



**2024-25 REPORT**

# Basic Needs Centers

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Chancellor





California  
Community  
Colleges

**SONYA CHRISTIAN**  
Chancellor

May 27, 2026

Secretary of the Senate  
Erika Contreras  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Basic Needs Centers Legislative Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Dear Secretary Contreras:

Pursuant to California Education Code section 66023.5, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to release the Basic Needs Centers legislative report for fiscal year 2024-25.

The Budget Act of 2024 provides \$43.5 million annually to the California Community Colleges to support a Basic Needs Center at each college and designate at least one Basic Needs Coordinator to deliver holistic student services. Trailer bill language submission of an annual report on services provided, challenges encountered, and best practices in establishing and operating these centers.

For any questions regarding this report, please contact Allison Beer, Dean, Educational Services and Support, at [abeer@cccco.edu](mailto:abeer@cccco.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian".

Sonya Christian, Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

CC: Office of the Governor  
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Office of Legislative Counsel

**Chancellor's Office**

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# 2024-2025 BASIC NEEDS CENTERS REPORT

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Prepared By

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**  
Educational Services and Support Division



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## INTRODUCTION

The Budget Act of 2024 allocated \$43.5 million annually to the California Community Colleges system for each college to establish and maintain a dedicated Basic Needs Center, and to designate at least one staff person as the campus Basic Needs Coordinator to provide holistic basic needs services and resources to support students. The trailer bill language accompanying this funding requires the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to submit an annual report on the services provided by Basic Needs Centers, as well as the challenges faced, and best practices identified in establishing and operating them.

The 2025 Real College California Survey by the RP Group and the Affordability, Food, and Housing Access Taskforce, found that two out of three California community college students face at least one basic needs insecurity.<sup>1</sup> Further research, conducted by the National Center for Homeless Education, has demonstrated the connection between basic needs insecurity and diminished academic success, leading to outcomes such as lower grade point averages, greater likelihood of dropping out, and longer time to degree completion.<sup>2</sup> The persistent rates of basic needs insecurity reflect the need for ongoing basic needs services for students to support them reach academic and career goals.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, every California community college reported providing basic needs services to students, including food security, transportation, technology support, physical and mental health, housing security and childcare. Additionally, every college engaged in strategic conversations locally, and with students, and submitted a basic needs program plan that details their program implementation and priorities. This report includes data reflecting services and student outcomes during the 2024-2025 academic year.

## SYSTEM LEVEL DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

To meet the reporting requirements of the statute and maximize the impact of this investment, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) collects data through the Management Information System (MIS). Since the introduction of the new data collection in the academic year 2022-2023, colleges have increased their capacity for reporting, and most reporting challenges have been mitigated. Of the 115 colleges receiving Basic Needs funding, 108 colleges now report student-level data to the Chancellor's Office. The Chancellor's Office will continue to monitor data submissions and provide additional technical assistance to colleges to ensure full compliance.

This report includes student-level data from the two primary terms of the most recently completed academic year: Fall 2024 (99 colleges reported) and Spring 2025 terms (108 colleges reported). In addition to student-level data, this report also includes data submitted through colleges' Basic Needs Centers program plans, which provide colleges with opportunities to engage in local planning and innovations to establish, improve and mature their program implementation and operations. All 115 community colleges receiving funding have completed their plans, which provides the Chancellor's Office with insight on effective system-level support.

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1 Real College California. (2025). 2025 Real College California Survey.

2 National Center for Homeless Education. (2024). Support college complete for students experiencing homelessness.

## PROGRAM DATA

Per statute, the Chancellor’s Office is required to report on the number of students accessing Basic Needs Centers, the types of services provided, demographics of served students, and their educational outcomes.

### Services Provided and Students Served

In the Fall 2024 term, 136,868 unique students systemwide accessed basic needs services through the Basic Needs Center (a 39% increase in reported services comparing Fall 2023 to Fall 2024). In the 2024 Spring Term 140,345 unique California community college students systemwide accessed basic needs services through the Basic Needs Centers (a 34% increase in reported services comparing Spring 2024 to Spring 2025). The following table includes data regarding the number of students served by category. See Appendix A for a description of each category.

**Table 1. Number of students served through Basic Needs Centers, by category and term, systemwide**

Category	Students Served Fall 2024	Students Served Spring 2025
Mental Health	10,882	14,348
Physical Health	20,445	26,172
Technology Support	29,359	34,731
Childcare Support	2700	4,191
<b>Total Unique Students Served</b>	<b>136,868</b>	<b>140,345</b>

From Fall 2024 to Spring 2025, the number of students served increased across all service categories except transportation. Overall, services expanded compared to the previous reporting year (Fall 2023 and Spring 2024) with food security services remaining the most utilized, followed by transportation. During both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, 11% of students enrolled accessed basic needs services. Additionally, during this time frame, childcare services increased by 54.7%, and mental health services increased by over 31.9%. During both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, 11% of all students enrolled systemwide by term received basic needs support.

### Student Demographics

Table 2 provides Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 demographic information for students who were served by Basic Needs Centers. The demographic characteristics of students served were similar across terms. Notably, most students served by Basic Needs Centers identified as Hispanic/Latino, as female, and between 18-24 years old. The demographics profile of students served was similar to the profile of the overall California Community Colleges system student population.

**Table 2. Demographics of students served through Basic Needs Centers, by term, systemwide**

Student Demographics	Fall 2024	Spring 2025
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	1%
Asian	13%	14%
Black or African American	7%	7%
Hispanic/Latino	52%	52%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	0%
Two or more races	4%	4%
Unknown/not reported	4%	5%
Two or more races	4%	4%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	55%	56%
Male	40%	39%
Non-binary	1%	1%
Unknown/not reported	3%	4%
<b>Age</b>		
<18 years old	6%	5%
18-24	56%	54%
25+	37%	41%

**STUDENT OUTCOMES**

In addition, to participation and demographic data, the Chancellor’s Office has also analyzed data regarding student success based on three metrics: course success, persistence, and degree attainment.

During the 2024 Fall Term and the 2025 Spring Term, systemwide average course success rate for students receiving basic needs services (67% both terms) were similar to the systemwide average course success rate for all students (66% in the Fall 2024 and 68% in Spring 2025).

Persistence rates, which reflect Fall to Spring term retention, for students receiving basic needs services, were 46%, compared to 62% for the overall student body. During the 2024-2025 academic year, 21% of students receiving basic needs services achieved a completion milestone through the attainment of an associate degree, bachelor’s degree, and/or a certificate. In comparison, only 16% of the overall student body attained a degree or certificate in the same year.

Relative to the larger California Community Colleges system student body, students accessing basic needs services face significant challenges to educational success--many experiencing ongoing food and/or housing insecurity. Within the context of the challenges that many basic needs insecure students face in their educational journey, it is notable that their course success rates are similar to the overall student body and that degree/certificate attainment rates surpass the overall population. The Chancellor's Office will continue to work with colleges to better understand why participating students' term to term persistence rates are lower than the overall population, and how Basic Needs Centers can coordinate with other campus support services to promote continuity in students' enrollment. Overall, positive outcomes data reflect that students experiencing basic needs insecurities can succeed academically with the appropriate support in place, and the importance of basic needs services for advancing equity in student success.

## **CALFRESH DATA**

The Basic Needs Centers statute directs the Chancellor's Office to report on the total number of students receiving CalFresh benefits across the system. In recent years, the Chancellor's Office has partnered with the California Policy Lab and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to conduct research on CalFresh participation and eligibility rates across the system.<sup>3</sup> The Chancellor's Office is currently working with CDSS to develop a new state-level data sharing agreement, which would provide our agency with more direct access to data on students' CalFresh participation. Coordination with CDSS has been facilitated by the recently passed AB 518, which directs CDSS to develop data sharing agreements with other state agencies, such as the Chancellor's Office, for the purpose of improving the administration of CalFresh benefits.

Furthermore, the Chancellor's Office has encouraged and supported colleges to develop local partnership and data sharing agreements with social services agencies, to improve administration of public benefits programs, including CalFresh and Medical.

Currently, the Chancellor's Office is aware of two California community colleges that have fully executed data sharing agreements in place with their local CalFresh Agency. In the future, we plan to collect further information about colleges' local agreements, including through yearly program plans and surveys.

## **INCREASING CAPACITY, CHALLENGES, AND BEST PRACTICES**

Through program plans and other surveys, the Chancellor's Office has regularly collected information from colleges regarding ongoing implementation efforts, their ability to expand capacity for offering services, challenges, and best practices.

Results of the June 2025 California Community Colleges Basic Needs Center Evaluation reviewed all 115 community colleges offering basic needs services, highlighted key challenges and emerging best practices. Furthermore, the evaluation indicated that Basic Needs Centers provide meaningful support to students; existing services are valuable but insufficient to meet student demand, and some challenges are more feasible to address than others.

Through the evaluation, colleges have reported challenges including:

- **Housing needs exceed available resources**, presenting complex challenges far beyond what Basic Needs Centers can address.
- **Referral processes can be challenging** due to limited staffing and funding constraints.
- **Food options and distribution models are limited**, with more flexibility needed to meet students' dietary and cultural needs.
- **Awareness and understanding of available services can be increased**, with many students unsure of eligibility or unaware that supports exist.

Despite challenges, colleges have also reported best practices including:

- **Expanding access to essential supports**, including hygiene products, school supplies, meal tickets, transportation assistance, mental health services, and CalFresh.
- **Increasing preventative and self-advocacy services**, such as financial coaching, public benefits access, and credit, savings, and debt management support.
- **Partnering with identity-based campus programs** to better reach and support student groups with higher basic needs insecurity.
- **Leveraging federal matching fund programs**, including SNAP Employment & Training, to expand resources and opportunities for students.

Since the inception of this investment, the Chancellor's Office has focused on strengthening the enabling conditions for colleges to quickly ramp up capacity to support students' basic needs. In addition to providing field guidance on funding allocations, program implementation and data collection and reporting, the Chancellor's Office also introduced the California Community Colleges Basic Needs Center Toolkit to provide practical action steps, innovative practices and research-supported strategies to accelerate college level implementation of the Basic Needs Centers.

Simultaneously, the California Community Colleges continues to invest in professional development activities for basic needs practitioners by partnering with the other two segments of public higher education through the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA) biennial Basic Needs Summit, to provide best practices and insights on various basic needs topics ranging from CalFresh to housing to mental health to basic needs research.

## CONCLUSION

As highlighted in the legislative priorities articulated by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, basic needs security remains the top concern for students, affecting their equitable enrollment, persistence and completion. Ensuring students have access to basic needs services remains a top priority for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and is reflected in our Vision 2030 goals for equity in support.

## **APPENDIX A: DESCRIPTION OF BASIC NEEDS SERVICES CATEGORIES**

- I. Food security services include CalFresh application assistance and referral, accessing the on-campus food pantry, drive-thru food distribution, on-campus meal vouchers and grocery store gift cards, partnering with on-campus student support programs and community organizations that provide food security resources or other types of services designed to improve food security.
- II. Housing security services include rapid rehousing, rental vouchers, eviction assistance, emergency funds for rent payments, referrals to available affordable housing within the county housing authority, or other types of services designed to improve housing security.
- III. Transportation services include free or discounted public transit vouchers, gas gift cards, waived or reduced on-campus parking fees, and partnering with local transit authority to increase public transportation options.
- IV. Mental health services include Medi-Cal application assistance, early intervention and suicide prevention support, incorporating trauma-informed principles into service delivery models, providing peer-to-peer mental health support programs, partnering with county behavioral mental health service providers, and contracting with third party mental health service providers.
- V. Physical health services include Medi-Cal and Covered California application assistance, providing basic on-campus preventative health appointments, providing healthy cooking demonstrations.
- VI. Technology support services include access to on-campus high-speed internet, providing laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, and referrals to discounted internet service providers.
- VII. Childcare support services include priority access to on-campus childcare facilities, awarding grants to cover the cost of childcare, providing play areas near computer/ study labs for student-parents, and providing lactation rooms.

## APPENDIX B: 2024-2025 BASIC NEEDS CENTER EXPENDITURES

In compliance with Education Code 66023.5, table three lists the Basic Need Center’s use -of funds by object code. The table shows that non-instructional salaries make up the largest share of Basic Needs Center expenditures, followed by employee benefits and instructional salaries, indicating that staffing costs account for most spending. Other funds are distributed across supplies and materials, operating expenses, direct aid, and capital outlay, which together represent a smaller portion of the total budget.

**Table 3. 2024-2025 Basic Needs Center Expenditures by Object Code**

2024-2025 Basic Needs Center Expenditures	
Instructional Salaries	\$2,896,279
Non-Instructional Salaries	\$16,577,873
Employee Benefits	\$7,397,551
Supplies and Materials	\$3,923,516
Other Operating Expenses and Services	\$3,888,342
Capital Outlay and Equipment	\$393,520
Other Outgo Including Direct Aid	\$5,331,790
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,408,871</b>



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