



## San Francisco State University

### Gator Grub Alert Program

#### Program Report

Fall 2018- Spring 2020

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### Program Summary

Access to quality food is essential for students to thrive and achieve academic success. In 2018, 47% of San Francisco State students surveyed reported experiencing food insecurity. In efforts to connect students with quality food while on campus, while also reducing food waste, the [SF State Basic Needs Initiative](#) collaborated with the AS Environmental Resource Center to launch Gator Grub Alert in November 2018.

Gator Grub Alert is a function of the SF State mobile application that provides students an opt-in phone notification that is triggered when excess free food is available on campus. Notifications are sent by trained Faculty/Staff who have excess food available after catered events and meetings. Though any SF State student is able to opt-in to Gator Grub Alert, the program was particularly promoted to student's experiencing food insecurity via outreach at the AS Food Pantry, CalFresh Help Clinic and Dean-on-Call.

## Program Outcomes

- **105 Gator Grub Alerts were initiated** from November 2018 to February 2020
- **1,282 students opted in** to receive notifications.
- **183 Faculty/Staff were trained** to post excess catered food
- **Nineteen Staff/Faculty trainings** were facilitated
  - Nine Gator Grub Alert Lunch & Learn trainings open to Staff/Faculty
  - Ten departmental or group trainings requests
- **93% of students surveyed** (n=88) would recommend another SFSU student download Gator Grub Alert
- **87% of students surveyed** (n=88) are somewhat or very likely to grab food if notified

## Best Practices and Lessons Learned

**Gator Grub Alert connects students to food security resources-** At Gator Grub alert promotional events and download sessions, information about sustainable food access programs like CalFresh assistance and campus/local food pantries was provided to students with the goal of supporting progression to food security.

**Gator Grub Alert built community-** Students who received an alert would often bring their study partners, roommates or classmates with them to pick up free food. Additionally, if there was space to eat, students would often chat and connect over the free food.

**Outreach and messaging are foundational for program success-** Campus-wide outreach including class presentations, social media and website messaging, newsletters, faculty and staff emails, visibility events and tabling activities are essential to raising consciousness in about food insecurity and the program. All messaging should be student friendly and critical of language and imagery in efforts to diversify and destigmatize student food insecurity.

## Challenges

**Data limitations-** Tracking the number of students who opted-in and the number of Faculty/Staff trained to post was fairly simple. It was challenging to understand how many students attended a post, what their experience was, and if the program supported their food security.

**Ratio of Faculty/Staff trained vs. actually posted-** Of the 183 Faculty/Staff trained to post to Gator Grub Alert; only 43% completed their Modo registration, the platform that enables them to send out Gator Grub Alerts. Of the Faculty/Staff trained who completed their registration, even less actually posted. Those who did post tended to be “frequent flyers”, posting multiple times. This indicates more targeted outreach is needed to train Faculty/Staff who coordinate campus events or meetings.

## Moving Forward

Reflecting on the establishment and expansion of Gator Grub Alert, the Basic Needs Initiatives takes pride in the exponential growth of the program. As we look toward the next phase of this program, we hope to increase the number of students served, develop an online Staff/Faculty training and improve program evaluation.

## References

Crutchfield, R., & McGuire, J. (2018, January). Study of Student Basic Needs. California State University.

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