

CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES | NON-FUNDED WORK

Division of Student Affairs Expansion of Basic Needs Program

Strategic Initiatives and Actions

Educational Excellence

- 1.2 Increase opportunities for students to engage with the regional community to apply their learning and address meaningful challenges.

Student Success

- 2.5 Examine and remove administrative barriers that impede timely degree progression.
- 2.14 Build partnerships with existing social service providers throughout the Country to expand the basic needs resources available to support students.

Project Summary

The CSUCI Basic Needs Program is making great strides in its efforts to meet what have been identified as “basic needs” critical to academic success: addressing food security, housing security, and financial assistance in times of dire need. This year, the Basic Needs program has expanded its program in respect to the following: funding, external and internal partnerships, and eliminating administrative barriers for students.

Throughout the 2018-19 AY, the Basic Needs Program has been extremely resourceful and successful in expanding its program through the following ways:

- Securing external funding streams in the form of grants:
 - CalFresh grant totaling \$47,413 that will be utilized to advance access of CalFresh to students and to assist them in the application process so they may secure healthy and nutritional foods
 - Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grant from the Ventura County Continuum of Care totaling \$53,110 that will provide students with hotel vouchers on an emergency basis to addressing housing insecurity
 - In conjunction with University Advancement, secured \$20,000 from the Ventura County Community Foundation for students who were impacted by the fires and Borderline incident
- Partnering with external entities, such as Food Share, which provides sustainable food resources to complement a prodigious donation program servicing over 731 students totaling over 5,000 annual visits. For the Fall 2018 semester, 90% of the students who utilized the Dolphin Food Pantry stayed in school and were enrolled in the Spring 2019 semester. Additional established partnerships for the 2018-19 AY include CalFresh and MediCal representatives from Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties.
- Partnerships with internal units across campus, such as a Chemistry 101 course to utilize instructional related activity funds to develop a clothing pantry available to students; Communication courses COMM 329, in which 20 students participated in an innovation challenge themed project and designed ways to market the pantry with the end result of increasing donations. Of the 20 students, 4 were identified as leads, who worked 16 hours each to staff the pantry over the course of the semester (anticipated completion date of spring 2019).
- To examine and remove administrative barriers that impede timely degree progression by reviewing business practices to identify administrative barriers to students involved with Basic needs programs. Specifically, students

placed in emergency housing in connection with the Basic Needs Program now receive a special parking pass that allows overnight parking and prevents their vehicle from being ticketed. 22 students received this pass since the implementation of this new program in the Fall 2018 semester.

Baseline Data

The data shows us that students who have connected with the Basic Needs Program for resources (either housing or financial assistance) are not being retained at as high of a rate as students who are not utilizing the program as shown in the data 70% vs. 87.7% 1-term retention (n=30) from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019 semesters; while disappointing, this is not surprising. The students in need of the Basic Needs Program's assistance are extremely vulnerable and it is the hope that with increased resources (which have been pursued) as well as a full-time staff member dedicated to the program (which has been requested through the 2018-19 budget request process) that the retention rate will increase. With respect to the students utilizing the Food Pantry (over 731 students), the retention rates are better. For fall 2018, the students accessing the Pantry are being retained at 90.3%, rather than 87.7% (1-term retention) - which is statistically significant.

Goals

Reconfiguration of space within Arroyo Hall to expand current food pantry space as well as provide a separate space for the clothing closet (to include garment and shoe racks as well as private changing stations) and hygiene pantry items, which is expected to be completed summer 2019. Additionally, through the general funds budget request process for the 2018-19 FY, a request for a 1.0 FTE Coordinator of Basic Needs has been requested. It is the hopes that with a full-time dedicated staff member, the ability to expand this program will only increase, as well as improving the overall retention numbers from baseline figures.

Project Status

This project is currently in progress. The additional funding streams have been secured and the space reconfigure process is underway. The DSA is awaiting approval for the 1.0 FTE Coordinator of Basic Needs position that is being requested through the budget process.

Key Leaders and Divisions

Lead Division	Division of Student Affairs
Collaborating Division/Partners	BFA, AA, UA
Action Champions	Toni Deboni
Action Project Leads	Chelsee Bente