

CA Homeless Youth Project Blog

The HYP is a project of the CA Research Bureau dedicated to educating local and state policymakers about unaccompanied youth who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Learn more at <http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/>

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“Provide housing for all students in college and attending classes” - This and Other Insights from the CSU Food and Housing Security Conference

The California State University hosted their first Food and Housing Insecurity Conference on June 20-21 in Long Beach, California. Conference workshops explored ways to best meet the needs of housing displaced and food insecure students. When presenting a workshop on Understanding College Homelessness in California: How and Why Did We Get Here, CHYP project director Shahera Hyatt explored the historical, political, and societal factors affecting homelessness, particularly through the lens of California’s homeless college students. In another workshop – Public Policy: What Policy Advocacy is Doing to Support the Basic Needs for College Students – she and co-presenters Jessica Bartholow from the Western Center on Law and Poverty and Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) offered an intimate look into the current policy milieu of the Capitol. Attendees were integrated into the discussion and were asked, “What would you do to end homelessness and housing insecurity on your campus?”

Here are some of the thoughtful responses we received:

- “Hire a staff to educate and support students experiencing homelessness. This staff would only be dedicated to supporting this population, not pulled in 10 other directions.”
- “Work with city to place affordable housing near campus.”
- “Provide housing for all students attending college and attending classes.”
- “More affordable and flexible housing options.”
- “Mental health services - access and destigmatization of services.”
- “Set aside several temporary housing spaces in Residence Halls that students could stay in for free (with designated time frames).”
- “Tiny houses for all students who need an affordable house.”
- “Re-commit to state/publically supported higher education – which would enhance students’ ability to pay for basic needs.”
- “Model some sort of year-round, family friendly, transitional housing with intense case management, linked to community resources.”
- “Advocate student/faculty housing on campuses to be cheaper than rent from around the campuses.”
- “Free/connected transportation for students that depend on public transportation to get to campus.”

- “Create greater awareness campaigns and educational resources to inform the campus community of the needs of the homeless and hopefully develop more programs and involvement of students, staff, faculty and the administration.”
- “Set aside a percent of residence hall beds for year-round occupancy for residents who would otherwise find themselves without housing during summer/winter break months.”
- “Emergency funds to support students we need.”
- “Make a deal with nearby apartment complexes to reduce rent for off-campus housing.”
- “The resources would be on campus and students would know about them.”
- “Develop a Social Services Resource Center with case management, emergency funding, workshops, and mental health wellbeing services.”
- “Decrease the rate of on-campus housing and perhaps create alternative residences which allow for students to have store kitchenettes, etc.”
- “Low-income students should be able to live on campus for free, including students with kids.”
- “Free housing provided in dorms for non-traditional students.”
- “Affordable, low-cost dormitories for all students.”
- “Free student housing”
- “Different rent buildings, land trust, build cooperatives, and give back the power to the communities.”
- “Make affordable housing on campus.”
- “Contract that rent will not increase in apartments 1-2 miles closer to campus (rent control).”
- “Low income housing units.”
- “I want student families extended resources for support.”
- “Low cost and affordable housing options for all students enrolled (on and off campus).”
- “Provide semester long housing vouchers that would be accepted by on-campus dorms (to fill remaining vacancies) and nearest apartments within walking distance.”
- “Provide year-round access to dorms and employ housing insecure youth as RAs or office staff.”

What would you do to end homelessness among college students in California? Or what are you currently doing to alleviate housing insecurity on your campus? Let us know [here](#).

Video Link: [The 'Homeless Problem'](#)