



# San Francisco State University

## Basic Needs Initiatives

### Program Report

Summer & Fall 2020

### Program Summary

In today’s educational climate, low-income students are navigating the demands of attending college while facing extreme financial burden. Higher education is a crucial element in advancing equity and economic mobility, yet far too many California college students experience food and housing insecurity that jeopardizes academic achievement, and puts them at risk for adverse mental and physical health outcomes (Crutchfield & McGuire, 2018). Situated within Health Promotion & Wellness, Food+Shelter+Success— SF State’s Basic Needs Initiative, uses a comprehensive model to address student basic needs, encompassing food security, housing stability and economic crisis programs. Food+Shelter+Success supports the retention, graduation and wellness of SF State students by approaching basic needs security from a multifaceted framework, addressing the complex considerations of student hunger and housing insecurity in higher education.

SF State Basic Needs Programs		
Food Access Programs	Housing Stability	Economic Crisis Support
CalFresh assistance Emergency meals program AS campus food pantry Community food referrals	Providing Assistance To Housing Solutions (PATHS): -Problem-solving support -Emergency rental assistance -Emergency housing -Rapid rehousing	Basic needs emergency grants Basic need personal care kits Shower access

## Service Highlights –Summer & Fall 2020

100%

Of Gator Crisis Housing students  
exited into stable housing

100%

Of emergency aid recipients  
were in a high priority group

EOP, AB-540, Guardian Scholars, unhoused, Pell Eligible, etc.

**\$23,200** in basic needs emergency aid distributed

- ⇒ **721** students served\*
- ⇒ **40,043** outreach attempts
- ⇒ **867** emergency meals used
- ⇒ **393** CalFresh applications submitted
- ⇒ **105** basic needs kits distributed
- ⇒ **78** basic needs emergency aid awards distributed
- ⇒ **53** students received housing crisis support
- ⇒ **36** shower access appointments

May 26<sup>th</sup>-Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

\*Students may be duplicated across programs

## **Best Practices**

- ⇒ **Adapting to virtual service** –Food+Shelter+Success programs were originally developed as location-based campus services. Due to remote instruction, successful basic needs support required innovative, thoughtful and continuous program adaptation. The majority of basic needs services evolved to be conducted virtually.
  
- ⇒ **Serving students outside of the Bay Area** – Students in the local area could access food pantry, emergency meals and emergency housing services on campus. For those who needed support from afar, the basic needs team provided emergency food grants via electronic gift cards, used service locator tools to explore community food resources, offered virtual CalFresh assistance and provided remote rapid rehousing support.
  
- ⇒ **Virtual services offer additional engagement** – For some students, having the option to video conference into an appointment has made it easier to connect with services. Students have reported virtual support means no commuting or only accessing services on days they are on campus.
  
- ⇒ **Digital outreach** –Various virtual platforms were leveraged to implement campus-wide outreach including Zoom info sessions, social media posts, YouTube videos, newsletters, emails, student blogs and virtual visibility events. The basic needs website was adapted to serve as a virtual service portal, housing request forms, appointment links and resources.

## **Challenges**

- ⇒ **Loss of follow-up/contact-** Unhoused students tend to have phone/internet challenges and are more likely to show up physically for support. Campus closures make it difficult to retain basic needs students.
  
- ⇒ **Closure of campus buildings-** Unhoused students who rely on university facilities to attend to their educational needs struggled with building closures like the Library, a place they used for Wi-Fi, warmth, study space and charging outlets.

- ⇒ **Crisis severity increase**— For many students who were able to move back home due to the pandemic, their food and housing challenges resolved, but for our most vulnerable students, basic needs crisis exacerbated. Undocumented students who possess less legal protections and accessibility to government relief have been particularly plagued with eviction threats, job loss and trouble accessing public benefits. For students who were unhoused and living in a vehicle near campus, the campus closure has been very challenging.
  
- ⇒ **Unexpected financial crisis** - More students have become primary providers in their family due to job loss, and need basic needs support beyond just themselves. Pre-COVID many students were supplementing educational costs with employment. Due to COVID job loss, students cannot meet their basic needs or college costs. Furthermore, students who had a higher reported Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), and whose families have lost their jobs, now report they cannot pay for school/basic needs and their financial aid is not reflective of the current situation

### **Moving Forward**

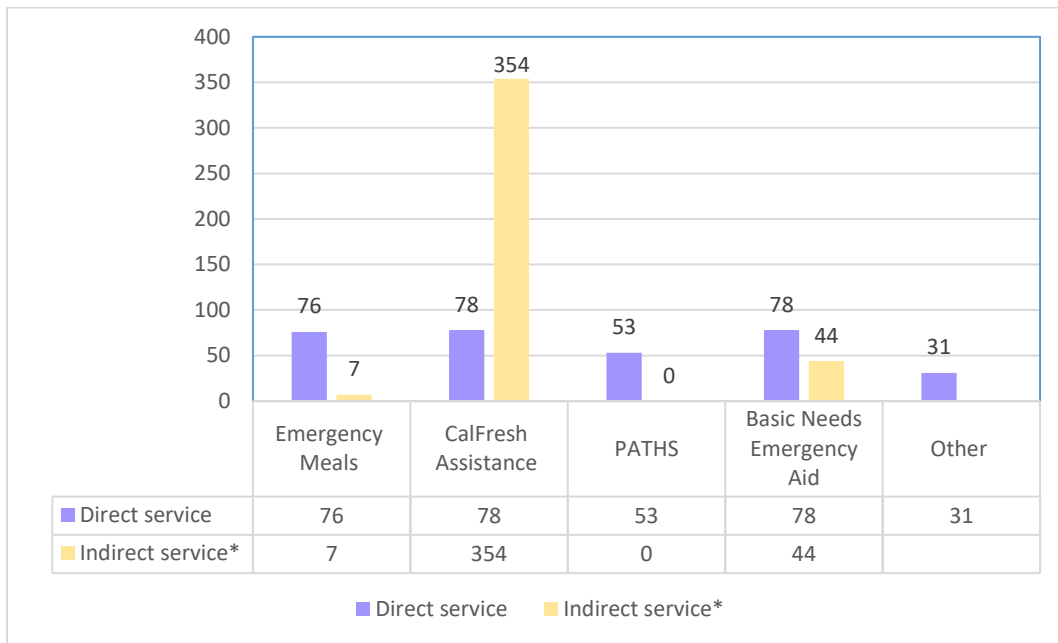
The pandemic has imposed drastic economic impacts on our students and their families. As we continue to face shelter in place restrictions and march towards the expiration of eviction moratoriums, we anticipate an exponential need for crisis resources. Food+Shelter+Success hopes to continue real time adaptation to meet the needs of our students, tap into larger systems of support, and continue advocacy efforts for the consideration of student basic needs in high level decision making.

## Appendix

### References

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

Graph 1- Students served Summer & Fall 2020



\*Indirect service includes instances when a student received basic needs information or referrals but was not provided a direct service interaction. CalFresh indirect service includes applications submitted that were not facilitated by a CalFresh assister.

**Table 1:** Emergency meal card distribution May 2018- December 2020 (by semester/term)

	SP 18	SUM 18	FA 18	SP 19	SUM 19	FA 19	SP 20	SUM 20	FA 19	Total
<b>Emergency meal cards distributed</b>	2	9	15	18	3	114	103	50	54	<b>368</b>
<b>Emergency meals used</b>	20	90	93	109	30	1038	821	474	393	<b>3,068</b>
<b>Students served (unduplicated)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>267</b>

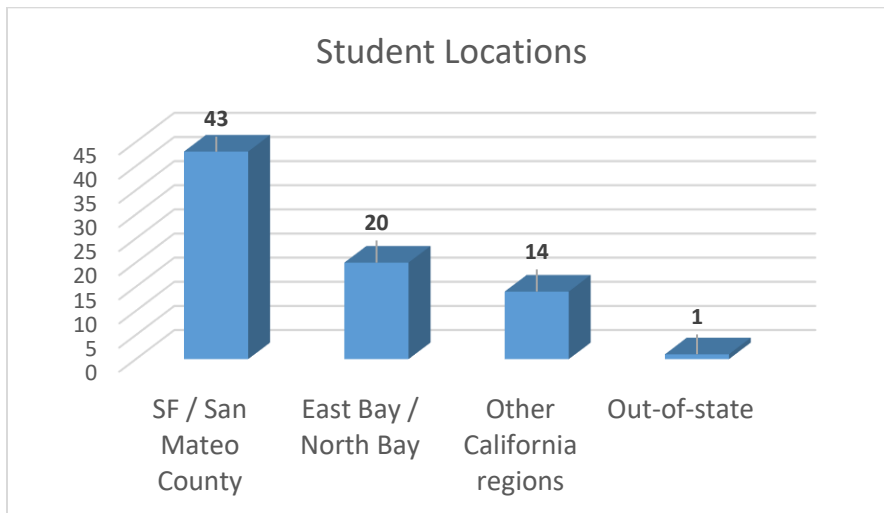
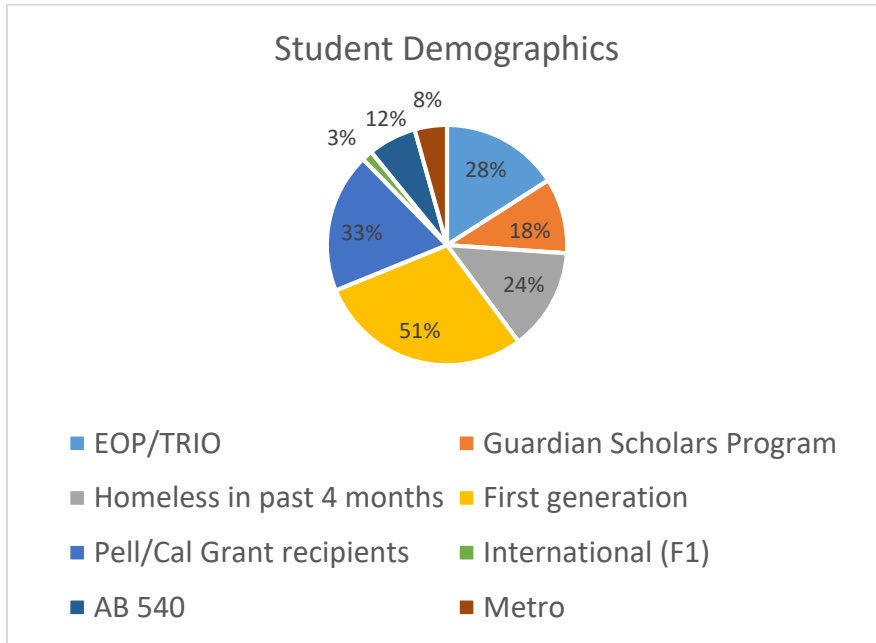
**Table 2:** CalFresh Assistance Oct 2018- Dec 2020 (by semester)

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Total
<b>Students Served</b> Direct service- CalFresh screening, application assistance and other support	40	157	272	176	39	<b>723</b>
<b>Online applications received</b> Direct and indirect service- Includes students who did not utilize in-person CalFresh assistance.	132	656	635	591	393	<b>2,407</b>
<b>Applications Approved</b> Application approved by the student's County.	UNK	383		TBD	TBD	<b>TBD</b>

Fall 2020 includes summer #s

## **Basic Needs Emergency Aid Fall 2020**

For the Fall 2020 semester, **\$23,700** in E-funds were distributed to **78** SF State students. These students came from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds and geographic locations across California.



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