



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

March 22, 2023

Office of the President
1111 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94607

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Senator Skinner:

CAMPUSES

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

Pursuant to Item 6440-001-0001, Section 2, Provision 6(a), of the 2022 Budget Act (AB 179, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022), enclosed is the University of California’s annual report to the Legislature on Basic Needs, Mental Health and Rapid Rehousing.

If you have any questions, Associate Vice President David Alcocer would be pleased to speak with you. David can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9113, or by email at David.Alcocer@ucop.edu.

MEDICAL CENTERS

- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- San Diego
- San Francisco

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

Enclosure

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

- cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
The Honorable John Laird, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
(Attn: Mr. Christopher Francis)
(Attn: Ms. Jean-Marie McKinney)
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)
(Attn: Ms. Sarah Haynes)
Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Ms. Sue Parker, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Ms. Tammy Weis, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
Mr. Jack Zwald, Department of Finance

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Basic Needs, Mental Health and Rapid Rehousing 2022–23
Legislative Report

Introduction

This legislative report provides information about The Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 179) and its allocation of \$15 million to University of California (UC) to address students' basic needs and ameliorate food and housing insecurity, along with \$20.3 million for mental health and \$3.5 million for rapid rehousing efforts on campus. The report combines previously separate reporting requirements for basic needs and rapid rehousing, providing a comprehensive report on funding distribution, program efforts, and the impact on students of basic needs, mental health, and rapid rehousing efforts from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Note: Appendix I includes text relevant to this funding from the Budget Act of 2022.

Efforts Across the University of California

The University of California has received robust support from the State to address students' basic needs, including mental health care and rapid rehousing. In 2019, UC began receiving \$23.8 million total for food and housing (\$15 million), rapid rehousing (\$3.5 million), and mental health (\$5.3 million). In 2021, the University received an additional \$15 million in ongoing mental health funding to expand students' access to mental health resources. The funds make it possible for campuses to plan, develop, and expand services for students struggling to access basic needs: nutritious food, safe places to stay and sleep, and mental health services.

Basic Needs

The UC defines basic needs as an ecosystem that supports financial stability by ensuring equitable access to nutritious and sufficient food; safe, secure, and adequate housing (to sleep, study, cook, and shower); healthcare to promote sustained mental and physical well-being; affordable transportation; resources for personal hygiene care; and emergency needs for students with dependents. More generally, basic needs are the minimum resources necessary to holistically support all students in their daily lives.¹

In 2022, UC distributed \$15 million of funds for basic needs to each of its ten campuses. Approximately half of the distribution was based proportionally on the number of food and/or housing-insecure undergraduate and graduate students on a campus. The funding formula was informed by the 2020 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) and the 2016 UC Graduate Student Well-Being Survey. Figure 1 provides an overview of funding by campus.

¹ [UC Basic Needs Initiative](#)

Figure 1: Distribution of basic needs funding by campus for 2021–22

Campus	Permanent Base	Innovation Awards 2021–22	Total Campus Allocation
Berkeley	1,396,000	220,000	1,616,000
Davis	1,477,000	292,000	1,769,000
Irvine	1,445,000	279,000	1,724,000
Los Angeles	1,350,000	245,000	1,595,000
Merced	791,000	209,000	1,000,000
Riverside	1,240,000	371,000	1,611,000
San Diego	1,403,000	245,000	1,648,000
San Francisco	549,000	14,000	563,000
Santa Barbara	1,262,000	242,000	1,504,000
Santa Cruz	1,087,000	183,000	1,270,000
UCDC	50,000		50,000
UC Research and Assessment		200,000	200,000
UCOP	450,000		450,000
TOTAL	12,500,000	2,500,000	15,000,000

Of the \$15 million allocated to address students’ basic needs, campuses received a permanent base budget of \$5 million, distributed equally (\$500,000 per campus to provide common, baseline-level support); and \$7 million in proportion to the estimated number of students who are food and/or housing insecure at each campus (based on systemwide survey findings). The sum of \$2.5 million dollars was originally to be allocated on a competitive basis to support innovation and research in the area of basic needs and housing security; ultimately, however, these funds were instead distributed equitably across all ten campuses in order to deploy funding more quickly in response to the pandemic. In addition, \$50,000 was provided to the UC Washington Center (UCDC) for UC students enrolled at the center. UCOP retained \$450,000 to provide campus support and coordination of the Systemwide Basic Needs Committee. Note: Appendix II includes a comprehensive breakdown of the distribution of permanent funds.

Campus Basic Needs Efforts

Across all campus basic needs services (food and housing), a total of 72,213 unique students were served, and a total of 383,455 student contacts were made as a result of State-funded programs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This is a 36.6 percent increase in unique students and a 69.1 percent increase in student contacts from the previous year. Figure 2 provides a breakdown of students served across all ten campuses.

Figure 2: Total number of students using campus basic needs services (food and housing) during July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022		
Campus	Unique students served*	Total Student contacts**
Berkeley	8,023	10,931
Davis	11,879	97,303
Irvine	4,995	21,204
Los Angeles	9,422	125,526
Merced	2,069	4,893
Riverside	8,560	18,907
San Diego	8,009	31,519
San Francisco	1,843	12,276
Santa Barbara	8,390	32,322
Santa Cruz	9,023	28,574
TOTAL	72,213	383,455

*The number of unique (unduplicated) students served is calculated by gathering the number of individual student identification card “swipes” registered at all basic-needs services. The swipes represent the total number of individual students served by State-funded basic needs programs.

** Student contacts represent the total number of student identification card “swipes,” or the total number of times students were served by State-funded basic needs programs.

Due to permanent funding from the legislature, campuses have maintained their basic needs services amidst the decline of emergency COVID-19 relief programs, such as Housing is Key, a federal program that paid rent for people experiencing financial distress between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2022, and the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), a federal program providing emergency financial aid to students experiencing disruptions and financial stress due to COVID.

As students returned to campus in greater numbers, and more students accessed basic needs programs, basic needs centers continued to deliver in-person and virtual services to assist with COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts, as well as with ongoing basic needs struggles. Permanent services, strategic partnerships, and responsive staff have provided students with important resources as they navigate the complexities of returning to in-person operations on campus. Appendix III describes how campuses leveraged or coordinated their own campus programs with other State and local resources to address housing and food insecurity.

Food Security Support

Campuses offer a variety of ongoing food assistance programs, food operations, one-on-one

support, assistance with the CalFresh application, and educational workshops. The considerable short- and long-term impact of the pandemic and recent, heavy inflation on family and individual finances underscore the importance of sustaining these resources for students. Figure 3 includes a summary of UC’s common food services, by campus.

Figure 3: UC food services, by campus

Campus	Grocery cards, meal vouchers and/or food awards*	Food Pantry/ Distribution	EBT **	Participates in RMP***	Plans to Participate in RMP****	CalFresh outreach/ application assistance
Berkeley	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Davis	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Irvine	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Los Angeles	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Merced	✓	✓				✓
Riverside	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
San Diego	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
San Francisco	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Santa Barbara	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Santa Cruz	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Total	10	10	9	1	8	10

*Campus programs that provide assistance to students solely for the purpose of purchasing meals or groceries. Each campus environment must respond to its unique contexts to provide the most applicable and accessible programs.

**Due to the pandemic, some campuses closed on-campus restaurants and food vendors, causing a lapse in EBT eligibility. Campuses are working toward reinstatement.

***Campus participation in the restaurant meals program (RMP) is contingent on county participation.

****These campuses plan to participate in the restaurant meals program when it again becomes available within their county.

According to the 2022 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey, 43 percent of undergraduates were food insecure, with 25 percent reporting very low food security and 18 percent reporting low food security. In the 2021 Graduate Student Experience Survey, 20 percent of graduate students were food insecure, with 9 percent reporting very low food security and 11 percent reporting low food security. Due to sustained funding from the State of California, UC campuses have been able to provide consistent resources to address student food insecurity and hunger while adapting and responding to students’ lived experiences.

budget year. Allocations were distributed as follows: \$1.5 million of the \$3.5 million that the State of California allocated to UC for rapid rehousing efforts was distributed equally across the ten campuses (\$150,000 per campus) to provide a common baseline level of support. In alignment with UC-wide survey results noted above, the balance of \$2 million was distributed in proportion to the estimated number of students who are food and/or housing insecure at each campus. Figure 6 provides an overview of funding by campus.

Figure 6: Distribution of rapid rehousing funding by campus for 2021–22

Campus	Permanent Base	Allocation Based on Food- and Housing-Insecure Student Estimates	Total Allocation
Berkeley	150,000	322,000	472,000
Davis	150,000	204,000	354,000
Irvine	150,000	247,000	397,000
Los Angeles	150,000	257,000	407,000
Merced	150,000	53,000	203,000
Riverside	150,000	157,000	307,000
San Diego	150,000	256,000	406,000
San Francisco	150,000	18,000	168,000
Santa Barbara	150,000	265,000	415,000
Santa Cruz	150,000	221,000	371,000
TOTAL	1,500,000	2,000,000	3,500,000

Rapid Rehousing Support

UC campuses worked closely and collaboratively with campus Basic Needs Committees to identify rapid rehousing priorities and drafted a three-year spending plan. Committees comprise faculty, staff, students—both undergraduate and graduate—and community partners. They also gathered feedback through town halls and one-on-one consultations with various stakeholders, including student organizations, student government representatives, relevant campus departments, vice chancellors for Student Affairs, and individual faculty and staff members.

Campus spending plans reflect evidence-based elements of the College-Focused Rapid Rehousing (CFRR) model for both on- and off-campus students; these include housing identification, rental assistance, and intensive case management and campus support. Campus strategies are included in Appendix III.

Summary of Student Impacts

UC has developed a robust strategy to continuously review the impact of student basic needs on student success. UC students who report food insecurity and homelessness are less likely to graduate in four years as undergraduates or to report staying on track for timely degree completion as graduate students than their food-secure and non-homeless counterparts.³ According to the 2016 and 2018 UCUES and the 2016 Graduate Student Well-Being Survey, food-secure and non-homeless students also earn higher grade point averages than those who report food insecurity and homelessness. Disproportionate impacts were also seen for these results in members of historically underserved student populations.⁴

Campus staff members also articulate students' high levels of stress, concerns over academic performance, and doubts about finishing their degrees when they are concurrently struggling to meet their basic needs. This is in alignment with national data that correlate food and housing insecurity in college students with lower GPAs and lower self-reported mental and physical health than their basic needs-secure counterparts.⁵

Summary of Outreach Efforts and Innovations

Students struggling to meet their basic needs may be unaware of supportive resources available to them. Additionally, each campus community is different and needs to tailor outreach to their environments. Therefore, campuses employ a variety of strategies to reach students and to spread awareness of campus resources.

These include:

- Providing education for faculty and staff
- Conducting virtual and in-person events and workshops
- Launching social media campaigns
- Holding targeted new student orientation sessions
- Creating peer-to-peer supports, which result in increased word-of-mouth about what's available
- Mobilizing programs that increase visibility across campus
- Distributing newsletters and hygiene kits
- Administering basic needs surveys

Conclusion

The sustained State funding has enabled campuses to respond effectively to basic needs crises, serving more than 72,000 unique students. Campuses have demonstrated not only their resiliency, but their skill in responding to crises in creative new ways as they deepen partnerships

³ [Student basic needs \(Completion\)](#)

⁴ [Student basic needs | University of California](#)

⁵ Martinez, SM, 2020; Goldrick-Rab et al., 2020; Crutchfield & Maguire 2018

with local organizations and State agencies, develop new strategies, expand services, and adjust their programs to increase accessibility when needed. All of this has occurred amidst difficult economic conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Students have been able to enroll in CalFresh, access emergency food and housing resources, access critical mental health and well-being services, stabilize housing situations both on and off campus, and even develop important professional skills with job opportunities at basic needs centers. This year, a total of 355 undergraduate and graduate students were employed across UC's basic needs centers, along with 57 professional staff members. Sustained funding has enabled campuses to commit to their programs and services on a new level and to plan for the future. These wide-ranging efforts are vital not only for the well-being of students and their educational outcomes, but also to the State of California as it seeks to increase its number of college graduates.

Appendix III

Partnerships with State or local resources to address housing and food insecurity			
Campus	CHC CalFresh Outreach Contract*	County and Local Partnerships	Details
Berkeley	✓	✓	Alameda County Social Services, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Berkeley Food Network, Berkeley Rent Board, East Bay Community Law Center, 211, Door Dash
Davis	✓	✓	Yolo County Department of Social Services, Yolo County Food Bank, Lutheran Social Services, City of Davis, Blue Diamond Almonds, Students4Students
Irvine		✓	Orange County Department of Social Services, Orange County Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank, United Way, StandUp for Kids
Los Angeles	✓	✓	Westside Food Bank, Target, Smart & Final store, Whole Foods, Sprouts, Ralph's/Food4Less, UCLA Farmer's Market, Westwood Farmer's Market, Gorilla Marketing, CSU Chico State (subcontractor), Department of Public Social Services
Merced	✓	✓	Merced County Human Service Agency, Merced County Public Health Department, Merced Community College, Inaugural Central Valley Higher Education Basic Needs Summit, United Way
Riverside	✓	✓	Riverside County Department of Public and Social Services, Feeding America Inland Empire Food Bank, TruEvolution, Fair Housing Council of Riverside County
San Diego	✓	✓	San Diego Health and Human Services, San Diego Food Bank, Feeding San Diego, ProduceGood United Way, 211, Door Dash, National League of Cities, San Diego Metropolitan Transit Systems, San Diego Youth Services
San Francisco		✓	San Francisco/Marin Food Bank
Santa Barbara	✓	✓	Santa Barbara County Food Bank, Santa Ynez Veggie Rescue, Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services, County of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County Community Benefit Organizations, Food Not Bombs, University United Methodist Community Church, the St. Michael's Church, the Isla Vista Community Center, Youth Action Board (YAB) for the County of Santa Barbara, Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Santa Barbara City College, Allan Hancock, Santa Barbara County Education Office, Turner Foundation, Channel Islands YMCA, national Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) partners group
Santa Cruz	✓	✓	Second Harvest Food Bank, Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board, YHDP Partners Santa Cruz area hotels

*The Center for Healthy Communities (CHC) at California State University Chico serves as a prime CalFresh Outreach contractor with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to help more clients apply or become aware of CalFresh Food benefits. Eight UC campuses are part of the CalFresh Outreach contract.

Appendix IV

List of Mental Health Services By Campus										
Service Type	Berkeley	Davis	Irvine	Los Angeles	Merced	Riverside	San Diego	San Francisco	Santa Barbara	Santa Cruz
Crisis services	x		x		x	x	x			
Care navigation/access services:	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
support for LGBTQ+ services	x	x	x	x			x		x	x
Eating disorders			x					x		
CARE/IPV services		x	x	x			x	x		x
Online services	x			x	x		x			
Peer Programs	x	x		x			x			
Yoga/mindfulness/gardens/wellness spaces	x							x	x	
Peer providers	x			x			x			
Yoga/mindfulness/gardens/wellness spaces	x		x						x	
Expanding services/access for racial and ethnic minority students	x		x				x	x	x	x
Staff faculty BH&W training		x	x	x	x		x			x
Broad outreach, wellness, de-stigmatizing, BH&W education programing	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Support for foster youth, underground scholars, homeless, undocumented students, or parenting students		x	x	x						
Funding for new proposals		x		x		x				
Enhance basic needs provision									x	x
Focus on transition in/out of college				x			x		x	x
Substance use disorder services								x		

The above table describes services added or expanded by campuses to enhance existing campus mental health services through state mental health funds.

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