

2021-22 State Budget: Community College Student Basic Needs

The 2021-22 California state budget includes ongoing funding to address community college student basic needs. Provided below is an explanation of the pertinent provisions of the 2021-22 State Budget bill (AB 128/AB 129), which appropriated these funds and associated trailer bill language included in AB 132.

ALLOCATION AMOUNT

The state allocated \$30 million annually to the California Community College (CCC) system.

BASIC NEEDS CENTERS/COORDINATORS

AB 132 requires each community college, no later than July 1, 2022, to establish a Basic Needs Center and Basic Needs Coordinator. The Basic Needs Coordinator will serve as the single point of contact for students experiencing basic needs insecurity and act as a broker in linking students to on- and off-campus housing, food, mental health, and other basic needs resources.

The Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location for students to access basic needs services and resources. If the campus cannot reasonably locate all basic needs services at the Basic Needs Center, the campus shall provide students with the location and contact information for all basic needs services.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No later than February 1, 2022, community college are required to:

- (1) Develop a document that lists all on- and off-campus basic needs services and resources including a description, location information, a point of contact, and any eligibility restrictions.
- (2) Streamline the application and intake process to minimize duplication and eliminate barriers to access.
- (3) Develop and implement a plan to outreach to students who have basic needs insecurity.
- (4) Provide a student basic needs tab from a drop-down menu on the home page of the campus website.

Each Basic Needs Center shall also ensure that students have the information they need to enroll in CalFresh and other benefits programs and shall coordinate with their campus financial aid department.

The funding shall not be used to combine or co-locate the Basic Needs Center with the financial aid department and shall not be used for the administration of student financial aid programs.

Each Basic Needs Center must coordinate with their local homelessness response system to refer students to community resources available to address homelessness

Basic Needs Centers are authorized to provide support to students who can be reasonably expected to enroll in the upcoming term and to provide support to students during summer and winter breaks who were previously enrolled or are enrolled for the upcoming fall or spring term.

FUNDING ALLOCATION

The Community College Chancellor's Office will be responsible for developing a formula for allocating the funding across the system.

OTHER RELATED FUNDING

In addition to the \$30 million annual allocation for basic needs centers and basic needs coordinators, the community college budget also included \$100 million in one-time funding to be spent over three years to address food and housing insecurity. Eligible uses include meal donation programs, food pantries for students, CalFresh enrollment, and assisting homeless and housing-insecure students to secure stable housing.

The California State University (CSU) system also received an allocation of \$15 million ongoing funding to address basic needs and the University of California (UC) maintained its preexisting \$15 million allocation. All three systems also received ongoing allocations to address student mental health needs.