# study session

Oct. 15, 2018

Tab 3

## Housing and Food Insecurity

### Brief Description

There will be a brief overview of the issue of housing and food insecurity among college students and efforts to reduce it, nationally and at Washington state community and technical colleges. Three of our colleges (Clark College, Shoreline Community College, and Tacoma Community College) will then highlight their efforts in this area. Board discussion will be invited after a final “Where do we go from here?” presentation.

## How does this item link to the State Board’s 2018-19 Priorities?

Proactive efforts to reduce barriers to success posed by student food and housing insecurity are strongly connected to Board priorities of enrollment, equity and diversity, and completions. Students experiencing these insecurities are disproportionately low-income and from under-represented and underserved groups. Students whose basic needs for food and shelter are not being met are less likely to persist and less likely to attain their educational objectives at our colleges.

## Background information and analysis

Proactive efforts to reduce student food and housing insecurity can have a strong positive impact on enrollment, diversity and equity, and completion in our system. Background materials provided for Tab 3 include an overview of findings from the most recent (April 2018) University of Wisconsin HOPE Lab (Harvesting Opportunities for Postsecondary Education) study of college student hunger and homelessness, as well as a summary of programs and services provided at our community and technical colleges.

Attachment A - Programs and Services for Students Experiencing Food, Housing and Job Insecurity

Attachment B – PowerPoint presentation: Student Food and Housing Insecurity

## Potential questions

Questions that need to be answered

* What is the extent of food and housing insecurity among students at our colleges and how does it affect their persistence and completion?
* How can we best identify, disseminate, and implement effective and promising practices in this area?
* How can the State Board, WACTC, and our colleges be responsive to the HOPE Lab’s challenge to “match student commitments with supports to ensure degree completion,” and WACTCSA’s (Washington Community and Technical College Student Association) call to address student hunger?

## Recommendation/preferred result

State Board members will discuss possible next steps after a final “Where do we go from here?” presentation. A preferred long-term result would be a more systematic, proactive effort to assist students at our colleges who are experiencing food and housing insecurity.

Policy Manual Change Yes  No

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**Washington State Community & Technical Colleges:   
Programs and Services for Students Experiencing Food, Housing and Job Insecurity**

Attachment A

*Updated by SBCTC Student Services, September 2018*

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| Bates Technical College | The Associated Student Government (ASG) has put significant effort behind opening and sustaining a free sack lunch program. Students have access to free sack lunches on each of our three campuses. The effort is funded by donations from the college and surrounding community. ASG has also worked with the Bates Technical College Foundation to fund an emergency assistance scholarship that assists students with urgent needs under $500 and with the Bates Technical College Dental Assisting program to offer free emergency dental care. We also offer a student resource shelf stocked with feminine hygiene products and personal hygiene packs (shampoo, conditioner, soap, tissues) that students can access. |
| Bellevue College | Student and Community Resources include:   * Hopelink Partnership provides energy assistance, emergency food bags, financial coaching and classes, transportation vouchers, gas cards, and Orca cards * King County Housing Authority Partnership provides employment services such as interview practice, career assessments, job readiness, and job referrals * Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) students can receive emergency services for housing and medical insecurities   Employment services and emergency assistance are provided for food, cash, childcare, transportation, utilities, rent, employment attire, and class materials through partnerships with the YWCA, TRAC Associates (employment services), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act).   * partners * Workshops and 1:1 coaching occur throughout the year on such topics as budgeting, banking, paying for college, loans, credit, benefits access, and tax preparation * Benefits Hub offers information sessions at the request of departments to learn more about the resources and encourage student referrals. |
| Bellingham Technical College | A six-member Urgent Funding Team subsidizes homeless housing for our students, primarily with BFET funds, for the first and last month’s rent and deposit for about 10-15 students a year.  We also have a food bank that is utilized on campus, stocked with donated food.  Work with our local housing authority to coordinate training and resources for our homeless students is ongoing. |
| Big Bend Community College | The Viking Food Pantry opened in 2016 in partnership with The Moses Lake Food Bank. This was part of the work achieved at Big Bend in conjunction with the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Working Student Support Network (WSSN) grant. The pantry is open to anyone who is affiliated with the college (faculty, staff and students), and it is heavily used. We also have emergency funds available through our Foundation and Workforce Education Services. Workforce Education has partnered across campus to develop and support financial awareness training and has intentionally built financial coaching into their case management model. Additionally, there has been specific training on poverty and its implications to our student population. Local partner agencies such as Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Division of Employment Security are on campus weekly to support college community members experiencing food, housing, or job insecurity. The weekly donation support from Moses Lake Food Bank and from the Big Bend Community College community have provided over two tons of food donations and 1,000 hygiene product donations so far. |
| Cascadia College | Cascadia developed a list of resources for our students who are dealing with homelessness & food insecurity, which is a printed handout as well as on the college website. We have a program called “Take One/Leave One” with hygiene products available at small stations around campus. 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 are opening a food resource center in fall 2018 that will provide food pantry services, budgeting information, recipes on how to make meals, etc. Cascadia, along with UW Bothell became a United Way Benefits Hub and will open a Health & Wellness Resource Center in fall 2018 that will include support in accessing local resources and public benefits, emergency financial grants, legal services, and more. |
| Centralia College | A food pantry opened in 2017, located in the Student Life and Involvement Center. Student clubs and organizations have contributed most of the food through food drives. Faculty and staff have donated money as well as food. To date, 54 students have accessed it about 125 times.  Students can access the pantry twice a month. Student Government has revised one of their member positions to focus on work with staff, students, and the community to keep the pantry stocked. A logo is being developed, to increase the effort’s visibility. |
| Clark College | Clark College, along with several community organizations, formed the Homeless Prevention Consortium Together, these agencies received a grant from the City of Vancouver Homeless Prevention Fund to assist community agencies serving clients who are at risk of homelessness. This partnership allows Clark College to serve as a direct referral agency, which increases the level of support that we provide to our students facing housing insecurity. This program began serving students summer quarter 2018.  The Achieving the Dream (ATD) Working Student Success Network (WSSN) grant provided initial support to our homeless students, primarily through the Resource Coaches hired to support our low-income students, which continues as part of our college infrastructure for students. As a result of the grant, some of the services we provide include:   * Resource Coaches (Retention/Career, Transitional Studies, Financial Literacy, Workforce Education Services) who received poverty training and deliver training to faculty/staff. * Penguin Pantry to assist students who are facing food insecurity (in addition to providing snacks, fresh fruits/vegetables, and other non-perishable foods, the Penguin Pantry also provides hygiene items, clothing, and school supplies to students). * Funding to purchase passes to Clark Fitness Center to give homeless students access to shower facilities. * Emergency Grant program to assist students facing financial situations that threaten their ability to continue pursuing their education (most of the Emergency Grant recipients have requested assistance with rent, thus preventing homelessness). |
| Clover Park Technical College | A variety of programs and services are available, for example:   * A taskforce convened in 2015 to look at housing issues. * Collaboration with a community agency on a grant-funded, co-located housing specialist on campus. * An emergency grant program through the CPTC Foundation that can be accessed for short-term support, including rental costs. * A food pantry and other free food offerings. * Lists of community partners. * We are also looking at options for collaboration with local agencies for housing referral services. |
| Columbia Basin College | Here is a summary of what we currently do or have done recently:   * The Recreation & Wellness Department has a food pantry for our students in collaboration with New Horizons High School. * Associated Students of CBC will have mini food pantries around our campus for quick snacks and information about the New Horizons food pantry for our students. * Associated Students of CBC has at least one food collection drive for donating food to the food pantry supplier (2nd Harvest) annually. * The Recreation and Wellness Department organized a “Hawk Trot” close to Thanksgiving that was a fun run on campus that collected food to donate in support of the food pantry. * The Resource Center provides information for students to access community resources to help with homelessness and food insecurity, support for student families during the holidays (for example, gifts for children and grocery/household supplies), and conducts a professional clothing drive. |
| Edmonds Community College | Under the Diversity Student Center (DSC) we have the Student In Need Project to help homeless students or students in need. We serve students in these ways:   * Students can get immediate access in the DSC to non-perishable foods. * 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). * Our DSC coordinator meets with registered students and offers them information about free services on campus and in the community (including 211 resources); referrals come from faculty, staff or students * At the end of the quarter, we offer foodstuffs from our mini-food bank that weren't suitable for our non-perishable food program. * The Project Home Association via our TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) program assists homeless or nearly homeless students with rental assistance or hotel/motel vouchers; the student must be currently enrolled in at least three credits; assistance can be up to $1600. * We advertise free community services (for example, a dental van on campus). * One of our Advising Resource Center advisors is working directly with the Rev. Jean Kim Foundation to provide resources to homeless students; the advisor also works on Saturdays through the same organization to help homeless students with FAFSA completion. |
| Everett Community College | The Everett Community College (EvCC) food pantry opened in 2017, offering non-perishable items to students and college employees.  We have partnered with the Volunteers of America for bi-weekly food pick-up to ensure sufficient supplies. Additionally, we have established an account with the EvCC Foundation to manage donations and allow employees to contribute to the Food Pantry through payroll deduction. The pantry is staffed by ASB Executive Council and student volunteers that receive class credit for their volunteer work. Materials for additional resources are available in the pantry, as well as recipes and food suggestions to aid students. For more information: <https://www.everettcc.edu/students/sa/student-government/food-pantry>. |
| Grays Harbor College | Grays Harbor College (GHC) currently has a snack pantry that is open to all students in four locations across campus, as a temporary food solution while on campus. A food pantry was opened this year, in partnership with the Coastal Harvest, our local food bank. As part of our food pantry efforts, GHC has received and committed to a grant that allows for an AmeriCorps member during the 2018-2019 academic year to examine food insecurity while working with our food pantry and Coastal Harvest. Additionally, the Diversity and Equity Center has a resource guide of various public services and non-profits in Grays Harbor County that include information about shelters or services for at risk students. Various departments provide information about Basic Food Assistance and local food banks as needed. GHC also has emergency grant programs through our college foundation that can be accessed for short-term support or to cover unexpected issues such as rent, transportation, or book loans. GHC is in the early stages of establishing housing on campus to address the scarcity of affordable and available housing in Grays Harbor County. |
| Green River College | Vision: Green River College (GRC), the Auburn Food Bank, Kent Food Bank, and Maple Valley Food Bank will develop a partnership to create and maintain a GRC student food closet. The purpose of this student food closet is to provide free supplemental food to any GRC student who is at risk of becoming food insecure (defined as lacking access to enough food for an active, healthy life style). To connect students to local food banks for sustained need.  Mission: Appropriate campus constituents will collaborate in the coordination of a Gator Food Closet to foster student success by addressing student hunger.  Oversight Committee: The general expectation of the committee member is to be available and willing to participate in monthly/quarterly meetings and serve on sub-committees.  Implement campus-wide fund raising and awareness campaigns. Assist in provision of brochures, and other informational materials to support individuals in how to respond and where to refer students and employees seeking this kind of provision. Review and approve campus policies assuring campus and state requirements are met. Engage the community food banks to collaborate.  What we have done:We have provided a space on campus to give students access to emergency food bags provided by a local food bank. We track directory information only, and students are given a resource list for community services in our local communities. Our hope is to connect them with social/community services that are sustainable rather than emergency based.  Gators Feeding Gators (GFG): GFG is part of the Gator Pledge program supported by our Green River Foundation.  We have an annual event to promote the idea of helping students on campus and provide opportunity for faculty and staff to donate to the cause. There are 11 active binders on campus that help staff and faculty provide a Gator Grill card for immediate hot food, Safeway fuel cards and individual bus passes to help students persist and complete.  Green River has two resource booklets one called *Community Connections Survival Guide* *and Handbook for King and Pierce County Resources* and the other is called *Campus Community Resource Guide* that outlines government programs; basic needs and crisis; education and training; health care; Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA); transportation; legal and advocacy; and veterans. |
| Highline College | We serve homeless students through a Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program called Project Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) with Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Eighteen of the students served in RISE have been homeless. We provided move-in assistance for four students (deposit and rental assistance). We provided emergency rental assistance to prevent homelessness for two students. We provide referrals 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. |
| Lake Washington Institute of Technology | The Associated Student Government opened and now sustains a food pantry. The pantry is stocked with donations from the college or surrounding community. They have worked with the Lake Washington College Foundation to find additional, long-term sponsors. A bank account has been opened to support the effort. |
| Lower Columbia College | Lower Columbia College refers students to coordinated entry, which is a one-stop network of emergency and long-term housing services in our community. Workforce and Career Services serves as a hub on campus to refer students to internal and external resources regarding housing and food insecurity. Students participating in programs such as WorkFirst and Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) experiencing housing and transportation barriers receive additional support through established community partnerships. A food pantry recently opened on campus, and is available for all students. Through the food pantry intake process, students are referred to other long-term resources (both on campus and off campus) relating to transportation, housing, childcare, food assistance, and others. A comprehensive one-stop referral center for students is currently being implemented.  Faculty and staff across campus have been trained in both theoretical approaches and strategies to working with low-income students through the Bridges Out of Poverty Understanding and Engaging Under Resourced College Students curriculum. Additional support for students who are not eligible for Workforce or other grant funding is available through the Student Success Grant, which can assist students with emergency expenses. |
| Olympic College | In 2016 we surveyed our student population and discovered that 30% of our student’s state they have a food shortage and feel it hinders their educational success. 5% of our student population experience homelessness in one form or another. Our student government operates a food bank and there are several ways food is supplied; connections with our local food banks, funding from their fee allocations, and staff organized food drives. Students can use this service a few times a month. In addition, several campus programs provide bags of food (cup-of-soup, crackers, cookies etc.) from donations from community programs, student government, staff and faculty.  We have a centralized program called The Students in Need Group, formed by staff, faculty, students, and community members to help address the barriers many of our students face. It has become a place for information and referrals for both internal and community programs; helping students know where to turn. This program is also the “hub” for donating and distributing goods that can help students, such as food, school supplies, personal hygiene items, and a large textbook lending library. Staff network within the community to help form connections and stay current with changing programs. Homelessness is addressed through information and referrals. Students are informed about the community programs that house men, women, families, and youth along with where to find free meals, showers, mail services, and laundry services. |
| Peninsula College | Here are some examples of programs and services available:   * Student Services staff have placed laminated signs in their offices with the message: “Ask me…about food, housing, and other resources”; all advisors in student services have a list of community resources to share with students. * A group of faculty and staff have submitted a proposal for a food pantry under review by President’s Cabinet; space has been identified and the Foundation has offered to help with start-up costs, with a goal of implementation in 2019. * The Foundation has established a finish line fund that students within 15 credits of completion can apply for; Foundation staff have personally delivered rent checks to keep these students enrolled until completion, and offer Safeway gift cards for food and gas. * In his campus-wide service address, the President introduced a list of social determinant questions for the college to consider in its focus on student success and completion, calling out food and housing insecurity specifically. |
| Pierce College District | Pierce College currently runs a food and clothing pantry at both its Fort Steilacoom and Puyallup campuses.  As a part of a county-wide effort with Bates Technical College, Clover Park Technical College, and Tacoma Community College, we have purchased a trailer that will be stocked by the Emergency Food Network and be present on each campus one day per week.   The Pierce College Foundation offers emergency grants to help bridge housing needs ranging from rent to utilities, as well as vouchers for transportation, including gas cards.  Pierce College Puyallup, in partnership with Pierce Transit, has recently implemented a free Orca Card program to alleviate transportation challenges for students. The partnership is also offering a program that provides free Lyft rides after transit services have ended for the day.   Students are referred to other housing and food security resources through our counseling offices and via programs such as the Basic Food, Employment, and Training program (BFET). BFET provides referrals for childcare and eligibility for individuals in Professional and Technical programs receiving Supplemental Nutrition Aid Program (SNAP).  There are also plans to develop a “One Stop” hub to provide access, resources, and support to address food and housing insecurity for both immediate need and guidance to resources to find lasting solutions. |
| Renton Technical College | At Renton Technical College (RTC), the Learning Resource and Career Center operates “Elijah’s Pantry”, a food pantry named in honor of a student who passed away. There are items available for any hungry students to snack on during the day, as well as limited items for hungry students to take home. Our student government supports the pantry, along with donations from the community, staff and, faculty. We do not have formal housing insecurity services. We have limited staff who are connected to resources in the community, equipped to make referrals. The RTC Foundation administers emergency funding for students to access who need tie over funds to help with car repairs, or an electric bill, rent, etc. that may cause them to drop out of school or lead to housing insecurity. |
| Seattle Central College | There is a working group on campus representing faculty, staff and students working to gather to write a proposal for a Food Pantry. Currently there are a several departments that offer food security services to students. For example, TRIO provides snacks to their students when supplies are available; Veterans’ Support Services provides meals to their students provided by Jewish Family Services as well as they have a small pantry that their students can access while supplies last. A Grocery Card program offered though Student Support Services can be used by students as an emergency on a one-time basis. The proposal being developed will be presented to the Services and Activities (S & A) Fee Committee for funding a full-time staff position to manage a food pantry.  If approved, this will provide a more comprehensive service to students and will more concretely address students’ food security while attending Central. |
| Shoreline Community College | Shoreline Community College has various resources for students who are facing housing and food insecurity:  Student Life   * Benefits Hub - Shoreline has developed a food pantry and we have a partnership with United Way that provided two AmeriCorps members this year to work with students with food insecurity. This resource is staffed by United Way AmeriCorps members (3). They run a variety of campus support services. The food pantry program through our student life departments and outside community partnerships with the Rotary Club of Shoreline, HopeLink and Richmond Beach Congregational Church. Benefits Hub members provide direct service, financial coaching, free tax support, workshops, and to help students sign up for benefits. * Multicultural Center-Students can access emergency short-term loans through the center to support their needs to persist at the college.   Counseling Center   * Our counseling center provides student robust services around mental health, crisis intervention, resources, and referrals. They have partnerships with resources in the community where students can be connected for support around housing and food insecurity.   Veteran Resource Center   * Our staff are a resource to guide students through the complex process of receiving their benefits – from answering questions about the various education benefits and the application and certification process to advocating on their behalf with Veterans Affairs (VA). If education benefits are delayed, the Veterans Programs staff will work to process tuition payment holds and provide options for financial support during the delay.   Advising & Success Coaching   * Success Coaching-1:1 relationship with staff member to help triage student needs with on campus resources.   WorkForce   * [Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) Program](http://app.shoreline.edu/workforce/funding/bfet.aspx)**:** Provides assistance with education costs (including childcare assistance from Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)) to eligible students receiving DSHS Basic Food Assistance. * Grants - If students need help finding job placement- there are various Workforce grants and programs to help students enter the workforce * [Worker Retraining Program](http://app.shoreline.edu/workforce/funding/retraining.aspx)**:** Assistance to eligible students who: are collecting unemployment benefits or have exhausted them within the past 24 months, have received a lay-off notice, were formerly self-employed, are a displaced homemaker, or a recently honorably discharged veteran * [WorkFirst Program](http://app.shoreline.edu/workforce/funding/workfirst.aspx)**:** Assistance with education costs to eligible low-income parents receiving TANF cash assistance from DSHS. |
| Skagit Valley College | We partner with community organizations that provide services to students who might be homeless or are experiencing unstable housing. Students have access to emergency fund programs through the Skagit Valley College (SVC) Foundation's Removing Barriers program and other state and federal grant programs to assist with short-term housing costs caused by sudden homelessness or job loss. A food pantry for students has been established on the Mount Vernon Campus. SVC students can use the showers in our gym without charge. |
| South Puget Sound Community College | Students can shower for free. We also operate a food pantry at the college in partnership with the local food bank. 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. We have discussed the possibility of a reduced cost for some hot meals; we are currently seeking a funding source. |
| South Seattle College | The South Seattle College Foundation provides Emergency Funds to support student success, retention, and completion by assisting the removal of financial barriers students may encounter. The program targets students ready to succeed except for unanticipated financial barriers. The Emergency Fund process is an educational opportunity in which applicants gain awareness of planning for success. Funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, transportation, and other related educational expenses. In April 2017, South Seattle College opened a food and personal hygiene products pantry.    Workforce Education has built financial coaching into their case management model. South Seattle College’s WorkFirst program is available to students receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and these students are referred by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Basic Food Employment & Training Program (BFET) is available to students receiving federally issued Basic Food Benefits. In addition, students can access 1:1 support with signing up for public benefits, financial coaching, help with accessing funding resources on and off campus, and federal income tax preparation from South Seattle College’s United Way Benefits Hub. |
| Spokane Community College | Spokane Community College operates a food bank within our “CARE” (Community – Awareness – Resources – Engagement) Center which also provides referrals and other information about local agencies, including shelters, other food banks, and discount clothing stores. The food bank allows students to pick up three days of food once each month. The food is provided through donations from our large local food bank organization. |
| Spokane Falls Community College | At Spokane Falls Community College there are resources to assist homeless students as well as students experiencing food insecurity.   Food insecurity, for example, is addressed by our on-campus food bank as well as other offices on campus. Additionally, a repository of available units for rent in Spokane are available to students (and faculty/staff to share with students). |
| Tacoma Community College | Some examples of programs and services at Tacoma Community College (TCC):   * We partner with the Tacoma Housing Authority and offer up to 150 housing vouchers for homeless and near homeless students who qualify (the program is now in its fourth year) * TCC has also partnered with Pierce Transit to offer transportation support by providing all students the opportunity to purchase a quarterly bus pass for five dollars per quarter * The TCC Titan food pantry opened this year and a community donor has provided funding to support staffing for this initiative * The TCC Foundation provides funding to support an emergency grant program for students who require immediate assistance to access books and supplies, have received notices to vacate, or loss of utilities. |
| Walla Walla Community College | We have a variety of programs and services available, including:   * Facilitation with accessing homeless housing services provided through community agencies such as Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC), Walla Walla Housing Authority, and YWCA. * Assist students with securing housing by helping them locate available affordable housing units and coaching them on how to market themselves to prospective landlords. * Provide financial assistance with deposits and first month’s rent when/if they’re program-eligible. * Students are screened for Basic Food Assistance (BFA) and/or referred to Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for food benefits; we encourage them to access Warrior Resources for day-to-day food needs if they not yet receiving BFA. |
| Wenatchee Valley College | The Counseling Department provides several resources and support services available to students in need:   * Through ongoing financial support of our Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) Foundation, the counseling department provides emergency funding (Knights Care Fund) to students in need. Since 2008, the Foundation has committed to a $10,000 yearly contribution (more is available if needed) to the Knights Care Fund to ensure that our students are supported. These funds are designated to help with emergency needs such as food, medical, housing, transportation, tuition, and books * In 2015, WVC opened a food pantry, The Knights Kupboard.  Due to the increase in need, in 2017 the pantry expanded into a full room.  It is open once a week and as needed for students, providing non-perishable food, Domino’s pizza vouchers, personal hygiene items and diapers. All of these items donated on an ongoing basis by faculty, staff, clubs, and community partners * WVC partners with various community organizations to support our students, for example: Junior Service League (Diaper Drive) and Domino’s Pizza (quarterly pizza vouchers). * WVC also serves students through the Basic Food Employment and Training program (BFET), as well as other community referrals. |
| Whatcom Community College | Whatcom Community College (WCC) opened the Orca Food Pantry in 2016. The Pantry is open to all students who cannot afford a meal and is located near the Student Life and Development office. This is a dual endeavor between WCC Foundation and the Associated Students of Whatcom Community College (ASWCC). This year, WCC hosted a friendly competition between WCC and Skagit Valley College to help them establish their food pantry and increase donations. |





















