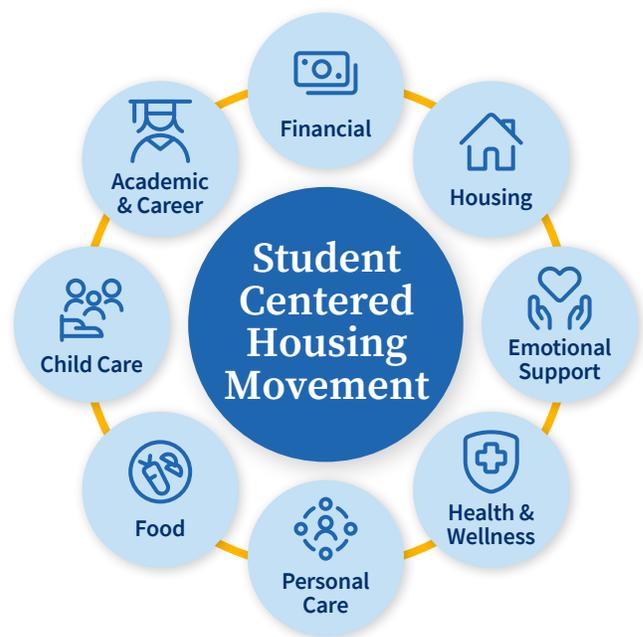




# Affordable Student Housing at California Community Colleges is Essential to Student Success

## Student Success at the Core of California Community Colleges Affordable Student Housing Movement

California is experiencing a critical shortage of affordable housing, forcing millions of students to decide between paying for education or providing food and shelter for themselves and their families. In a 2019 survey of California community college students, we found that 16% of students were homeless, and 60% experienced housing insecurity. Of the three systems of public higher education, the California Community Colleges serves the largest proportion of low-income and minority students. Lack of affordable housing places the burden upon our students to balance basic needs with their pursuit of a quality education, creating a barrier to persistence and graduation. Affordable housing is essential to student success.



### Characteristics of Top Affordable Student Housing Applications Proposed for 2023-24

 Total beds proposed: **3,783**

 Intersegmental projects with UC campuses: **33%** of applications

 Local investment: **\$458 million**

 Student support spaces and co-located services: **100%** of applications

 Average rental rates **13% lower** than AMI rental computation

# The Impact of the First Round of Affordable Student Housing Grants

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Affordable Student Housing Grant Program offers districts and colleges the opportunity to create needed affordable housing through one-time grants through the Higher Education Student Housing Grants established in Senate Bill 169 (2021). During the first round of grants awarded in the 2022-23 Budget, California invested \$546.7 million for 11 housing projects at community college campuses and 1 intersegmental project between the California Community Colleges and California State University (CSU). These housing grants will provide 2,270 beds for California community college students.

Once completed, the first round of Affordable Student Housing Grant recipients will not only provide students with a safe place to live, but also spaces for wraparound support services like basic needs centers and co-located academic, student services and childcare.

**Table 1: Round-One Affordable Student Housing Grants, awarded in 2022-23**

Round One Awardee	State Investment	Beds for Low-Income Students
Fresno City College	\$34,080,000	350
College of the Siskiyous	\$32,613,000	252
Ventura College	\$62,923,000	320
Sierra College	\$80,497,000	354
Napa Valley College	\$31,000,000	124
Santa Rosa Junior College	\$15,000,000	70
Cosumnes River College	\$44,144,000	145
Compton College	\$80,389,000	250
Lake Tahoe Community College	\$39,369,000	100
Bakersfield College	\$60,245,000	154
College of the Canyons	\$61,858,000	100
Imperial Valley College/ CSU San Diego*	\$4,554,000	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$546,672,000</b>	<b>2,270</b>

\*Intersegmental

## Cerritos College

 **396 beds** for low-income students

 **\$12 million** (15%) local contribution

 **Student support services:** tutoring, food/hygiene pantry, mental and physical health support, workshops, and laundry

 Rental rate: **10% below AMI** rental computation

“At Cerritos College, we listen to our students, and our work is informed by their experiences. Right now, they are very clear: **Affordable on-campus housing is a top priority... We are well-prepared and deeply committed to this effort because we know that for our students, being without a home is a deal breaker.**”

— **Jose Fierro**  
Superintendent/President of Cerritos College

## San Mateo County Community College District

 **310 beds** for low-income students across district campuses

 **\$10 million** local contribution

 **Student support services:** Basic Needs food pantry, counseling, tutoring, study spaces, wellness workshops, laundry services

 **District-provided transit** between campuses and transportation hubs

 Rental rate: **36.7% below AMI** rental computation

 Construction to begin **June 2024**

# Second Round of Affordable Student Housing Grant Applications

In the second round of applications, California community colleges submitted 21 construction applications, 17 grant applications for community college campuses and four construction grant applications for intersegmental housing grants with University of California (UC) campuses. Among the 21 applications, nine align closely with the intent of the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program.

If funded, these nine applications propose to create housing for 3,783 low-income students across nine campuses. The total requested state funding for these applications is \$598 million, with \$458 million in local investment. Additionally, 33% of the campus housing projects include intersegmental cooperation between the California Community Colleges, CSU and UC, strengthening system partnerships and transfer pathways. Each student housing project would provide five or more wraparound services, providing each student and their community with an ecosystem of belonging.

## North Orange County Community College District, Cypress College



**302 low-income beds**



**Student support services:** Basic Needs pantry, academic counseling, tutoring, study spaces, health, and mental health offices



Cypress College housing insecure students: **55%**, homelessness in the past year: **13%**



Rental rate: **10.27% below AMI** rental computation

## Merced College



**478 beds** for low-income students



Area **vacancy rate: 5.2%**



**Student support services:** lounges, study areas, multi-purpose room, Transfer Student Resource Center



Rental rate: **9% below AMI** rental computation



Construction to begin **Summer 2024**

Additional highly qualified project applications will combine Affordable Student Housing Grant funding with local investments to advance existing strategies and interventions to support low-income, housing insecure students. These districts and colleges have demonstrated their readiness to implement:

- Wraparound student support strategies, which include free transportation services, co-located academic and student services, health and wellness programs, food pantries, and housing scholarship opportunities
- Strategically integrated student services to support vulnerable student groups
- Established local partnerships to support students with identifying the right housing opportunity
- Clear critical paths for project construction and implementation of housing operations

**Table 2: Round-Two Affordable Student Housing applications, considered for 2023-24**

Round Two Awardee	State Investment	Local Investment	Beds for Low-Income Students
Cerritos College	\$67,995,000	\$12,000,000	396
College of the Redwoods	\$28,415,000	\$24,870,000	181
College of San Mateo	\$55,854,000	\$ 9,953,000	310
San Diego City College	\$75,000,000	\$ 147,860,000	788
Cypress College	\$73,625,000	\$ 5,964,000	302
Antelope Valley College	\$60,689,000	N/A	300
Merced College/UC Merced*	\$50,000,000	N/A	478
Riverside City College/UC Riverside*	\$75,000,000	\$187,001,000	652
Cabrillo College/UC Santa Cruz*	\$111,787,000	\$70,000,000	376
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$598,365,000</b>	<b>\$457, 648,000</b>	<b>3,783</b>

\*Intersegmental



## San Diego Community College District, San Diego City College

 **788 beds** for low-income students

 San Diego County **vacancy rate: 6%**

 **Student support services:** study/gathering rooms, resource center, laundry facilities, reflection/spiritual space, and food pantry

 **Integrated services** for impacted students

 Rental rate: **10% below AMI** rental computation

 Construction ready to begin **May 2024**

## California Community College's Continuing Support for Affordable Student Housing

Across the state, affordable housing remains top of mind for our students and their families, and a priority for the state government and the California Community Colleges. Students who have found themselves struggling to meet basic needs for themselves and their families at the expense of their education will be able to rely on the support of their colleges.

The Affordable Student Housing Grant would provide an additional 3,783 beds for low-income students and incorporate five or more wraparound services that address both academic and basic needs at our college campuses. Food pantries, childcare, academic services and population-specific services for our Veteran and low-income students will create an ecosystem of belonging and allow students to focus on successfully completing their degree.

Collaboration across the UC, CSU and California Community College systems will strengthen intersegmental partnerships and transfer pathways. With access to affordable and safe housing and comprehensive support services, we can support our students to achieve success through education.

## Redwoods Community College District, College of the Redwoods

 **181 beds** for low-income students

 **Student support services:** dining facilities, food pantry, kitchens, study/tutoring services, mental wellness services, mailroom, and laundry services

 Rental rate: **10.38% below AMI** rental computation

 **Redwoods Room & Board Scholarship Fund** for housing-insecure students

 Construction to begin by **December 2023**



Images, from top: Santa Rosa Junior College; Napa Valley College



## Cabrillo College

 **376 beds** (60% for Cabrillo College, 40% for UC Santa Cruz) for low-income students

 Cabrillo students experiencing homelessness: **22%**, housing insecurity: **61%**

 **Student support services:** childcare center, tutoring, library, wellness center, career services, basic needs pantry, services for Veterans

 **Intersegmental partnership** for transfer pathways

 **Fully subsidized transportation** between campuses



## Riverside City College

 **326 beds** for low-income students

 **Intersegmental student housing** facility with UC Riverside

 **Student support services:** food pantry, counseling, clothes pantry, study spaces, and Veterans resources

 Rental rates: **5% below AMI** rental computation

 Construction planned to begin by **December 31, 2023**

## Antelope Valley Community College District, Antelope Valley College

 **300 beds** for low-income students

 **Student support services:** study lounges, food pantry, mental health counseling, basic needs center, and academic resource center

 **Partnerships** with local government and non-profit organizations for **housing navigation and rental assistance**

 **57%** of students received Pell grants, **81%** received Community College Promise Grants for 2021-22

Images, from top: Lake Tahoe Community College (render); Cypress College