Washington State Community & Technical Colleges: A Sampling of Programs and Services for Homeless Students

Prepared by SBCTC Student Services, April 2017

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| South Puget Sound Community College | Students can shower here for free. We also are opening a food pantry at the college in partnership with the local food bank. We have discussed the possibility of a reduced cost for some hot meals but have not identified a funding source to date. We also have an emergency grant program through our foundation as well as a list of community partners that we work with to support our students. |
| Skagit Valley  College | We’ve worked hard to develop partnerships with community organizations that could provide services to students who might be homeless.  We also have an expanded emergency fund program that a student could use for short-term housing costs. Our students are allowed to use the showers in our gym without charge. We do not have discounted meals or a food pantry yet (although we have discussed instituting the latter). |
| Bellingham  Technical College | The Urgent Funding team subsidizes homeless housing for our students, utilizing BFET funds mainly, for the first, last, and deposit for about 10-15 students a year.  We also have a food bank that we recommend they utilize on campus. The food is donated. Six staff members sit on the team.  Currently we are working with our local housing authority to coordinate training and resources for our homeless students. |
| Spokane Falls Community College | I am very involved with our homeless population at Spokane Falls- and while we are limited in what services we can provide, I have a plethora of resources and options that we are assisting our homeless students with. Most recently, we have developed a work study position that I supervise that is doing a “Housing Survey” of all the available units in Spokane for rent. This of course is a huge task and is forever evolving, but there is such a need both in the community and for our low-income students. |
| Walla Walla  Community College | We currently 1) provide facilitation with accessing homeless housing services provided through community agencies such as BMAC, WW Housing Authority, YWCA, CAC, etc., 2) assist students with securing housing by helping them locate available affordable housing units, 3) prepping them on how to market themselves to the prospective landlord, and 4) provide financial assistance with deposits and 1st month’s rent when/if they’re program-eligible. Additionally, we make sure the student is screened for Basic Food Assistance and/or referred to DSHS for food benefits, and encourage students to access Warrior Resources for day-to-day food needs if not yet receiving BFA. |
| Clover Park  Technical College | * We have lists of community partners * We had a taskforce in 2015 to look at housing issues and have previously worked with a community agency on a grant funded co-located housing specialist at CPTC * We have an emergency grant program through our CPTC foundation that can be accessed for short-term support, to include rental * We have a food pantry on campus as well as other free food offerings * We are once again looking at options for collaboration with local agency for housing referral services |
| Cascadia  College | We worked to develop a list of resources for our students who are dealing with homelessness & food insecurity. I partnered with a couple instructors/classes last year to do a campaign about homelessness & we did a hygiene kit drive and created about 100 kits that we have available for students who need toiletry items – and our diversity center, workforce education, veterans office, and advisors have them in their offices for students. We have partnered with our local YMCA – they have a food stability program and they provide us with small food packs on a regular basis that we can give to students. We also identified a staff member (who is also part of our CARE team) to serve as a primary point of contact for those students who have been identified as needing homeless/food insecurity resources. |
| Shoreline  Community College | Among other things, Shoreline has developed a Food Pantry and we have a partnership with United Way, who provided two AmeriCorps members this year to work with students with food insecurity. One of our Neighborhood Associations has taken an enthusiastic role in providing food for the pantry. |
| Clark  College | We have a direct referral program that WES has developed with one of our local housing agencies to support homeless students. The ATD Working Student Success Network (WSSN) grant has provided support to our homeless students, primarily through the Resource Coaches that we have hired to support our low income students.  As a result of the grant, here are some of the things we have done the following to support our low-income and homeless students:  -          Hired four Resource Coaches (Retention/Career, Transitional Studies, Financial Literacy, Workforce Education Services) who have received poverty training, and delivered training to faculty and staff  -          Developed a relationship with a housing agency to provide direct housing referrals for homeless students  -          Developing a food bank  -          Secured funding from the Foundation to purchase passes to Clark Fitness Center to help homeless students gain access to the shower facilities |
| Highline  College | We serve homeless students through a Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program called Project RISE with DSHS. (RISE is an acronym for Resources to Initiate Successful Employment.) Eighteen of the students served in RISE have been homeless. We provided move-in assistance for 4 of those students (deposit and rental assistance). We provided emergency rental assistance to prevent homelessness for two others. I provide referrals to everyone who is homeless for housing resources, and help with housing applications for low income housing.  We also provide transportation assistance and other resources to help maintain stability during homelessness. |
| Edmonds  Community College | Under the Diversity Student Center we have the Student In Need Project to help homeless students or students in need.  We serve students in these ways:  1.  Students can get immediate access in the Diversity Student Center to some non-perishable foods for a quick meal  2.  Students can be given a food card for Albertsons or Fred Meyers (when available) (money is donated from students, staff or the community through our food drives and strict records are kept)  3.  Our DSC coordinator meets with registered students and offers them information about free services on campus and in the community (including 211 resources); referred students come from faculty, staff or other students  4.  At the end of the quarter, we offer foodstuffs from our mini-food bank that weren't suitable for our non-perishable food program  5.  The Project Home Association via our TRiO SSS program assists homeless or nearly homeless students with rental assistance or hotel/motel vouchers; the student must be currently enrolled in at least 3 credits; assistance can be up to $1600  6.  We advertise free community services (Dental van) when we get this info from the Counseling Office  7. One of our Advising Resource Center advisors is working directly with the Rev. Jean Kim Foundation to provide resources to homeless students.   This advisor also works on Saturdays through the same organization to help homeless students fill out the FAFSA. |