



**2024 REPORT**

# Basic Needs Services Centers

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





California  
Community  
Colleges

**SONYA CHRISTIAN**  
Chancellor

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Receipt of Basic Needs Centers Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

Dear Governor Newsom:

Pursuant to Education Code 66023.5, please find enclosed report for Basic Needs Centers, as reported by our local community colleges, for fiscal year 2022-2023.

If you have any further questions on this report, please contact Vice Chancellor Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy at [ruan-oshughnessy@cccco.edu](mailto:ruan-oshughnessy@cccco.edu).

Sincerely,

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

Sonya Christian,  
Chancellor

Enclosure: Report



# 2024 BASIC NEEDS SERVICES CENTERS REPORT

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Prepared By

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



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# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BASIC NEEDS SERVICES INFORMATION

## INTRODUCTION

Access to basic needs services is crucial for student success. It guarantees that students have the necessary resources, including food, housing, health care and mental health support. When students' fundamental needs are fulfilled, they are more prepared to actively participate in the learning process, accomplish their academic objectives, and focus on their overall welfare. Now, as of January 2024, every California community college provides basic needs services to students, including food security, transportation, technology, health and mental health, housing security and childcare.

In 2022-2023, the Budget Act of 2023 allocated \$43.5 million annually to the California Community Colleges to establish a Basic Needs Center and designate at least one staff person as the campus basic needs coordinator. The Budget Act required that colleges annually report to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office on services provided, and any challenges and best practices associated with operating and establishing Basic Needs Centers.

As described in our 2023 report, data collection for basic needs services is recent. It takes least two years of data collection and reporting for robust statewide data to be available. The following data represents one primary term (spring 2023) reported from 80 colleges, with variation in the completeness and robustness of available data. We continue to provide ongoing technical assistance and training for colleges to support their data collection. We anticipate a more complete data picture following the completion of 2024-25 academic year, which would capture the first two full years of the implementation of campus efforts.

## PROGRAM DATA

While 100% of colleges report offering basic needs services based on a recent survey conducted in 2023, only 80 colleges have submitted data to the Chancellor's Office at the time of this report. Based on data submission from 80 colleges reporting student-level data, 68,429 California community college students accessed basic needs services through the Basic Needs Center (a 31% increase of services accessed from fall 2022). Nearly half of all students who accessed Basic Needs Center resources received food security assistance. Transportation services and technology support services were the next most frequent basic need category that was addressed.

Service Provided	Description	Students Served
Food security services	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.	50,268
Transportation Services	Transportation services include free or discounted public transit vouchers, gas gift cards, waive or reduce on-campus parking fees, and partnering with local transit authority to increase public transportation options.	14,000
Technology Support Services	Technology support services includes access to on-campus high-speed internet, providing laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, and referrals to discounted internet service providers.	9,827
Physical Health Services	Physical health services include Medi-Cal and Covered California application assistance, provide basic on-campus preventative health appointments, provide healthy cooking demonstrations.	6,828
Housing Security Services	Housing security services include rapid rehousing, rental vouchers, eviction assistance, emergency funds for rent payments, referrals to available student with the county housing authority, or other types of services designed to improve housing security	3,813
Mental Health Services	Mental health services include Medi-Cal application assistance, provide early intervention and suicide prevention support, incorporating trauma-informed principles into service delivery models, develop peer-to-peer mental health support programs, partner with county behavioral mental health service providers, and contract with third-party mental health service providers	3,206
Childcare support Services	Childcare support includes 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	1,209

**The socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds of these students.**

<b>Of the students receiving basic needs services:</b>	
Female	58%
Male	39%
Unknown	2%
Non-binary	<1%

<b>Of the students receiving basic needs services:</b>	
18 years of age or younger	3%
18-24 years of age	54%
25 years or older	43%

<b>Of the students receiving basic needs services:</b>	
Hispanic/Latino	50%
White	19%
Asian	14%
Black/African American	7%
Unknown	5%
Two or more races	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	<1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1%

**Challenges and best practices in the implementation of the basic needs services and resources.**

According to the Basic Needs Center annual survey responses, 100% of colleges report offering basic needs services, 67% of colleges report having a fully operational basic needs center, 29% report having a fully operational basic needs center and are currently building larger centers, and 4% report having a basic needs center and are investigating the option to expand their centers.

Challenges as reported by the colleges include:

- Identifying and hiring qualified staff to oversee and administer services through the basic needs service centers.
- Identifying adequate space on campus to co-locate all basic needs services.

## Best practices as identified by the colleges include:

- Creation and/or expansion of campus-based food pantries.
- Increase student CalFresh/public benefit outreach, information, and application assistance.
- Provide campus-based mental/health services.
- Student outreach, identification and recruitment:
  - Analyze income data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
  - Include information about basic needs services on course syllabi, college catalogs, Canvas student portals and other web-based tools.
  - Implementation of streamline application and intake processes for basic needs services.
- Basic needs services:
  - Creation and/or expansion of campus-based food pantries.
  - Increase student CalFresh/public benefit outreach, information and application assistance.
  - Provide campus-based mental/health services.
  - Establish community-based partnerships:
    - Co-location of county CalFresh and other public benefit access staff to provide real-time eligibility determination.
    - Create referral/emergency housing placement process with county housing authority.
    - Develop or expand relationships with the county behavioral health and community-based mental health service provider.
    - Engaging in thoughtful local planning with students and community stakeholders, which enhances the local governance process.

## Whether students who used the basic needs services and resources remained enrolled or graduated from a campus maintained by the district

Because student-level data collection for basic needs services within the California Community Colleges system were initiated in the 2022-2023 academic year, persistence and graduation rates for students receiving services through the Basic Needs Center are not yet available. Additionally, the impacts on graduation rates of basic needs assistance wouldn't likely start to be revealed in graduation rates for two to three years at the earliest.

Alternatively, below are average Course Success Rates, an often-used short-term measure of student success that measures the percentage of courses attempted that a student successfully completes with a C or better, for students receiving basic needs services as reported by the 80 colleges that were able to initiate reporting.

For Spring 2023, the systemwide average course success rate for students receiving basic needs services was 68%, which is 2% points higher than the systemwide average course rate for all students (66% in spring 2023). Given that students receiving services from a basic needs center are, by definition, disproportionately facing far greater challenges than students in general, the improvement of these success rates provide some initial suggestion of the meaningfulness and effectiveness of these services (e.g., they are helping students be able to stay enrolled and successfully complete their courses in the midst of the food or housing insecurity or other challenges they are facing).

As data collection and reporting becomes more mature, more substantive and longer-term analyses will be conducted to explicate these effects in further detail in the future. Given the myriad challenges students receiving basic needs services are facing in their higher education journey and the disproportionate impact basic needs insecurity has on underrepresented student populations, this data begins to help highlight the importance of basic needs services to advancing equity and student success.

### **Basic Needs Center funding**

Basic Needs Center funding requires each California community college campus to establish and/or expand a Basic Needs Center and designate at least one staff person as the Basic Needs Coordinator to provide holistic, comprehensive basic needs services and resources to students to support their successful matriculation through the California community colleges and beyond. The Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location and point of contact for students to more easily access and gain awareness of basic needs services and resources. The colleges shall make a reasonable effort, when feasible, to locate all on-campus basic needs services and resources at the Basic Needs Center.

Districts report actual expenses in the following categories: salaries and benefits, supplies and materials, operating expenses and services, capital outlay, and other. As shown in Figure 1, instructional and non-instructional salaries and benefits account for 63% of Basic Needs Center funding expenditures with operating expenses and supplies and materials accounting for about 20%. Approximately 14% of total expenditures was direct aid to students, represented in the Other category.

**Figure 1**

Expenditure Category	Percentage of Total Expenditures
Salaries and Benefits (instructional & non-instructional)	63%
Operating Expenses	11%
Supplies and Materials	9%
Other (includes direct aid to students)	14%
Capital Outlay	3%

### **Students Receiving CalFresh Benefits/Data Sharing Agreements**

The data on the total number of students currently in receipt of CalFresh benefits is only available through the agencies administering CalFresh benefits. The Chancellor’s Office is also in discussion with CDSS regarding a statewide data sharing MOU, which would provide data regarding the total number of students in receipt of CalFresh benefits. During the next annual Basic Needs Center Program Survey, the Chancellor’s Office will collect data regarding the total number of colleges that have or who are pursuing data sharing agreements. Currently the Chancellor’s Office is aware of one California community college, Compton College, that has a fully executed data sharing agreement in place with their local CalFresh Agency.

Additionally, the Chancellor’s Office is currently in discussion with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to determine the total number of students, by campus, in receipt of CalFresh benefits.

The data on the total number of students currently in receipt of CalFresh benefits is only available through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the agency administering CalFresh benefits. The Chancellor’s Office is currently in discussion with CDSS to partner on accessing this data, including supporting colleges’ effort to pursue data sharing agreements locally, and exploring the option of a statewide data sharing MOU.. During the next annual Basic Needs Center Program Survey, the Chancellor’s Office will collect data regarding the total number of colleges that have or who are pursuing data sharing agreements. Currently the Chancellor’s Office is aware of one California community college, Compton College, that has a fully executed data sharing agreement in place with their local CalFresh Agency.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Chancellor’s Office, in partnership with the 116 California community colleges, are deeply committed to ensuring that students have the resources necessary to succeed. The California community college system has made significant progress building the necessary infrastructure and capacity to support students experiencing basic needs insecurities. As was previously noted, 100% of California community colleges are offering basic need services through recently established basic needs centers. Data supports that California community colleges students receiving these services are succeeding academically at a rate exceeding the general California community college student body. This level of progress well exceeds anticipated outcomes at this emergent stage of implementation.

The Chancellor's Office, the 116 California community colleges and the students being served, acknowledge and applaud the commitment made by both the California State Legislature and the Governor's Office to ensuring that students experiencing basic needs insecurities are able to pursue and be successful in their higher education and career goals. The California community college system is open access to 100% of students throughout California and seeks to ensure that all learners are supported regardless of their starting point.

The ongoing investments made by the State, combined with strong commitments from all California community colleges will continue to have multigenerational impact. These investments have created an educational environment that enable economically vulnerable students to succeed. In addition to providing critically needed supports, the children and families of these students, are able witness and ideally seek higher education as a pathway to upward social mobility. The Chancellor's Office looks forward to the ongoing partnership with the Legislature and the Governor's Office to ensure equitable outcomes for all California community college students.





Front cover photo:  
San Diego Mesa College

Photo at right:  
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Back cover photo:  
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