

BASIC NEEDS INITIATIVE

SUPPORTING STUDENTS' BASIC NEEDS

Critical to student success at the CSU, the Basic Needs Initiative takes a holistic look at students' well-being both inside and outside the classroom, from housing and food security to mental health. Student engagement and well-being is a priority of Graduation Initiative 2025, which is supported by ongoing state funding. We're working together to find better ways to support our students on their path to graduation.

Meeting students' immediate food needs

- All 23 campuses have a food pantry or food distribution program.
- 20 campuses offer meals through meal sharing or meal voucher programs.
- 22 campuses make fresh fruit and vegetables available to students.
- Nine campuses accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) with additional campuses in development.
- More than 10 campus food retailers allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars to be used to purchase hot food on campus. Additional retail outlets are working to add this benefit.
- All 23 campuses have administrators or staff who manage programs and connect students with resources.
- 22 campuses have case managers or crisis response teams.
- All 23 campuses partner with local food banks and other community organizations.
- 12 campuses host dedicated Basic Needs Centers.
- 15 campuses have Basic Needs Ambassador training programs for students, faculty and staff.
- All 23 campus health centers connect or refer students to on-campus Basic Needs support services.

Providing emergency funds and housing

- All 23 CSU campuses offer on-campus emergency housing. A majority of campuses also offer off-campus emergency housing and hotel vouchers.
- All 23 campuses offer emergency grants or funds.
- 22 campuses raise donations from the community specifically to support students' basic needs.
- 8 campuses are piloting college-focused rapid rehousing.

Connecting students with resources

- All 23 campuses offer students CalFresh application assistance.
- All 23 campuses have websites that connect students with on- and off-campus resources, and many faculty members include resource links in course syllabi.

Offering additional support

- 22 campuses provide cooking classes and recipes to help students prepare healthy and inexpensive meal options.
- A majority of campuses offer wellness workshops, with many offering self-help seminars and other types of support communities.
- 20 campuses provide clothing for students in need, including interview-appropriate attire.
- 19 campuses host financial literacy workshops for students.

