



Understanding and Serving the Food & Housing Insecure Students in the LACCD

Executive Summary

In July 2016, the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees called for developing a “comprehensive needs assessment survey of the diverse (LACCD) student body using the best available sampling methods as the basis for making strategic and decisive decisions to provide services to our student body.” In collaboration with the University of Wisconsin HOPE Lab and the Association of Community College Trustees, LACCD students were asked to take part in the Survey on Food & Housing Insecurity Among Community College Students.

Methods

An online survey was administered in October 2016. Approximately 5,925 LACCD students completed the survey. The survey includes questions on financial hardships, emotional challenges, and food and housing needs. The purpose of this inquiry was to assess the prevalence and correlates of food and housing insecurity among LACCD students.

Recommendations

Improved Institutional Practice

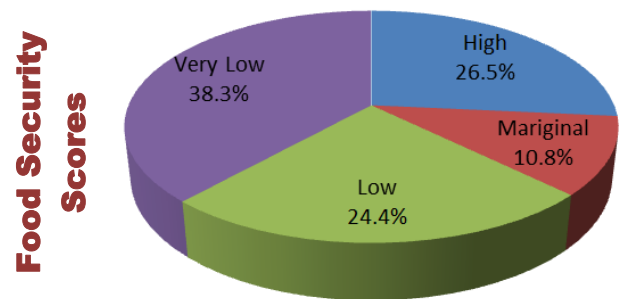
- Identify a single points of contact at each campus to guide students to on-campus and community resources
- Make available showers and other campus facilities for use by homeless students
- Streamline referrals to ensure students gain access to EOPS, CalWorks, CARE, and other special programs
- Conduct training and workshops for faculty, staff and administrators to increase awareness of student needs
- Increase collaboration with local housing resources to improve access to existing housing programs
- Work with the City of Los Angeles to enhance collaboration with Workforce Family Source Centers
- Expand efforts to assist students in gaining access to federal and state financial aid in support of the completion of academic programs and to support education related costs

Policy Recommendations

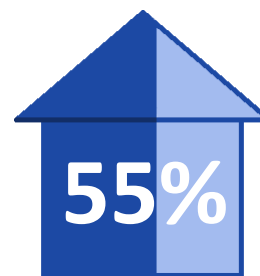
- Conduct further research on student experience to determine the most effective models for implementation
- Increase advocacy for resources of housing and food insecure youths

Key Findings

- The study revealed that **62.7% of students surveyed are experiencing food insecurity**
 - 38.3% were in the Very Low Food Security category

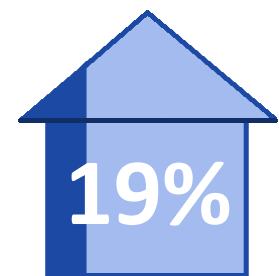


- The study also found that **55% of students surveyed are experiencing some form of housing insecurity**
 - 9.8% of students surveyed live in a public housing project owned by a local housing authority or other public agency
 - 6.6% of students received a public housing voucher, such as Section 8, to subsidize the cost of private housing



Experience

Housing Insecurity



Experience

Homelessness

- **18.6% of students surveyed have experienced homelessness in the past year**
 - Students who experienced housing insecurity most often reported that they could not pay all or part of their utilities and rent or mortgage
- Nearly half of students (44.5%) reported experiencing high housing costs (i.e., students spending more than 30% of their total household’s monthly income on rent or mortgage payments)

Next Steps

LACCD will continue collaboration with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and other local agencies to ensure access to housing options for LACCD students. The District will also conduct additional assessments to determine what further actions are required to support student success.