the Legislature to consider legislation that causes cities and local community colleges to work together to find housing solutions for students.

Funding is always helpful--we have a food pantry, but would love to have sufficient funds to purchase cookware for students and create faculty stipends where our nutritional faculty could help students "cook on a budget."

Advocacy for housing project funding and federal/state policy change is important work. We need a chorus of voices.

Advocating for more assistance in getting high speed internet everywhere (like the need for electricity everywhere 100 years ago) Policy-wise, advocating for student housing to be under local building codes rather than DSA would be great

There may be an opportunity to partner with cities within our service area as many struggle to meet the requirements for new affordable housing development. It would be helpful to learn more about how colleges can leverage their physical assets (land) with partnerships to develop student housing options, that might also assist cities in meeting their housing development needs/requirements.

You are doing a great job - more communication about feasibility studies and lobbying to create avenues for state and grant funding for housing are still needed across the state. The challenges remain by having every District figure this out on our own. We need to work as a system and with legislators on this critical challenge!

Interested in advocacy that leads to funding for programs and housing

We need solutions that provide flexibility and creativity. Too often we are asking for money when we could make some progress just by being able to craft local policy. For example, we could use local building code for apartments instead of having to go through DSA.

I would like to see support for public/private housing projects

I honestly feel like the Task Force has done a phenomenal job...thank you!

Within the California Community College System, two independent noncredit adult education institutions exist with little support from the system in regards to funding (no noncredit funding formula under Student Success Funding Formula), inclusion of noncredit in funding opportunities outside of credit colleges, and more research. Noncredit students are more diverse, face additional barriers at a higher rate than college students, and need intensive and intentional direct services to increase retention and certificate completion.

In our previous survey, 65.4% of the colleges/districts were having difficulty collecting data about students experiencing food and housing insecurity. Please describe any current challenges related to data collection, data analysis, and reporting that you are experiencing:

low number of students completing surveys-provide \$ incentives

Getting students to self-identify continues to be a problem.

Collecting data during covid exacerbates the situation. We need a more streamlined system to collect data that starts at the K-12 level. We shouldn't be asking students to prove their need at every step of the way.

We have had good response to student surveys regarding basic needs. We did have complaints regarding the number of surveys as we participated in statewide surveys as well as locally initiated research.

Even if we could identify a way to collect it, this isn't a subject matter that students want to share. I have not yet seen solid examples of successful data collection on these topics.

Collecting data on food insecurity is a difficult area because most of our students don't self identify for this area. We could use help in doing data collection on housing affordability in our service area.

We are doing surveys, looking at actual requests from stimulus dollars, and inquiring with our student learning communities and EOPS.

Data collection is made difficult sometimes because students do not want to take the time complete a survey. We are close to launching a new basic needs intake form for students to complete when they first engage with our Basic Needs center (The BaNC). In addition, we have made recent changes to how we capture student contact through input of information into our student information management system.

It's still a problem. The stigma associated with college students and food insecurities makes clear identification of numbers and scale of the issue difficult to ascertain--it is certainly more prevalent than our statistical understanding.

We too struggle with getting empirical data on students facing food and housing insecurities. However, by promoting the services available, we have seen an increase in requests. That said, we are still concern about the students who are not requesting but have needs.

This kind of data is always hard to capture as it requires surveying or finding another mechanism to capture it. Also, some students are reluctant to volunteer this type of information.

There are limited avenues for clear data collection on these. CCC Apply could include questions to increase accuracy and response.

Data is collected on an in-person basis as students obtain services.

Would be great to have easily replicated data sharing template with local housing authority, CalFRESH and counties for rental assistance.

I don't like consistently asking our students about their poverty status...it begins to feel like poverty performance to get services.

Some of the surveys are subjective, such as asking if you have to consider cost when deciding what to eat. Everyone can answer yes to such a question. Others, like have you chosen to miss meals to pay for other things would be more in line with true food insecurity. Coordinating options for people and helping educate them is important (e.g., CalFresh

The data collection remains a challenge for our college as well.

Self reporting and reaching the students who most need food and housing help is difficult

There is no way other than to ask if students are struggling with housing and food.

Gaps in data collection are internal to our district but we are managing with other types of communication strategies to hear from students.

I agree, this issue still exists. Students have survey fatigue and are not willing to complete survey information. Our sample sizes are too small to gain a strong understanding of the situation.

We use our COM Cares program which is an interactive web based communication tool for both students and employees to file a report and request specific needs and/or support. We have successfully utilized this tool for nearly 7 years. During the pandemic we expanded its use and capability.

Having been fortunate to bring on a Director of Planning and Research at the end of 2019, we have been in a better position to address our institutional needs.

The updated dashboards on the CO website are great, but we need one for Board of Trustee members only. We are developing one locally using Tableau, but a dashboard for all that provide basic metrics that BOT members need to meet board goals might be useful.

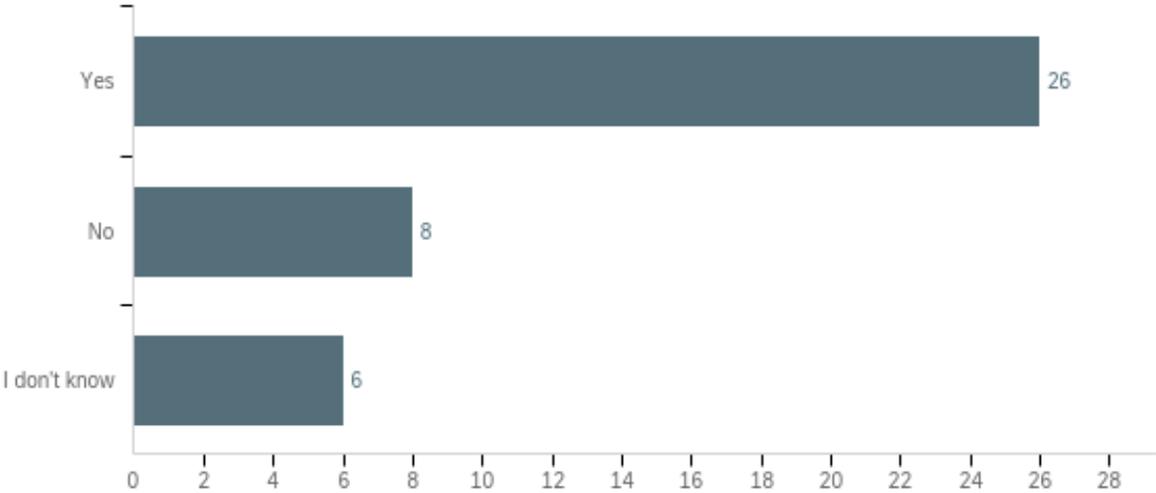
We have data on housing based on our feasibility study, but this is limited to what they would consider as viable options vs. what are the housing needs of our students. We have data on those who participate in our food drive but what is difficult to collect is whether we are directly impacting those students who truly need it based on financial aid needs and/or self identification.

Feasibility study.

Noncredit is significantly more challenged in collecting data from demographics to needs assessments by said demographics. Specifically, SDCCE does not use CCCapply and cannot collect the same data in regards to populations applying and needs. It is very hard to implement new applications and systems at noncredit. SDCCE does not have the same level of support District-wide as credit colleges and we are trying to fit noncredit outcomes and data into credit models.

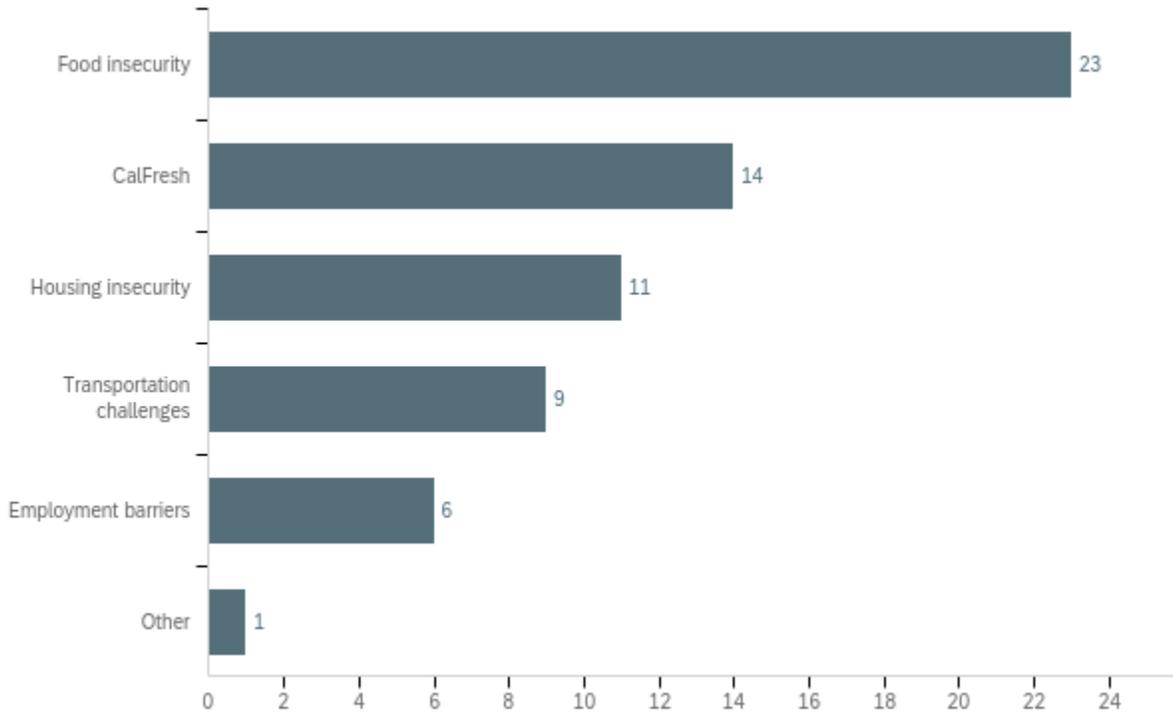
I believe there are many challenges for surveying this population. First, this population may not have the technology required for surveys. Second, they may choose not to complete a survey due to embarrassment or stigma.

In our previous survey, 59.7% of colleges/districts had training for campus personnel working with students who are experiencing basic need challenges. Did you provide this type of professional development during the 2020-2021 year?



Answer	%	Count
Yes	65.00%	26
No	20.00%	8
I don't know	15.00%	6
Total	100%	40

What type of training? Check all that apply.

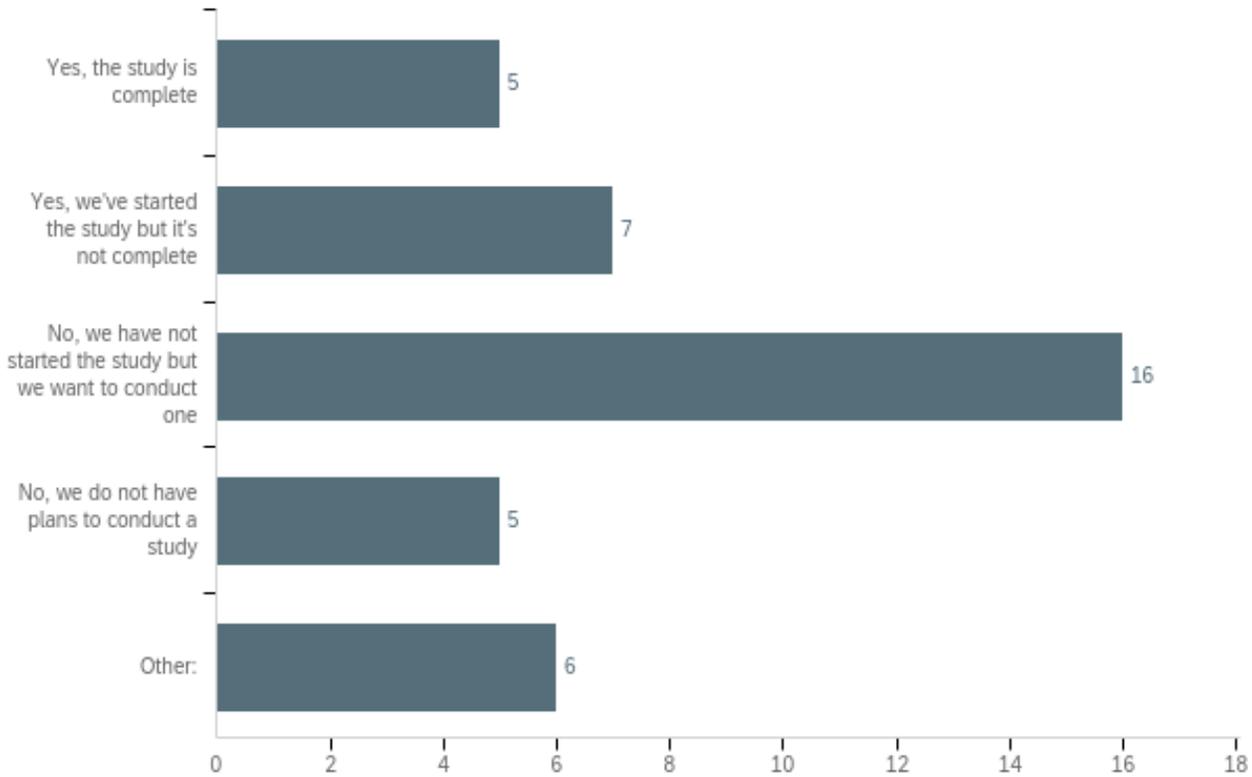


Answer	%	Count
Food insecurity	35.94%	23
CalFresh	21.88%	14
Housing insecurity	17.19%	11
Transportation challenges	14.06%	9
Employment barriers	9.38%	6
Other	1.56%	1
Total	100%	64

Other

Maslow's Hierarchy

Is your college/district conducting a student housing feasibility study?



	Answer	%	Count
	Yes, the study is complete	12.82%	5
	Yes, we've started the study but it's not complete	17.95%	7
	No, we have not started the study but we want to conduct one	41.03%	16
	No, we do not have plans to conduct a study	12.82%	5
	Other:	15.38%	6
	Total	100%	39

Other:

Study was completed in 2019

Our remote location is challenging. Our campus is 6 miles from San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. There are no services within walking distance. We partner with local student housing providers in San Luis Obispo.

at district level

We are beginning our study in September

SDCCE may be part of a district-wide study vs an independent noncredit study

Please provide any additional comments about how the Taskforce can support your college/district as it relates to student housing.

Legal support regarding liability when recommending and finding housing and funding housing

Continue to encourage districts to address student housing insecurity in the way that best matches their local area and reality. The main campus of my college is compact and there is no room to build any housing. We have three other locations: one has a large, unpaved parking lot that sits under SCE power lines and is in appropriate for housing. Another site is leased from El Monte Union High School District and there is no room to build. Our third site is a building on the John Muir High School campus. So, the best option for us is to continue to coordinate with local non-profits in our area to provide vouchers for rapid housing options, and longer term temporary housing for needy students.

Provide support and funding to start a pilot project

The reason that we can't do a housing feasibility study is because our sister college did an campus housing project and we can't start are own project until their occupancy rate hits an agreed to percentage.

Research and data on student needs and perspectives, especially in this pandemic environment, for increasing enrollment and retention.

Developing funding mechanism to reduce construction cost so that we can reduce rents below market value.

State funding for projects is critical to help pencil out the costs so there are supportive, subsidized, or zero-cost rooms for our most deserving students.

We need a way to access capital that will not impede on the college's general fund.

Please see my earlier comments. Could there be a state-wide approach? Please, identification of funding streams for our system to support student housing.

I am concerned about the competition between districts for resources in support of providing student housing, and the criteria that will factor into the decisions. Perhaps advocating for a process that equally supports the very different needs of rural and urban colleges.

While my college/district is not planning on exploring student housing, we are still pursuing more robust supports to support housing insecurities for students. I would love to continue seeing best practice models from other colleges.

Again, the gap is funding, available data, and effective practices and support for noncredit students. The challenge continues for noncredit to find a place in a credit driven system. However, noncredit students account for 50% of our District enrollment and transfers to the credit college system. We must be seen as a valuable and contributing institution of higher learning and our students even more so.