



California Community Colleges

SYSTEM WEBINAR SUMMARY (NOV. 2022): HOUSING SECURITY AS A KEY TO SUCCESS

This webinar focused on advancing housing security as a key social determinant of student success. Guest presenters included Pam Sepulveda, Case Manager at Cerritos Community College, Eric Hubbard, Development Director at Jovenes, Inc., and Joshua Elizondo, a student member on the Board of Governors (BOG).

What is the Affordable Student Housing Program?

- Addressing students' housing challenges is a necessary part of ensuring that our student-centered support ecosystems include the economic stability component of the [social determinants of educational success](#) framework.
- The Legislature passed [Senate Bill 169](#) in 2021, providing funding for grants to public colleges and universities to develop affordable student housing. BOG established an [Affordable Student Housing Taskforce](#) to make recommendations for a clear program structure for affordable student housing in the system.
- Prior to SB 169, only 11 community colleges offered any student housing. The goal is to double the number of beds offered across the system with the first round of funding through the housing grants (2021-22), and to continue to increase beds with the two additional rounds of funding (to be awarded in 2022-23 and 2023-24).
- The Taskforce and CCCCCO are thinking of housing as part of an interconnected strategy to support students, ensuring access to the holistic supports needed to succeed in college. Five pillars of the program include equity, affordability, addressing housing shortages, fiscal sustainability, and student-centered design.
- The colleges included in the first round of funding will be part of a community of practice to ensure the system can take what is learned about partnering with community-based organizations, leveraging funding sources and other issues and develop best practices and strategies to share with other colleges.
- The Taskforce report will be released in January 2023, outlining recommendations and proposing changes to regulations to better support colleges in providing student housing. It will also include a total cost of ownership calculator to help districts consider the total costs as part of planning their grant applications.

How is Cerritos Community College Addressing Housing Needs?

- Through the state's ongoing investment in homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing services for community college students, the Homeless and Housing Insecure Program (HHIP) was implemented as a [pilot effort at 14 colleges](#) (the

original investment of \$9 million ongoing funds in 2019 was increased to \$19 million ongoing in 2022).

- As one of the 14 pilot projects, housing strategies at Cerritos include:
 - Incorporating housing as one element of the college’s comprehensive basic needs services. At the [Falcon’s Nest](#), students have access to food, hygiene, clothing, emergency aid, and a [team of social workers](#) who can address housing issues as part of an in-depth needs assessment for students.
 - Developing an internship program for graduate students in social work programs, which allows the campus to provide basic needs case management services.
 - Leveraging college general funds, basic needs funds, and other state funds (e.g., [CalFresh](#)) to create infrastructure within its basic needs program to support housing. For example, rather than spending money to buy food for its pantry, the college leveraged partnerships with local food partners to donate food and free up funds for addressing other basic needs.
 - Partnering with [Jovenes, Inc.](#) on [the Village](#), a non-HHIP-funded off-campus housing development. The college used general funds to purchase a group of town homes that can house up to 28 students at a time, and accessed additional funding through Los Angeles County. Jovenes brings coordinated housing resources to the college through “peer navigators,” former community college students who themselves experienced homelessness. The college looks to Jovenes to be the housing experts, with the navigators working to connect students with housing options that include emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.
 - Ensuring that college staff, graduate student case managers, and Jovenes staff meet weekly to coordinate their efforts around housing referrals and other basic needs services for individual students.

What are Some Key Learnings and Resources for Colleges?

- Key takeaways: leverage internal and external resources, use data and evidence on best practices, partner with community organizations, and start small.
- The application and instructions for the second round of [Higher Education Student Housing Grants](#) will be released this month. The CCCCO will offer webinars and other supports to help colleges navigate the process.
- Colleges should learn about their local [coordinated entry system \(CES\)](#). Communities throughout the state have CES collaborations across local agencies to provide housing services. Even without HHIP funding, colleges can invite CES representatives to their campus and create partnerships to leverage available public resources and the housing expertise that exists in local communities.