

Office of the President

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For meeting of March 15, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BASIC NEEDS ANNUAL REPORT, 2021–22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2020, the Special Committee on Student Basic Needs issued its report, *The University of California's Next Phase of Improving Student Basic Needs*. Included among the recommendations is an annual report to the Regents on progress to date in achieving the goals.

This annual report on student basic needs summarizes outcomes from academic year 2021–22, provides progress updates on recommendations, and discusses key challenges and opportunities.

Significant changes have occurred in the ecosystem of students' basic needs over the last seven years. The investment of \$18.5 million in ongoing funding through the State Budget Act of 2019 enabled campuses to establish permanent basic needs services and furnish essential services and direct aid.

The University has been at the forefront of initiating and sustaining conversations, building relationships, and advocating for change in how we meet students' basic needs. The collective efforts of (1) policymakers and advocates, (2) UC leaders and campus practitioners, (3) student service practitioners, (4) researchers, and (5) UC students have elevated the dialogue about basic needs. Statewide partners have worked in close collaboration with University subject-matter experts to conduct research, evaluate equity gaps, and improve access to services. National leaders have recognized the financial needs of students, as well as the reality of college hunger.

BACKGROUND

In its November 2020 report, *The University of California's Next Phase of Improving Student Basic Needs*, the Regents set forth aspirational goals that would enable the University to reduce food and housing insecurity by half, by 2025.¹ The field of basic needs services, supports, and research continues to evolve, moving beyond addressing only food and housing insecurity toward a broader and more equitable academic and learning experience for underserved student groups.

¹ *The University of California's Next Phase of Improving Basic Needs*, November 2020, <https://basicneeds.ucop.edu/files/uc-next-phase-of-improving-student-basic-needs.pdf>

The attached Basic Needs Annual Report to the Board of Regents (Attachment 1) highlights the collective efforts of the Basic Needs Initiative from 2021-22 and provides updates on each recommendation for: (1) policymakers and advocates, (2) UC leaders and campus practitioners, (3) student service practitioners, (4) researchers, and (5) UC students.

The report also highlights the many accomplishments and contributions of the Basic Needs Initiative. For example, in June 2022, the University of California’s program for *Advancing Student Basic Needs* received a national award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education in the category for “Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice, and related.” The NASPA Excellence Awards were created to recognize student affairs practitioners who develop transformative, innovative, and data driven programs at the institutional level.

In September 2022, the University participated in the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. As a result of this participation, the University made a commitment to improve food access and affordability by 2030 to reduce the reported rate of food insecurity among undergraduates from 44 percent to 22 percent and among graduate students from 26 percent to 13 percent. To achieve this goal, the University will work with local counties to maximize student Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment, provide food for students who do not qualify for CalFresh—the California implementation of SNAP—yet still struggle with food access, and allocate additional campus food resources to historically underserved student populations.² In addition, the University continues to publish research, develop new community-based practices, partner with local and national experts, and model leadership through changing landscapes and environments.

These accomplishments are just a few of many that continue to drive basic needs work. This first annual report summarizes the accomplishments and contributions of the Basic Needs Initiative and communicates UC’s ongoing commitment to addressing students’ basic needs at all levels: campus, the UC system, the State, and the nation. That means moving the conversation beyond food and housing toward financial stability for all students. This commitment to a holistic approach has driven successful collaboration, stewardship of resources, development of essential services, hiring of key staff, and continuous engagement with students. Additionally, this work would not be possible without the help and support of policymakers and advocates who have continued to champion reforms to essential public benefits.

The UC Office of the President will submit a report annually to the Board of Regents on progress toward achieving basic needs goals and recommendations.

² FACT SHEET: The Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$8 Billion in New Commitments as Part of Call to Action for White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health - The White House

KEY TO ACRONYMS

AB	Assembly Bill
ACL	All County Letter
CalSAWS	California Statewide Automated Welfare System
CCC	California Community Colleges
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
CPL	California Policy Lab
CSAC	California Student Aid Commission
CSU	California State University
GSWBS	Graduate Student Well-Being Survey
LPIE	Local Programs that Increase Employability
NASPA	National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
UCGPC	UC Graduate and Professional Council
UCGSES	UC Graduate Student Experience Survey
UCSA	UC Student Association
UCUES	UC Undergraduate Experience Survey

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1. Basic Needs Annual Report January 2023](#)