

# Legislative Briefing: Students' Basic Needs

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February 2, 2023



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Addressing Student Housing Insecurity
- Providing On-Campus Food Resources
- Meeting Student Transportation Needs
- Providing Student Health Care Services
- Eliminating Institutional Debt
- Emergency Aid Delivered
- Closing the Digital Divide for Students



# STUDENTS' BASIC NEEDS

# Large Scale of Insecurity

Compton College outpaces other community colleges in housing and food insecurity.

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	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Homelessness
Compton College – 2018	59%	68%	18%
California Community Colleges - 2018	50%	60%	19%
Compton College - 2019	56%	63%	23%
#RealCollege National Survey - 2019	39%	46%	17%

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# Housing Insecurity

- Prior to receiving assistance from Compton College, 42.9% of students enrolled in Shallow Subsidy Housing Assistance Program (SSHAP) were homeless at some point in the past year compared to 21% of non-SSHAP enrolled students.
  - After receiving aid, the number of SSHAP-enrolled students experiencing homelessness dropped to 29.4%.
- In the 2022-2023 California State Budget, \$80,389,000 was appropriated to Compton Community College District to build a 250-bed student housing facility on the Compton College campus.

# On-Campus Food Resources

- Monthly Mobile Food Pantry
  - Partnership with Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
  - Open to the public
- Weekly Farmers' Market – Open to the Public
  - \$20 vouchers for students; including dual enrolled students
  - Partnership with Sustainable Economic Enterprise of Los Angeles (SEE-LA)
- Free Everytable meals daily at on-campus cafeteria
  - One meal daily for students and employees
- Everytable meal delivery service
  - Students may order 10 meals per week



# Transportation Needs

In California, there have been several legislative attempts to provide more affordable transportation options for students.

- Most recently, AB 1919 (2022) attempted to create the Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program, which would have provided grants for interested transit agencies to create or expand programs to fund passes for K-12 and college students to ride public transportation.
- As Compton College demonstrates, key partnerships and funding for partnerships with local transit authorities can help alleviate the burden of finding affordable and timely transportation for students.

# Transportation Needs

Compton College provides the following transportation assistance:

- Free Metro TapToGo Passes
- Free parking on-campus
- Gas cards for student workers, who provide support in the Outreach and Recruitment activities.



# Health Care Services

- Compton College Partnership with St. John's Community Health
  - On-campus Student Health Center provides general health services, including medical and behavioral services.
  - COVID-19 vaccines and testing available to employees, students and the public.
- Virtual Care Group
  - 24-hour virtual access to general and mental health care services.
  - Weekly announcements sent to current students.

# Eliminating Debt

California has started addressing the issue of institutional debt through state funding.

- 2022-2023 State Budget included two funding sources for CCCs to eliminate institutional debt.
  - The Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant provided \$650 million in General Funds support for CCCs to, among other items, “discharge unpaid fees due or owed by a student to a community college in the district.”
  - There was also a one-time Proposition 98 allocation of \$150 million for CCC Student Retention and Enrollment to re-engage with students who may have withdrawn due to the impacts of the pandemic and provide fiscal incentives for their return.

# Eliminating Debt

- From spring 2020 to spring 2021, Compton found that the median fees owed was \$41 among 2,702 students, totaling \$527,531 in institutional debt.
  - Of the students impacted by institutional debt, Latinx and Black students held a higher percentage of the total fees owed at 38.8% and 34.67% respectively.
- Between 2021 and 2022, Compton College used Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II dollars to discharge the nearly \$700,000 in institutional debt, removing holds placed on accounts and enabling students to re-enroll.
- Using the American Rescue Plan funds, Compton College plans to discharge additional student institutional debt between 2022 and 2023.

# Eliminating Debt

- Additionally, AB 1958 was signed into law last year, creating the Community College Student Access, Retention, and Debt Cancellation Program to provide fiscal incentives to encourage the enrollment and re-enrollment of students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but has yet to be funded.
- These efforts and CCCs allocation of these funds towards institutional debt, as demonstrated at Compton College, will help address institutional debt for students at CCCs, but more can and should be done to help all students at our public higher education institutions.

# Emergency Aid

In 2022, Compton College provided \$3 million dollars in emergency aid to students.

- ***\$500,000 went to dual enrollment students.***
  - Compton College Dual Enrollment Grants distributed in partnership with Edquity.

# Closing the Divide

- Compton College Laptop Loan Program
- Wi-fi Hot Spots
- Headphones

# Recommendations

1. Effective strategies to address students' basic needs require dedicated federal and state funding.
2. Colleges should prioritize meeting the basic needs of their students when making budget decisions.
  - a. As colleges engage in budgeting and programming that support students' basic needs, these decisions need to be data driven.
  - b. Basic needs data should be disaggregated by at least race and gender to ensure that programs are working and equitable.



# Additional Information

- [Compton College/NextGen Policy Brief](#)
- [2022-2023 Annual Planning Cycle Final Report – Compton College](#)
- [Compton College/CalFresh Data Sharing Agreement](#)
- [Compton College Guaranteed Income Program](#)
- [Basic Need Supports at Compton College – November 2022 Report](#)
- [Compton College Student Parent Resources and Services](#)
- [Preliminary Plans for On-Campus Student Housing](#)

# QUESTIONS?

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