



# California Community Colleges



STATE CENTER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Fresno City College | Reedley College | Clovis Community College  
Madera Community College | Madera Community College at Oakhurst



LOS RIOS  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT



SANTA ROSA  
JUNIOR COLLEGE



April 12, 2022

Hon. Toni Atkins, President pro Tem  
California Senate  
1021 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Anthony Rendon, Speaker  
California Assembly  
1021 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Senate Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Legislative Leadership:

Over the past decade, homelessness has been on the rise for college students across the United States. Unfortunately, California’s community college students are overrepresented in the student housing crisis. Yet, limited housing options exist within California Community Colleges. The 2022-23 state budget presents California an important opportunity to address the community college housing crisis through a solution that provides students affordability, housing with dignity, and a commitment to their educational success.

For California Community Colleges, efforts to build a holistic student basic needs framework must include a robust investment in affordable student housing. Building on the \$1 billion commitment to affordable student housing at California’s community colleges provided by Senate Bill 169, this coalition of districts and system leaders respectfully request the following investments:

- **Award Construction Grants for 2021-22.** We support the allocation of 2021-22 Higher Education Student Housing Grants to the four proposed projects:
  - College of the Siskiyous
  - Fresno City College
  - Imperial Valley College/San Diego State
  - Sierra College
  - Ventura College
  
- **Award Construction Grants to All Eligible Projects with a New Investment.** Provide a new \$332 million one-time Non-Proposition 98 General Fund investment to fund affordable student housing construction grants for all eligible projects at community college to address student affordability and the needs of housing insecure student populations. Specifically, this additional investment would allow the following eligible projects to move forward immediately:
  - Bakersfield College
  - College of the Canyons
  - Compton College
  - Cosumnes River College
  - Lake Tahoe Community College District
  - Napa Valley College
  - Santa Rosa Junior College
  
- **Provide Planning Grants to All Eligible Projects.** We strongly support an approach that provides all 75 planning grant applicants with resources to begin the critical work of analyzing the feasibility and development of affordable student housing projects in their communities.
  
- **Invest in an Affordable Student Housing Program for California Community Colleges.** Provide an investment of \$25 million ongoing, non-proposition 98, to develop an affordable student housing program for California Community Colleges. The program would provide capacity to establish clear standards at each California Community College campus for affordable student housing, integration of student housing data into the existing Capital Outlay program and FUSION, resources for systemwide technical assistance and professional development, expansion of holistic student supports, and enable adherence with legal requirements (i.e. Clery Act Reporting, Title IX, among others).

Moving from a right to fail era to a student success era that further embraces the Vision for Success goals requires rethinking and expanding non-academic supports, including affordable student housing. The barriers many community college students face are rooted in poverty and social and economic disadvantages, both of which often manifested into housing insecurity. Research consistently shows the negative impact housing insecurity has on academic success and increased stop-out rates. A 2021 national assessment of basic needs insecurity among college students, reported that 48% of students surveyed across the U.S. stated that they were housing insecure, while 14% reported they experienced homelessness in the previous year. Similarly, the 2021 [#RealCollege survey](#) highlighted that 60% of surveyed students experienced a basic need insecurity in the last year. For our most acutely affected groups, affordable student housing is critical to their success, offering a way to focus on their educational and career goals in a safe environment that cultivates their well-being.

California has the historic opportunity to address a major component of the college affordability issue at the largest system of higher education. Further, this is an opportunity to invest in the system that brings approximately \$128.2 billion in income to California's economy, equivalent to roughly 4.2% of the state's total gross product. As the state further explores strategies to emerge stronger from the pandemic, leveraging one-time investments on the lasting impacts of affordable student housing is the most consequential path forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposed California Community College affordable student housing investments.

Sincerely,

California Community College Student Housing Coalition

cc:

Ben Chida, Office of the Governor

Nichole Munoz-Murillo, Office of the Governor

Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance

Michelle Nguyen, Department of Finance

Dan Hanower, Department of Finance

Rebecca Kirk, Department of Finance

Andrew Medina, Education Policy Director, Office of the Senate President pro Tem

Mónica Henestroza, Principal Consultant, Office of the Assembly Speaker

Dr. Christopher Francis, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Mark Martin, Senior Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Carolyn Nealon, Assembly Republican Consultant

Jean-Marie McKinney, Senate Republican Consultant

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