



Basic Needs at the Community College Level

April 27, 2023, 1:30 - 2:45pm | California Homeless Education Conference



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About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection
works to overcome
homelessness through
education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE:

schoolhouseconnection.org

NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

John Burton Advocates for Youth



Education



Health



Housing

Direct
Services



Technical
Assistance and
training



Advocacy
and Policy



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Agenda

- 1 **Importance of Higher Education**
- 2 **Federal Laws**
- 3 **California State Laws**
- 4 **Best Practices at a Community College**
- 5 **Resources and Q&A**



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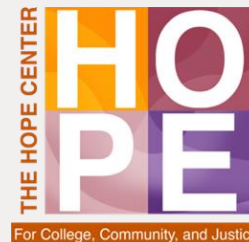
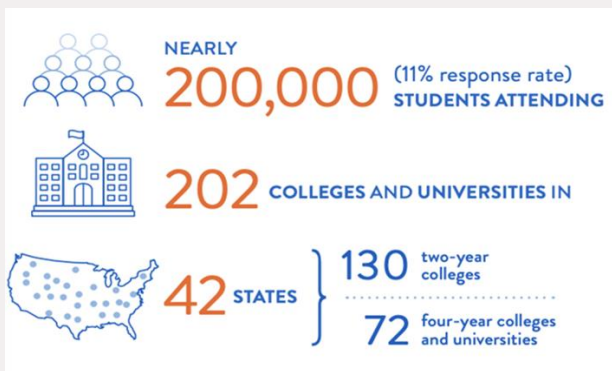
Importance of Higher Education

Higher Education

Why It Matters For Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- Some form of postsecondary education is necessary for jobs that pay enough to lift out of poverty and afford housing. **80% of “good jobs”** are held by workers with at least some postsecondary education.
- Higher education appears to be a protective factor against youth homelessness. A **2019 study** shows four year college enrollment to be nearly four time higher for young adults without experiences of homelessness in the prior month.
- New **data** links financial aid and upward mobility. In WA, all students who came from families with household incomes below \$63K saw their economic status rise within three years of earning a degree and entering the labor force.

College Students Experiencing Homelessness



THESE STUDENTS TOLD US THAT...

NEARLY
3 IN 5
 experienced
 basic needs insecurity

FOOD INSECURITY
 AFFECTED

39% at two-year institutions

29% at four-year institutions

HOUSING INSECURITY
 AFFECTED

48%

HOMELESSNESS
 AFFECTED

14%

THE
BLACK/WHITE GAP
 IN BASIC NEEDS
 INSECURITY WAS

16 percentage points



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Federal Laws

McKinney-Vento Act

Defining homelessness as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence



Credit accrual and college readiness



States must have procedures to identify and remove barriers that prevent students from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school.



State plans must describe how homeless youth will receive assistance from school counselors to advice, prepare, and improve their readiness for college.

Filling out the FAFSA

While not a federal law, filling out the FAFSA is beneficial for homeless youth pursuing postsecondary education

Download the Report

1. Visit this link:
bit.ly/3HsXsql
2. Scan the QR Code

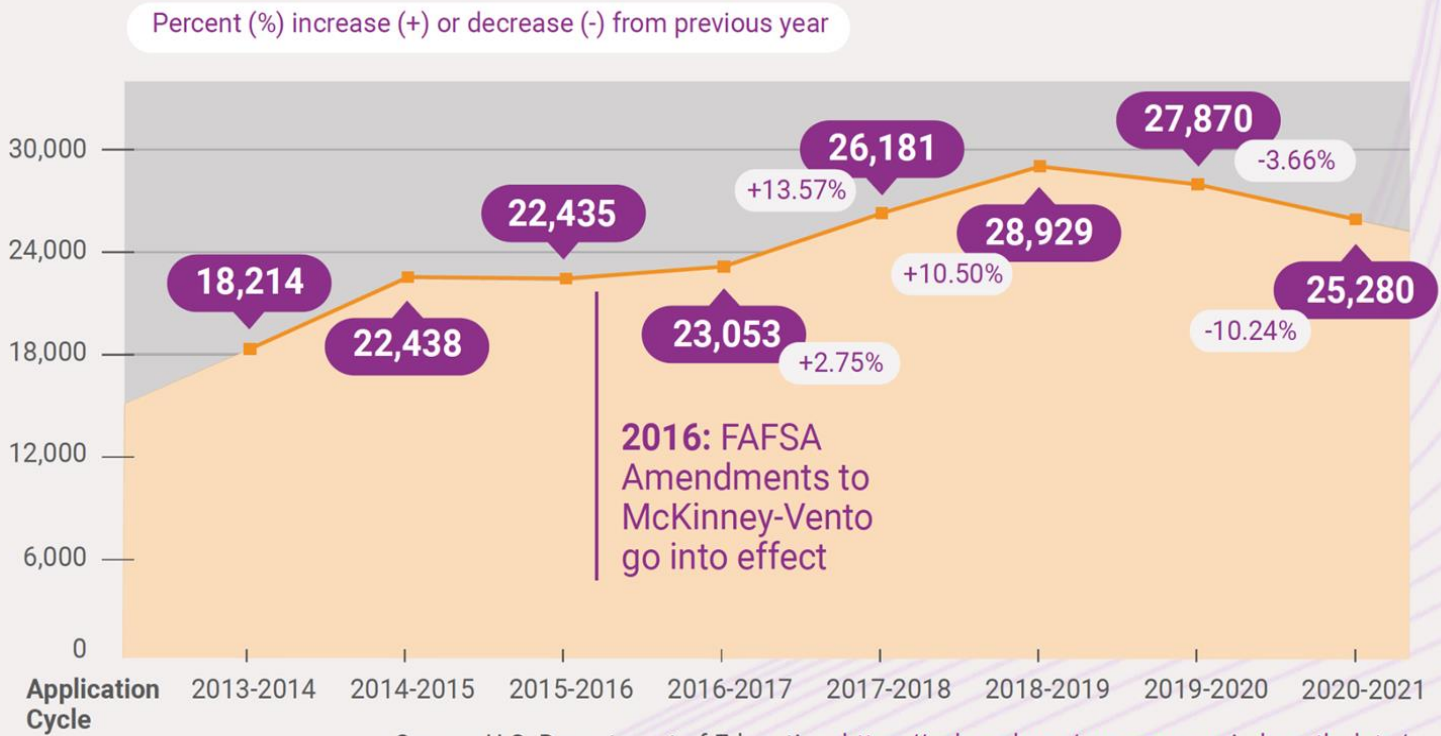


**“Working Harder
Just to Be Seen
and Heard.”**

**Barriers to Financial Aid for
Homeless and Foster Youth**



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determinations by School District Liaisons



Source: U.S. Department of Education, <https://nche.ed.gov/unaccompanied-youth-data/>

The FAFSA Simplification Act: Major Policy Wins

Significant improvements for homeless and foster youth were included in the FAFSA Simplification Act.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is implementing the FAFSA Simplification Act **in phases through 2024-2025**.

ED released guidance on November 4, 2022 declaring the homeless/foster provisions are **in effect now** for enrollment in the upcoming 2023-2024 award year.

While the text of the homeless/foster questions on the FAFSA that went online October 1 has not changed, **the law has changed.**

Key Takeaways of FAFSA provisions

- 1 The 2023-2024 FAFSA is available now! The questions look the same but the provisions are in effect.
- 2 Homeless and foster youth care status does not need to be redetermined.
- 3 Determinations must be made as quickly as practicable.

Key Takeaways of FAFSA provisions

4

More programs and officials can provide determinations

5

For students who cannot get determinations, financial aid administrators must make homeless and foster youth determinations following the processes outlined in the law - it is not a matter of professional judgment

Best Practices

Supporting our students to and through postsecondary education

- Graduation Coaches
- FAFSA mentors
- Trainings
- Partnerships between high schools and higher education institutions
- FAFSA Challenges
- SHC Youth Leadership and Scholarship

Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth (HEASHFY)

Pending reintroduction this year



Homeless and foster youth higher education liaisons



Access and prioritization of on-campus housing and support during winter and summer breaks



In-state tuition, even if a student's residency is unstable



Facilitate recruitment, participation, and retention of homeless and foster youth in TRIO/GEAR UP programs

California **Laws**

Housing Insecurity at **Two-Year** Institutions



Housing Insecurity at **Four-Year** Institutions



Goldrick-Rab, S., Baker-Smith, C., Coca, V., Looker, E., & Williams, T. (April 2019). College and University Basic Needs Insecurity: A #RealCollege Survey Report. The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, Temple University.

Homelessness & Food Insecurity: By The Numbers

¹ Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., Schneider, J., Hernandez, A., Cady, C. (2018). *Still Hungry and Homeless in College*. Wisconsin HOPE Lab.

² Internal California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Survey. (September 2016).

46%

Community college students who experienced housing insecurity in the last year ¹

12%

Community college students who experienced homelessness in the past year ¹

90%

Faculty and staff who see homelessness as an issue students are facing ²

15%

Faculty and staff who feel equipped to respond to students facing homelessness ²

Laws Impacting Homeless Students

- **AB 1228 (2015)** – On-campus housing priority
- **AB 1995 (2016)** – Access to community college shower facilities for homeless students
- **AB 801/806 (2016)** – Liaison, priority enrollment, Promise Grant
- **AB 2416 (2020)** – Homelessness as extenuating circumstance for SAP
- **AB 469 (2021)** – FAFSA/CADAA completion requirement

Assembly Bill 801 (2016)

Requires a Homeless Youth Liaison at every public postsecondary institution

Provide priority enrollment to homeless youth

Homeless youth are automatically eligible for California College Promise Grant

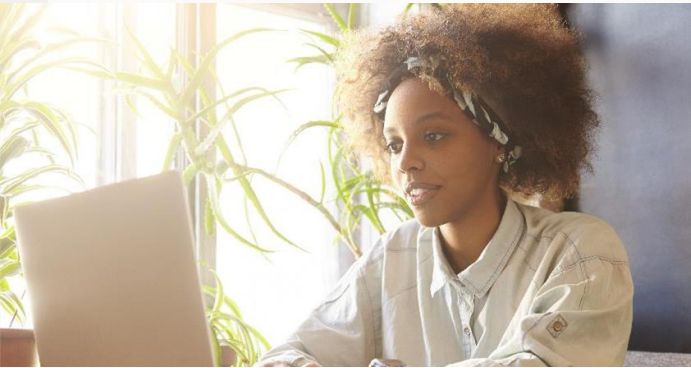
<https://www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org/resource/homeless-youth-liaisons-direct`ory/>

AB 801/806 Definition of “Homeless Youth”



- Under age 25
- Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (includes “couch surfing”)
- Student can be unaccompanied or
- live with parents/guardians
- Became homeless within 24 months of applying to college or while in college
- Students retain status for 6 years (or until they turn 25 or change colleges)

Roles of the Homeless Youth Liaison



- Help with applying for and receiving financial aid
- Promote awareness of other services, such as tutoring, EOP/EOPS, or community resources
- Homeless Youth Liaison should be in Financial Aid Office or other appropriate department
- Staff/faculty training; partnering with students and organizations

Best Practices at a Community College

360 Degrees of Care

Managing Student Basic Needs on a Budget



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Basic Needs Resources

> Beaver Cares

[Our Services](#)

[Diaper and Baby Needs Pantry](#)

[Free Grocery Cards](#)

[Free Gas Cards](#)

[Textbook Assistance](#)

[Housing Resources Request](#)

[Donate to Beaver Cares](#)

[Community Clothing Resources](#)

[Laptop and Hotspot Loan Program](#)

[Student Support Programs](#)

[Financial Resources](#)

[Food Resources](#)

BEAVER CARES

American River College is pleased to introduce the **Beaver Cares Basic Needs Welcome and Support Center**. We offer a wide range of services including food and more! The Beaver Cares team believes that any barrier to success that a student faces and we strive to address them all in-house or by referral.

Many students face various issues. To be intentional in meeting the basic needs of our students, the Beaver Cares Program provides one central location for our students in need.

Beaver Cares Services





WHY?

Credit: TheCompelledEducator.com

STUDENTS MUST
MASLOW

BEFORE THEY CAN
BLOOM



MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



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AB 132

**Requires each CA Community College to establish
a Basic Needs Center**

1. One Stop Shop
2. Full Time Staff
3. Seven Streams of Service



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AB 132

Seven Streams of Service

1. Housing
2. Food Resources
3. Mental Health
4. Physical Health
5. Technology
6. Transportation
7. Child Care





Buy-in

Survey Students

Use Data

Retention

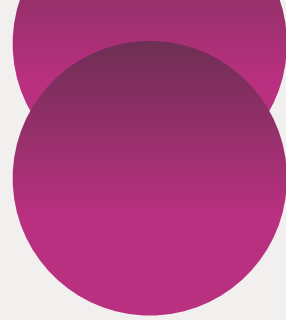
Persistence





Stats and Facts

50%



According to a CCCO Study last year:

- nearly 50% of California Community College students are food insecure.
- Over 50% - worried about running out of food or could not afford to eat balanced meals.
- 41% -skipped meals or cut the size of their meals down
- 12% -missed meals for an entire day because they didn't have enough money.

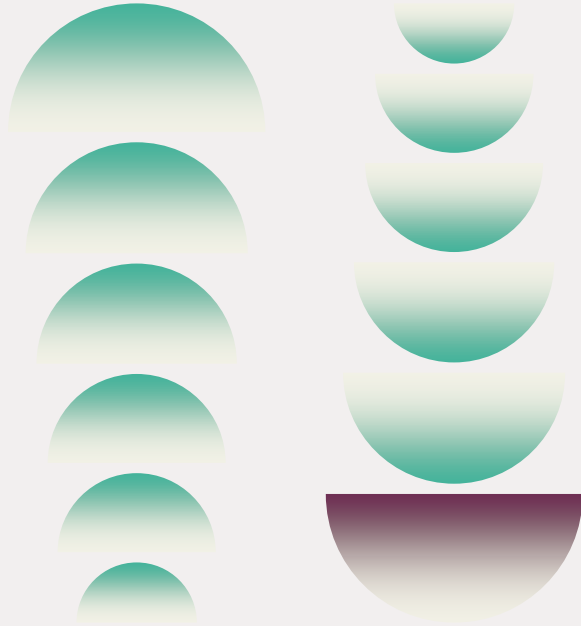


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Beaver Cares Basic Needs Center



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HOW WE ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AT ARC

- Food Pantries/Grab & Go
- Farmer's Market
- Gift Cards
- CalFresh Outreach



Farmer's Market Style



Spring 2022



Los Angeles County
Office of Education

SchoolHouse
Connection

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How we address Housing Insecurity at ARC

Vouchers

Emergency Housing
Vouchers

Case Management

Finding
stable/permanent
Housing Options

Partnerships

Partnership with
LSS/YAB



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Think outside of the box....

Ask questions.....

Listen.....



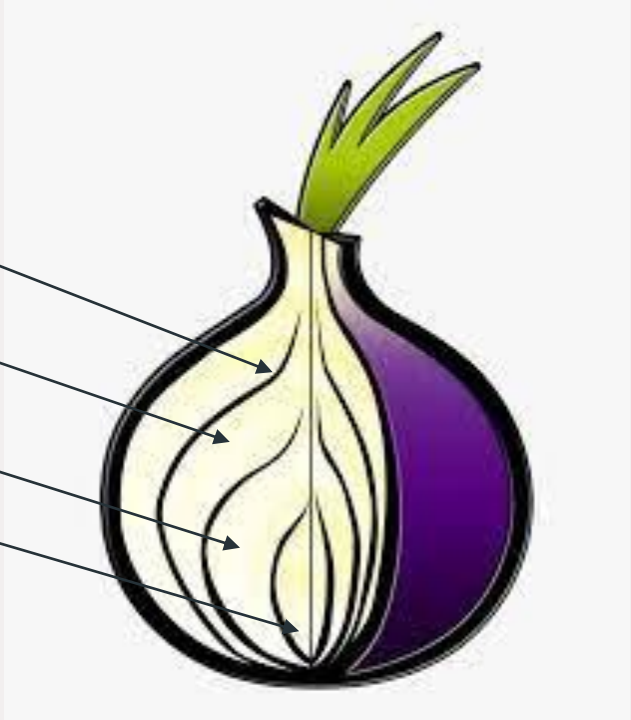
Case Management Model

Falling asleep in class

Working two jobs

Couch Surfing

Left Abusive Home



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Additional Services For Students....

Gas Cards

Fuel gift cards per semester

Diaper Pantry

Diapers, Baby Wipes
and Baby Food

Textbook Vouchers

Library Lending &
EBook Vouchers

Toiletries Etc.

Winter Backpacks

Laptops/Hotspots

Predominantly for
our Homeless
students

Workshop Courses

Money Matters
Career Works!
Nutritional
Education Series



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Coming Soon

Microgrants

Child Care

Vehicle Repairs

Rental Deposits

Mental Health

Health Fee

Access to ongoing care



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Intersectionality on Campus

CalWorks

EOP&S

Learning
Communities

Veterans

Athletics

Office of Philanthropy



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Key Partnerships

Banks/Credit Unions

Schools First, SAFE
& Bank of America

Food Banks

Sacramento Food
Bank & River City
Food Bank

K12 & 4-year

Pipelines
Committees



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How students get connected to us:

BIT Referrals

Faculty Referrals

Email/Website



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What other resources and services do you have to support college students?



Resources

- [SHC Higher Education Page](#)
- [SHC McKinney-Vento Act Reference](#)
- [SHC State Policy Supporting College Students](#)
- [FAFSA Page](#)
 - [Sample form for determinations](#)
- [GEN-22-15 ED Guidance](#)
- [*NEW* GEN-23-60 ED Guidance](#)
- [*NEW* FAFSA Webinar on May 11 from 1:30-2:45pm Eastern](#)



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Let's Connect!

Facebook: SchoolHouse Connection

Facebook Group: Homelessness & Education - A SchoolHouse Connection Group

Instagram: @SchoolHouseConnection

Twitter: @SchoolHouseConn

Linkedin: SchoolHouse Connection



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RESOURCES



Sign up for our Mailing List!

Get on the list for important legislative updates, useful resources, webinar announcements, and news related to homelessness and education.



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Questions & Discussion



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