
Hxstory of Basic Needs

— CHEBNA Summit, Feb. 6, 2020 —

Hunger & Homelessness On Our Campuses

- College hunger & homelessness have always been prevalent issues on our campuses in the past, but did not get the attention they deserved:
 - Prior to 2010, there are occasional mentions of college hunger and homelessness as an issue for students, but larger news outlets usually did not report on these issues.
 - Most of what we know about college hunger and homelessness from the pre-2010 era comes from student stories and narratives. Very little data and research out there on the extent of these issues.
 - Individual and isolated efforts led by students on some campuses such as creation of UCLA food closet in 2009.

Hunger & Homelessness On Our Campuses (Cont.)

- 2010-2013:
 - More colleges & universities begin addressing hunger on campus.
 - Efforts are still largely isolated and student-led
- Then Comes 2014...
 - UC President Napolitano launches the Global Food Initiative (GFI) to address the need for sustainable and nutritious sources of food around the world.
 - The term “food security” is introduced and defined...
 - The GFI also gives birth to the first ever systemwide coordinated efforts to coordinate campus food security efforts.

Hunger & Homelessness On Our Campuses (Cont.)

- In the years that follow...
 - In 2015, the UC conducts the 2015 Student Food Access and Security Survey — the nation's largest higher education study at the time.
 - Also in 2015, the three segments of higher ed jointly form the California Higher Education Food Summit (CHEFS), focused on discussing strategies for improving food security and student success across California.
 - In 2016, following the CHEFS convening, the CSU Chancellor's Office and the Community College Chancellor's Office conduct separate studies to review levels of need and available resources at each system. Conversations around housing insecurity are brought into the fold.

Hunger & Homelessness On Our Campuses (Cont.)

- Also in 2016, President Napolitano commits of \$3.3 million to address food security and advance a multi-year plan. This marks the first ever systemwide funding commitment.
- Following this, and with the rise of housing crisis in California, the term “basic needs security” is born to capture the impacts of both college hunger and homelessness.
- In 2017, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) secures \$2.5 million in Hunger Free Campus Initiative funds to invest in food security resources at the community colleges. This marks the first state investment in basic needs.
- Also in 2017, the first ever inter-segmental work group on higher ed basic needs is born, which eventually becomes California Higher Ed Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA)

Hunger & Homelessness On Our Campuses (Cont.)

- In 2018, all three segments release updated reports on basic needs insecurity. The first comprehensive statistics of homelessness are released: 1 in 5 CCC students, 1 in 9 CSU students, and 1 in 20 UC students are homeless.
- Also in 2018, UC Student Association, Cal State Student Association, and the Student Senate for California Community Colleges form the Fix Financial Aid Coalition in order to advocate for the state financial aid system to cover costs of attendance and invest in student basic needs.
- In 2019, GAO publishes the first ever federal study on higher ed basic needs.
- Also in 2019, students successfully secure \$20 million in ongoing state funds provide rapid rehousing resources at the three higher ed segments. UC students also secure \$15 million in ongoing basic needs support and CSU students secure \$15 million one-time.

Where Does That Leave Us?

- A significant decade of student advocacy and wins for basic needs
 - At the start of 2010, conversations around higher ed basic needs nearly non-existent.
 - Today, it's a part of every local, system, state, and even federal stakeholder
- A lot more work left to do...
 - CCCs did not get any basic needs funding last year, and CSUs only got one-time
 - Many campuses still need to build and expand their basic needs infrastructure
 - The state financial aid still doesn't capture the costs of attendance
- Basic Needs is growing and expanding
 - Healthcare rising up as another arm of basic needs to be considered
 - How do we target our most vulnerable students (i.e. foster youth, LGBTQ communities, student parents, etc.)
- Where will we be in 2030?

Contact Us!

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