



Affordable Housing is Key to Helping California's Community College Students Succeed

California leaders have an opportunity to **double housing opportunities for California Community Colleges students who need it the most** and historically have not been considered for housing projects. In 2019, a survey unveiled that 1 in 5 community college students in the state are either homeless or do not have a stable place to live. Students facing housing insecurity have lower GPAs, poorer health, and higher rates of depression and anxiety than those who do not face these challenges. Students who succeed academically but ultimately drop out at the [community college level cite living expenses as a reason for leaving college](#).

California Community College students face the reality of limited housing options and investments in student residential housing. **Affordable housing is essential to student success.**

California Community Colleges have shovel-ready housing projects to propel student security and 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, the following investments are essential to affordable student housing:

“ Programs like the HOPE Program at Fresno City College, which help with affordable housing, have given me the opportunity to make college accessible by providing me a place to live and making it financially feasible. This has meant that **I could focus 100% on my studies and excel**, which is the goal I believe Fresno City College wants for every student. I am very grateful for affordable housing. ”

Mateo Echeverria

Economics / 4.0 Cumulative GPA



“ Without affordable housing, I would have never been able to succeed in college. I was homeless and I was afforded an opportunity for affordable, stable, and safe housing. As a single parent with children, my stress was relieved thanks to the opportunity to have stable housing. I am incredibly grateful that **I can concentrate on my academic goals without the worry of housing** for me and my children. ”

Laura German

Paralegal / 3.68 Cumulative GPA

Allocation of 2021-22 Higher Education Student Housing Grants to the five proposed projects:

- » College of the Siskiyous
- » Fresno City College
- » Imperial Valley College
- » San Diego State
- » Sierra College
- » Ventura College

The following eligible projects can move forward pending state approval of a new \$332 million one-time General Fund investment:

- » 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.

California Community Colleges strongly supports 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.

Creating more housing for California’s largest and most diverse system of higher education aligns with Gov. Newsom’s higher education roadmap for accelerating student success and degree attainment. The California Community College system is an economic driver for our state, creating nearly 1.5 million jobs, or 1 out of every 6 jobs in the state. Investments in our students now will pay dividends later.