

**San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership
Provider Network – Central Valley Regional Meeting
Wednesday August 7, 2019 • 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**DBH Administration
303 E. Vanderbilt Way San Bernardino CA , 92415
Conference Room 109A**

AGENDA

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER
A. Call to Order (5 minutes) B. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)	Jessica Alexander
CONSENT ITEMS	PRESENTER
C. Approval of the Minutes from May 1, 2019 Meeting D. Approval of the Minutes from June 5, 2019 Meeting	Jessica Alexander
COMMITTEE UPDATES	PRESENTER
E. 211/CES F. ICH Report G. Homeless College Students	Gary Madden/Maricela Manzo Tom Hernandez Andre Bossieux / Brenda Dowdy
DISCUSSION ITEMS	PRESENTER
H. Current Sources of Funding	Tom Hernandez
PRESENTATION	PRESENTER
I. Results of HPN Training Survey DATA J. Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness (ACLU Report)	Jessica Alexander or UCR Extension Staff Jessica Alexander
CLOSING	
K. Public Comment	
L. Central Valley Membership News, Updates, Issues and Announcements	
Next Meeting: Central Valley Region HPN September 4, 2019 1:00-3:00pm 303 E Vanderbilt Way San Bernardino, CA 92415	

In September 2007, the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership (SBCHP) was formed to provide a more focused approach to our goal of ending homelessness within the County. The Partnership consists of city governments, community based organizations, faith-based organizations, educational institutes, non-profit organizations, private industry, and federal, state, and local government.

SBCHP was developed to promote a strong collaboration between agencies to direct the planning, development, and implementation of the County's 10-year-plan to end chronic homelessness. The Partnership meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Behavioral Health Resource Center in Rialto. The Partnership facilitates better communication, planning, coordination, and cooperation among all entities that provide services and/or resources for the relief of homelessness in San Bernardino County.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership is to provide a system of care that is inclusive, well planned, coordinated and evaluated and is accessible to all who are homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless.

THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY HOMELESS PARTNERSHIP MEETING FACILITY IS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. IF ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES OR OTHER AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES ARE NEEDED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC MEETING, REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE PARTNERSHIP MEETING. THE OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (909) 386-8297 AND THE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 303 E. VANDERBILT WAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415. <http://www.sbcounty.gov/sbchp/>

AGENDA AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT 303 E. VANDERBILT WAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415 OR BY EMAIL: HOMELESSRFP@HSS.SBCOUNTY.GOV.

Minutes for San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services Central Valley Regional Meeting

May 1, 2019
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
DBH Administration
303 E Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino CA 92415

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Becky Murillo, Housing Services Manager, Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION / OUTCOME
Call to Order Welcome and Introductions	Jessica Alexander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting was called to order ▪ Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves
CONSENT ITEMS		
Approval of Minutes from the March 6, 2019 Meeting	Jessica Alexander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An amendment to the next meeting date was made. The next meeting date should have been 5/1/19 not 4/3/19. No other changes were identified and minutes were approved.
COMMITTEE UPDATES		
All County HPN Report	Jessica Alexander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was a presentation by John Epps who spoke about training. There was discussion on how to get more training to HPN members in order to be ready to apply for things when they come up and bring more money into the county. A training survey will be going out to include about 50 questions to help identify training needs. Training has been offered in the past but would like quality programs.
211/CES	Gary Madden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the 1st quarter of this year there were 109 enrollments and 615 assessments completed. There are more people coming in than there are housing and resources for. The report is available online on the Office of Homeless Services website imbedded in the ICH reports.
ICH Report	Michele Bletcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ICH ratified a letter of support for US Vets for their submission to the U.S. Department of Labor for Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program Grant. An update was given on the San Bernardino County Homelessness Action Plan Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy Workshop update. The next Workshop #3 will be held May 20, 2019 from 9:00 to noon at the San Bernardino County Health Services Auditorium located at 850 E. Foothill Blvd in Rialto. A presentation was given by the Department of Aging and Adult Services on their At Home Preventions Program. The Point in Time Report was released.
Homeless College Students	Andre Bossieux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All community colleges in this district have money for homeless students and have homeless liaisons. Locally we have Valley and Crafton Hills. Valley College provided gas cards, Walmart cards, hygiene bags, food pantries and showers sporadically. Chaffey has a program for at risk of homeless students. There was discussion on how we can do more to assist these students. This year there are 3 youth from the San Bernardino TAY Program graduating from community college and going on to universities. May

		13th through May 20th they are doing an annual homeless youth PIT count.
PRESENTATIONS		
Health Homes Program at Molina Healthcare	Terry Reiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Homes is a new state Medi-Cal benefit implemented in January 2019 here in San Bernardino. A critical component is gearing more services towards those that are homeless. The program provides extra care coordination services to certain Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Identifies those that have complex medical needs and chronic conditions. They have to be in a Medi-Cal managed care program. They can stay with the doctor they have, it just gives them another layer of support. Builds a virtual Health Home around the member and provides all the support they need. Those that qualify must be chronically homeless. There is a 2nd implementation occurring on July 1, 2019 for those with serious mental illness. There are seven main services available through the Health Homes Services. The program provides for care coordination services but the housing itself is not covered. There was discussion about the need for affordable housing. They are having difficulty locating folks and they have to make multiple attempts before they can explain the program and gain their trust. Care team is comprised of a care coordinator, clinical consultant, housing navigator and they highly recommend there be community health workers. A handout was provided and a copy of the referral was distributed and will be sent out electronically.
DISCUSSION ITEMS		
HEAP/CESH State Funding	Deanna Luttrell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the HEAP contracts were approved April 30, 2019, primarily for non-profits and some are going through approval in May and June. As for CESH the priorities were approved at the ICH meeting but application won't be submitted until June. Still waiting on standard agreement.
CLOSING		
Public Comment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no public comment
Announcements	Lorrie Hinkelman Gary Madden Alice Varela Lorrie Hinkleman Anthony Brazier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So Cal Association for not for profits housing can be found at www.scanph.org There was a town hall meeting on homelessness held in Redlands April 30, 2019. There were approximately 20 homeless people there. They were recommending navigation centers. Explained CES and the vision of a One Stop Center. Statement was made that CES system is broken and no action is being taken. CES is not broken but there is a lack of resources. Those that need to be identified are being identified there just aren't enough resources for those that have more challenges. Has been out for a while but is now back.
Adjournment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.
Next Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next Central Valley HPN scheduled for June 5, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes for San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services Central Valley Regional Meeting

June 5, 2019
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
DBH Administration
303 E Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino CA 92415

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Becky Murillo, Housing Services Manager, Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION / OUTCOME
Call to Order Welcome and Introductions	Becky Murillo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting was called to order ▪ Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves
CONSENT ITEMS		
Approval of Minutes from the May 1, 2019 Meeting	Becky Murillo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The minutes were not approved because there wasn't a quorum.
COMMITTEE UPDATES		
211/CES ICH Report Homeless College Students	Gary Madden Tom Hernandez Brenda Dowdy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gary Madden of United Way 2-1-1 provided an update on the number of assessments, referrals and enrollments in April of 2019 and explained prioritization as well as the referral and enrollment process. There were 272 assessments, 97 referrals, 60 enrollments and only 20 housed primarily due to a lack of affordable housing. A suggestion was made to provide a breakdown to include the number of children and college aged students. ▪ An update from the May 22, 2019 ICH meeting was given. The consent items were the ratification of letters of support for Life Community Development, U.S. Vets and HomeAid Inland Empire. There was a presentation by Josh Candelaria on the May Revise, and there was discussion on the homeless funding the Governor is proposing. There was also a presentation by Dr. Brian Distelberg on the No Child Left Unsheltered Program. Lastly, there was a review of recommendations from the PIT count survey which will be folded into the multi-jurisdictional meeting on June 10, 2019. The next ICH meeting will be held June 26, 2019. ▪ An update was provided on homeless college students. Brenda said they were able to secure funds for scholarships to assist several students in continuing their education. They are also collaborating with another agency to mentor the students. The TAY program county wide ended the school year with 39 youth in community college with 3 of them graduating from Valley College.
PRESENTATIONS		
Resource Mapping for Central Valley	Don Smith and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An exercise was conducted on Asset/Resource Mapping for Central Valley Region to figure out how we

HPN	Anthony Brazier	could strategically align the resources we have and have coordinated service delivery to make the most of what little we have to help facilitate housing solutions.
DISCUSSION ITEMS		
HEAP/CESH State Funding	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An update was provided on HEAP/CESH Funding. There were 22 agencies awarded HEAP funding for 25 projects. Disbursements should be starting in June. Round 2 of CESH is due in 3 weeks. It is a little over 2 million for CESH. Standard agreement hasn't been received from the state yet.
CLOSING		
Public Comment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was no public comment
Announcements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summer Meal Program - If you text the word food to 877877 it will provide locations where residents can get breakfast and lunch. Other food app information will be sent to Amy to be distributed. ▪ 211 also has texting capability. If you send a text to 898211 with zip code, staff can respond. ▪ A request to make a correction to the minutes was made but won't be addressed until the next meeting. ▪ Next ICH meeting is on June 26, 2019
Adjournment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.
Next Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The next Central Valley HPN scheduled for August 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

June 5, 2019 Attendees:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
ANEKE	JERRY	Student	909-993-4967	chimaneke@gmail.com
BHATTACHATJ	SUBORNA	Student	909-907-2335	
BIANDI	VICKY	FKFL	909-301-9843	justagirl1165@yahoo.com
BRAMMER	CHAD	Valdez Educational Services	909-362-3620	chadb@valdezeducation.com
BRAZIER	ANTHONY			
CHAWDHURY	VALENTINA	Student	909-800-3763	valentina.chawdhury@gmail.com
DOLPHIN	MICHAEL	Employment Developer	909-886-2994	mdolphin@timeforchangeoundation.org
DOWDY	BRENDA	San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools	909-386-2634	brenda_dowdy@sbcss.net
BONILLA	ERICH	Student	951-485-8959	erich92@gmail.com
GAVIN	ERIC	Open Door	257-5208	egavin@opendoorcp.com
HERNANDEZ	TOM	CDHA-OHS	909-386-8208	thernandez@dbh.sbcounty.gov
JONES	LAWRENCE	C.M./DRS	909-693-3302	ljones@mhsinc.org
KAKKAR	SHIKHA	Student	505-510-2238	drshikhahanda@gmail.com
KITOWSKI	DANIEL	Step Up		dkitowski@stepuponsecond.org
LIRA	MARIA	Student	909-344-9329	Marquez0691@yahoo.com
MADDEN	GARY	211	909-980-2857	gmadden@iewu.org
MOORE	UJIMA	LSSSC	909-381-6421	umoore@isssc.org
MURILLO	BECKY	Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino	909-890-5308	rmurillo@hacsb.com
PERRY	SHONIE	SBCSS Homeless/Foster	909-386-2914	shonie.perry@sbcss.net
RABADJ	ROXANA	Student	909-201-3974	004227924@coyote.edu
SANCHEZ	ALEJANDRA	Student	909-200-8782	aguilaralejandra712@gmail.com
SMITH	DON	Pathways to Housing	909-210-0639	donsmithsolutions@outlook.com
SMITH	TINA	FSA Redlands	909-793-2673	rfstina@outlook.com
TINKER	MIKE	Our House	909-873-1973	mystinker4u@sbcglobal.net
VALDEZ	AARON	Valdez Educational Services		aaronv@valdezeducation.com
VANDERWYCH	RAMONA	Option House	805-418-0382	ramonaev@optionhouseinc.com
VARELA	ALICE	Community Advocate Support Kids in Progress	909-561-5305	avarela@skipwithus.org
VEGA	JESSICA	US Vets	951-203-1254	jvega@usvetsinc.org

Default Report

Last Modified: 2019-07-25 11:13:38 PDT

Q1 - Which of these best describes your role within your organization?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Executive	36.25%	29
2	Manager/S	23.75%	19
3	Board Men	8.75%	7
4	Full-time St	25.00%	20
5	Part-time S	0.00%	0
6	Volunteer	1.25%	1
7	Other (plea	5.00%	4
	Total	100%	80

Q1_7_TEXT - Other (please specify):

case manager

Interested Party

Owner/operator

The first three would be accurate

Q2 - How long has your organization been an established nonprofit?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	0-4 years	22.67%	17
2	5-10 years	13.33%	10
3	Over 10 ye	64.00%	48
	Total	100%	75

Q3 - What type of audience does your nonprofit assist or work with? Please select all that apply.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Homeless I	17.87%	67
2	Homeless F	16.80%	63
3	Homeless \	12.53%	47
4	Homeless 1	9.87%	37
5	Individuals	12.80%	48
6	Formerly Ir	11.47%	43
7	Individuals	11.20%	42
8	Other (plea	7.47%	28
	Total	100%	375

Q3_8_TEXT - Other (please specify):

All TAY 16-25

we are not a non profit/ A county agency

Victims of Domestic Violence

general homeless populations

HIV/AIDS

At risk and foster youth
 HIV/AIDS
 Cross disabilities individuals
 elderly disable
 Seniors
 Those at risk of homelessness.
 Homeless that require medical care
 DV Homeless Prevention
 Woman and children we have 6 homes also traffied youth ge 18-25
 Homeless w/Medical issues
 unaccompanied youths
 Low Income Individuals & Families
 Low-income (food assistance, etc.)
 Homeless patients access 911 services
 Schools in our region
 LGBTQ
 General population basic needs
 HIV/AIDS
 Domestic Violence
 My non-profit is a municipality
 All who need basic services
 seniors, disabled, etc
 Domestic Violence

Q4 - How many unduplicated clients do you serve annually?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	49 or less	16.88%	13
2	50-100	18.18%	14
3	101-499	20.78%	16
4	500 or mor	44.16%	34
	Total	100%	77

Q5 - How many full- and part-time staff members do you have?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	5 or less	40.26%	31
2	10-Jun	6.49%	5
3	24-Nov	15.58%	12
4	25 or more	37.66%	29
	Total	100%	77

Q6 - What areas are of the most interest for training or development? Please select all that apply.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Communic	10.39%	37
2	Leadership	10.11%	36
3	Community	14.89%	53

4 Business Pr	6.18%	22
5 Financial M	5.90%	21
6 Managemen	5.06%	18
7 Staff Super	6.18%	22
8 Volunteer I	8.43%	30
9 Marketing/	8.15%	29
10 Evaluation,	6.46%	23
11 Fundraising	11.24%	40
12 Board Deve	5.06%	18
13 Other (plea	1.97%	7
Total	100%	356

Q6_13_TEXT - Other (please specify):

Grant platforms

Grant writing

Healthcare

Motivational interviewing, strength based case management, trauma informed care, best practices servi

Growth in all areas

Resource Coordination

Motivational Interviewing, Case Management - Strength Based Techniques, Trauma Informed Care

Q7 - How much time do you, and others associated with your organization, have available to devote to

#	Answer	%	Count
1	1-2 hours p	21.62%	16
2	1-2 hours p	51.35%	38
3	1-2 hours p	27.03%	20
	Total	100%	74

Q8 - What is your preferred method to receive training?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	In-person c	28.77%	21
2	Online clas	4.11%	3
3	Mix of in-p	67.12%	49
	Total	100%	73

Q9 - Please share any additional comments or feedback you have.

Understanding funders reimbursement process and how organization operate under their time line.

nothing at this time

assertive staff management.

We want to be a leader in ending homelessness by providing a unique system of dignified housing oppo

I would like training that would be specific to cross disabilities.

Thank you

I am the first employee (this month) of a previously all-volunteer organization. Most of the volunteers

Very interested in training

I appreciate this survey and look forward to such training as UCR Extension makes available.

I believe training is valuable to the entire HPN. I have a particular interest in social media/marketing.

Really trying to become part of this fellowship

I want to truly rid homelessness for ever. I have the cure

We are the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Getting funds for more clothing, shoes, toiletries, and more open shelters.

if and when training is available how much would it cost?

I feel that having training will enhance and qualify leadership in all facilities related to homeless business

It would be good if you could train us in the San Bernardino Mts.

I think there needs to be a better balance of how to approach the homeless community. But my views

organizational

on

welcomes

the

opportunity

for

additional

training in

pertinent

areas of

development.

A grant

writing

class an

overview

of

preparations

and

expectations

would

be

welcomed

. A general

“How

To”

write a

I think it would be helpful to have training opportunities for governmental agencies regarding housing a

Need

None

I would love to get more educated on how to assist our community. I have been in the field for over 11

ng the poor and homeless

training?

ortunities, programs and supportive services.

have other significant commitments.

ses

and experience are usually not well received because of the far left liberal approach which is truly more

and civil rights as it pertains to the extremely low-income and homeless population. Some sort of best pr

years. I am now working in our community center in San Bernardino and I am trying to assist the comm

harmful than helpful to those whom remain homeless. And so much more I have to say about this topi

actices would be helpful.

unity in the best ways possible. I would like to know more about services that are out there for the hom

c.

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SUPPORTING STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Perspectives from California's Community Colleges



This report is a collaborative effort of the California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP) and the ACLU Foundations of California (ACLU). The ACLU's statewide Education Equity team draws from each of the ACLU's three affiliates in California: the ACLU Foundation of Northern California, the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, and the ACLU Foundation of San Diego & Imperial Counties.

CHYP and the ACLU together administered a survey of California's homeless liaisons in spring 2018 as part of both organizations' work learning about the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness and desire to advocate for greater resources and supports for them. CHYP and the ACLU wanted to hear from school liaisons, who work directly with students experiencing homelessness in schools, to better understand the needs of students experiencing homelessness and the capacity and resources of the schools that serve them.

CHYP and the ACLU administered the survey to K–12 homeless liaisons and to community college liaisons for students experiencing homelessness in California. This report details key findings and recommendations from the community college survey.

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California





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Executive Summary

While investing in their futures, many college students across California struggle to find a place to call home. Lacking a “fixed, regular, and adequate” nighttime residence—which can include doubling up with other people, living in a vehicle, staying in a shelter, or sleeping outside—these students are often hidden in plain sight.

Youth experiencing homelessness are undercounted in local, state, and federal efforts to enumerate the homeless population, and the same is true among California’s public colleges. Until recently, the California Community Colleges had not systematically identified students experiencing homelessness, though available data now suggests roughly one in five students qualify as “homeless.”¹ As a result, many students’ unique needs are unmet, and community colleges may miss opportunities to ensure students’ lifelong success.

Public colleges in California, including every community college, are required to have a homeless liaison to support students experiencing homelessness. To better understand the needs of students experiencing homelessness and the ways California’s colleges can more effectively support them, the California Homeless Youth Project (CHYP) and the ACLU Foundations of California (ACLU) surveyed California’s college homeless liaisons. Staff from as many as 61% of California’s community colleges responded to the survey. This report details the responses of people working most closely with this student community and offers recommendations to improve practice.

Legal Framework

In 1987, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act reaffirmed the rights of K–12 students experiencing homelessness and established a network of school district liaisons responsible for providing additional support to these youth. Following suit, college students experiencing homelessness in California recently received the promise of additional supports with the passage of Assembly Bill 801 in 2016, the Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act (AB 801). Among other supports, AB 801 requires the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCCs),

and requests the University of California (UC), designate at least one liaison on each campus to serve students experiencing homelessness. College homeless liaisons play a critical role in helping students experiencing homelessness navigate the higher education system, including financial aid, and access much needed resources.

Findings

- 1. Homeless liaison positions are not adequately funded.** A relatively new position under state law, the college-level homeless liaison often has many other primary responsibilities pulling them away from supporting students experiencing homelessness. Only 5% of respondents reported spending 20 hours or more supporting students experiencing homelessness. As one liaison wrote, *“We do not have adequate staffing or resources to assist with referrals or to fully assist the at-risk of homelessness population.”*
- 2. The 5 greatest needs of students experiencing homelessness are connections to housing, FAFSA completion, mental health services, supportive services beyond the school setting, and CalFresh assistance.** This list emphasizes the importance of engaging in a comprehensive conversation about students’ greatest needs and the corresponding resources that can support students experiencing homelessness. As one homeless liaison and financial aid advisor wrote, we need *“policies that can join many members of a community to help the homeless population in a few ways ... [financially], academically, and humanely, carrying out help where it is needed.”*
- 3. Housing is the most difficult need to meet for students experiencing homelessness.** An overwhelming majority of respondents (82%) said that housing is the support that they are least able to provide. As one liaison wrote, *“There needs to be more low-income housing, transitional housing, and 18-24 year shelters with an emphasis on academic support and degree completion. A student who cannot be full-time and receive low-income housing is not supported in their goals.”*
- 4. The majority of respondents are aware of recent legislation affecting students experiencing homelessness, though implementation is incomplete.** For example, 86% of respondents were familiar with the right to priority enrollment for students experiencing homelessness under AB 801. However, only 81% of respondents reported this requirement being implemented on their campus.
- 5. California Community Colleges are not methodically identifying students experiencing homelessness across the system or at individual campuses.** Thanks to a recent report by the Hope Center, we now have system-wide rates of student homelessness across CCC campuses. Nearly 1 in 5 students (19%) experienced homelessness at some point during the past year.² This definition includes students who are couch-surfing or are sleeping outside, in cars, abandoned buildings, hotels, and emergency shelters. However, at the school level, most college liaisons are not systematically or comprehensively identifying students, as only five respondents said that their campus assesses every student at the beginning of the year to identify students at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. As one liaison wrote, *“We need a better way to identify homeless students.”*

Recommendations

- 1. The state of California should fully fund homeless liaison positions.** Although the legislature requires all CCCs and CSUs to identify a homeless liaison on each campus, funding is not allocated by the state to conduct this work. Especially in light of available data suggesting high rates of student homelessness at the community college level, community colleges should designate at least one employee whose primary responsibility is to support students experiencing homelessness at each campus. The state of California should recognize the funding required to conduct this work. As one homeless liaison and financial aid advisor wrote, the homeless liaison role “*should be its own position.*”
- 2. Community colleges should pursue more housing resources specifically for college students experiencing homelessness.** Possible housing resources include advocating for affordable student housing on or near each campus, developing emergency short-term housing for students experiencing homelessness, creating student housing by leasing existing housing stock near each college, and implementing host homes for college students. The State of California should incentivize and help fund these efforts.
- 3. Community colleges should implement systematic and effective ways to identify students experiencing homelessness.** The CCCs must develop a process to determine how many of their students are experiencing homelessness. It is difficult to develop and implement informed solutions for students at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness without understanding the scope of the problem. The CSU and UC systems both use census-type surveys to better understand student homelessness system-wide, which CCCs could employ. In addition, individual community colleges should identify all students experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness for liaisons to fulfill their responsibility to assist them. For example, community colleges should include standardized questions on their general application for all students, and conduct surveys periodically to identify students whose circumstances change mid-year.

Background and Legal Framework

While investing in their futures, many college students across California struggle to find a place to call home. Homelessness—lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence—can take many forms, including doubling up with other people, living in a vehicle, staying in a shelter, or sleeping outside.³ According to recent studies, 11% of California State University (CSU) students and 5% of University of California (UC) students reported experiencing homelessness at least once in the past year.⁴ A system-wide study of student homelessness at California Community colleges (CCCs) was recently conducted by The Hope Center and the CCC Chancellor’s office, which found that 19% of CCC students experienced homelessness in the past year⁵, compared to 14% of students in community colleges nationwide.⁶ This research is consistent with the Los Angeles Community College District finding that 19% of their students experienced homelessness in the 2016–2017 school year. Students at Peralta Community College District in Alameda County had even higher rates of homelessness, at 30%.⁷ Thus, available data shows students at CCCs face particularly acute challenges with housing.

In 1987, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act reaffirmed the rights of homeless K–12 students and established a network of school district liaisons responsible for providing additional support to these youth.⁸ In 2016, college students experiencing homelessness in California received the promise of additional supports with the passage of AB 801, which supports homeless and former foster youth in several ways.⁹ First, it gives them priority enrollment for classes at CCCs and CSUs and requests that UCs do the same. Second, it makes students experiencing homelessness automatically eligible for a California College Promise Grant fee waiver at the CCCs, waiving their college tuition. Third, it requires CSUs, CCCs, and requests UCs designate at least one liaison on each campus to serve students experiencing homelessness and former foster youth. (Though the law speaks of “a staff member” to serve both student groups, schools may designate multiple liaisons, such as one for students experiencing homelessness and another for former foster youth). The liaisons are

tasked with identifying resources available to these student groups, informing students about such resources, and helping them with financial aid and other application processes.¹⁰

Higher education homeless liaisons can play a critical role in helping students experiencing homelessness navigate the higher education system and access much needed resources. When the California Homeless Youth Project

(CHYP) convened a focus group of students experiencing homelessness and asked what they needed to be successful in college, they reported needing stability, positive relationships with supportive adults, help navigating financial aid, and knowledge of existing campus resources. Based on liaisons' job responsibilities outlined in AB 801, these are precisely the kinds of services that the role of higher education homeless liaisons aim to provide.

Homeless Liaisons' Duties

Under AB 801, California Community Colleges and California State Universities shall, and the University of California is requested to, do the following:

(1) Designate a staff member who is employed within the financial aid office, or another appropriate office or department, of the institution to serve as the Homeless and Foster Student Liaison. The Homeless and Foster Student Liaison shall be responsible for understanding the provisions of the federal Higher Education Act pertaining to financial aid eligibility of current and former foster youth and homeless youth, including unaccompanied homeless youth, and for identifying services available and appropriate for enrolled students who fall under one or more of these categories. The liaison shall assist these students in applying for and receiving federal and state financial aid and available services.

(2) Inform current and prospective students of the institution about student financial aid and other assistance available to homeless youth and current and former foster youth, including their eligibility as independent students under Section 1087vv of the federal Higher Education Act, as that section read on December 31, 2015.

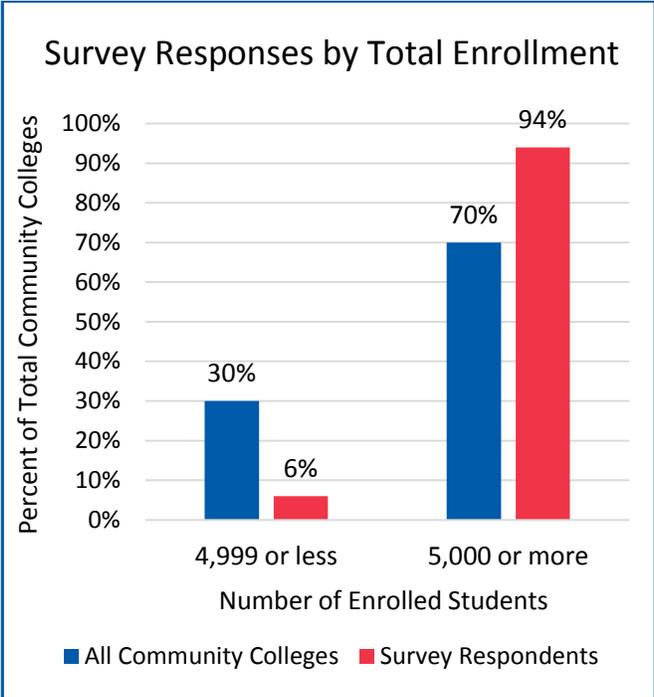
Cal. Educ. Code § 67003.5

Survey Responses

The survey achieved a substantial response rate among California’s community colleges. The survey received responses from 81 college-level staff, 69 of whom self-identified as employees at a CCC. Given that there are 114 CCCs in California, the survey received responses from as many as 61% of CCCs across the state. Moreover, 38 of the 69 responses were from individuals who self-identified as the official liaison for their particular community college, reflecting responses from at least 33% of all CCCs. For reasons discussed in Appendix A, the survey was not widely disseminated to representatives from CSUs or UCs.

Of the respondents who worked at CCCs, 94% worked on campuses with 5,000 or more students.ⁱ Based on 2016–2017 CCC enrollment data, 70% of CCCs have 5,000 or more full-time equivalent students.¹¹ Thus, staff working at smaller community colleges with fewer than 5,000 students are underrepresented in the survey results.

Approximately half of the respondents said that they were the primary person on their campus tasked with responding to the needs of students experiencing homelessness. The remainder of respondents provided assistance to youth experiencing homelessness, but did not consider themselves the primary point person. Counseling is the most common background of the respondents, and 41% of respondents said that they had a counseling certification, credential, or master’s degree.



ⁱ Because some respondents did not answer every question, percentages discussed throughout this report are reflective of the number of respondents to each question.



Findings

The survey achieved a response rate of as much as 61% of all CCCs. Based on the survey responses, which included a mix of multiple choice and open-ended questions, CHYP and the ACLU developed the following findings and recommendations.

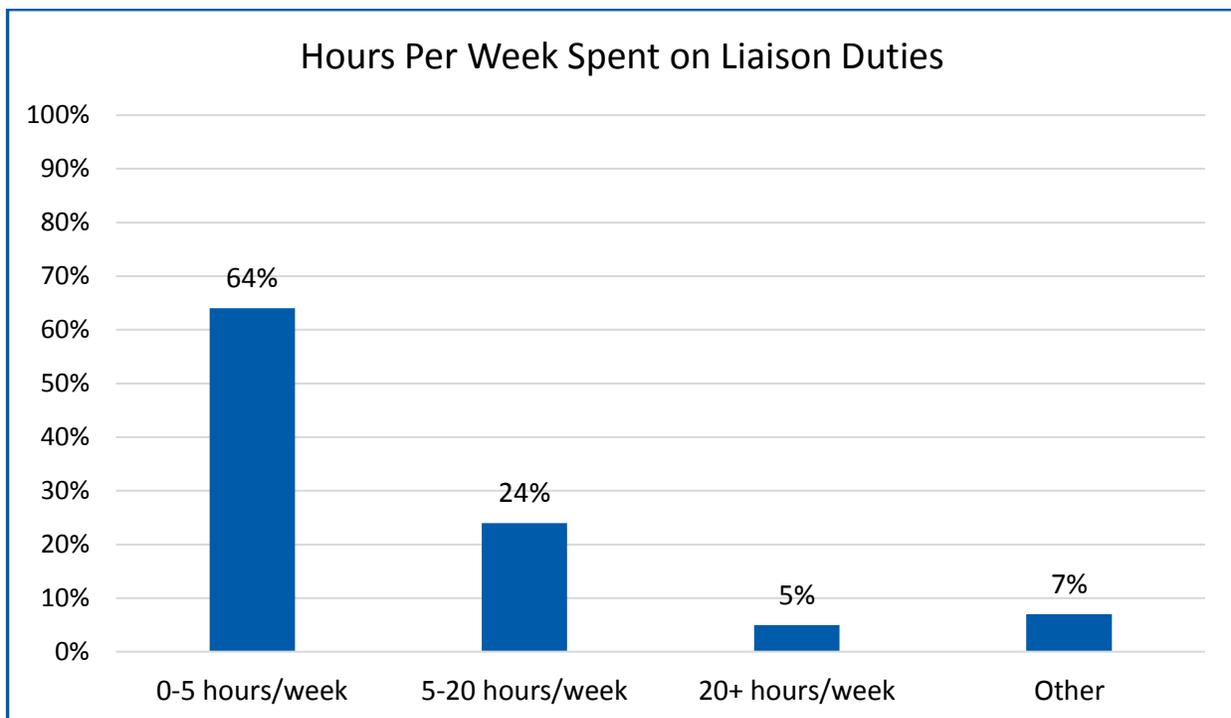
1. Homeless liaison positions are not yet adequately funded.

Community college homeless liaisons balance multiple roles and have difficulty fulfilling their duties to assist students experiencing homelessness. While nearly all of the respondents said that they directly serve students experiencing homelessness, over half said that being a homeless liaison was just one of their many job titles. Other common job titles include being a foster care liaison (51%); being in a staff or administrative role for Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Center for

Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE), or a Guardian Scholars program (33%); and being in a staff or administrative role in the Financial Aid Office (16%). Accordingly, 71% of the survey's respondents feel that their college has not yet adequately staffed and funded the homeless liaison position.

Reflecting their many roles and responsibilities, 64% of respondents who work full-time said that they spend 5 hours or fewer on their homeless liaison duties each week. Only 5% of respondents reported spending 20 hours or more supporting students experiencing homelessness. Most respondents (77%) did report having at least one staff member who supports them in assisting students experiencing homelessness, though the survey did not ask how much time other staff provide in support. Nonetheless, half of all respondents do not feel that they have sufficient time to carry out their homeless liaison duties.

Nearly two out of three respondents who work full-time said that they spend 5 hours or fewer on their homeless liaison duties each week.



“The homeless liaison position is very involved and I feel it should be its own position versus taking on two roles, a financial aid technician/officer and homeless liaison, at the same time. It would be ideal to have two staff members to assist with the homeless population on campus.”

– CCC Financial Aid Officer / Homeless Liaison

“There has been no funding directed for the position. This title was added in addition to my current job.”

– CCC Financial Coach / SparkPoint Coordinator / Homeless Liaison

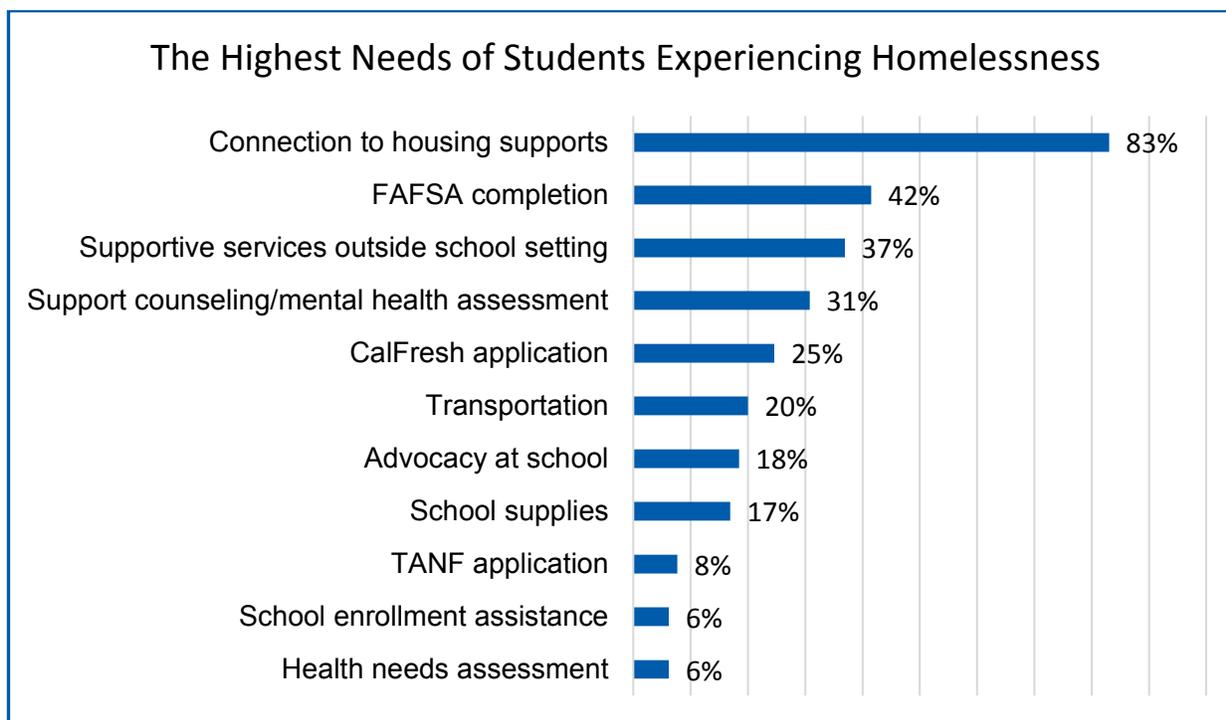
“Our role primarily has been to ascertain independent student status for the FAFSA, and now the BOG-FW/CCPG. We do not have adequate staffing or resources to assist with referrals or to fully assist the at-risk of homelessness population who may already be independent for financial aid.”

– CCC Homelessness Liaison / Financial Aid Technician / Director of Programs

Community college homeless liaisons provided some specific suggestions on where CCCs should invest additional resources. For example, when asked what policies need to be in place to support students experiencing homelessness, one CCC Homeless Liaison/Financial Aid Technician said, *“We just need more staffing, and a dedicated person in the Financial Aid Office to assist this population.”* Similarly, a CCC Homeless and Foster Youth Liaison said, *“Make it mandatory that the foster youth liaison and the homeless youth liaison must be two separate people ... because it is difficult to serve both well. I think one group suffers and it is usually the homeless youth because I have more foster youth that I serve.”* Thus, as liaisons reported, when colleges hire staff to specifically serve students experiencing homelessness, it allows homeless liaisons to more fully support their academic success and help them meet their basic needs.

2. The 5 greatest needs of students experiencing homelessness are connections to housing, FAFSA completion, counseling and mental health services, supportive services beyond the school setting, and CalFresh assistance.

Survey respondents were asked to pick the three greatest needs of the students experiencing homelessness that they serve. When presented with a list of twelve options, including an “other” option, respondents most frequently identified as the highest needs: connections to housing supports (83%), Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion (42%), counseling/mental health needs assessments (37%), supportive services beyond the campus setting (30%), and navigating the CalFresh application process (25%).



State and federal research around these issues provide insights into why liaisons reported these as students' greatest needs and propose frameworks for meeting such needs¹²:

- **Housing Supports:** Balancing work and academics, students attending California's public institutions have little financial leverage to compete in expensive, crowded rental markets. Housing supports such as emergency housing on campus, student emergency grants, low-income student housing or rental vouchers, and referrals to local housing agencies can help students experiencing homelessness establish stability in the immediate and long-term future.
- **FAFSA Completion:** Many students find the FAFSA to be lengthy, confusing, and difficult to complete.¹³ Unaccompanied homeless youth may experience additional challenges when completing the FAFSA because they need to have their homelessness verified for financial aid purposes by a school district homeless liaison or by certain homeless service providers.¹⁴ Verification of homelessness allows these students to be considered financially independent from their parents, which means they do not need their parents' financial information or signatures on the FAFSA.¹⁵
- **Enrollment in CalFresh:** College students experiencing homelessness may also experience higher rates of food insecurity due to financial hardship and a lack of places to store and prepare food. CalFresh provides monthly financial assistance to eligible low-income households. Eligible college students can use CalFresh benefits to purchase groceries off-campus as well as groceries and prepared foods on certain college campuses.¹⁶ However, a lack of awareness and confusing eligibility requirements prevent students from fully utilizing this resource.¹⁷
- **Mental Health Services:** Many of California's college students struggle with anxiety, stress, depression, and other mental health needs that impact their academic success and quality of life.¹⁸ Students experiencing homelessness while attending college may have even greater mental health needs than their peers, with higher rates of trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, self-injurious behaviors, and suicide.¹⁹ Campus mental health clinics, local community clinics, and health insurance coverage can and should help students receive needed mental health services.
- **Supportive Services Beyond the Campus:** Students need help understanding what resources are available to them within and beyond their campus and how to access these resources. With sufficient supports, higher education homeless liaisons can help students experiencing homelessness secure housing, navigate complex financial aid forms, and enroll in public benefits like CalFresh. Multi-sector partnerships can also help students get the supports they need to thrive in college and beyond.

The California Homeless Youth Project, in collaboration with SchoolHouse Connection, published a series of issue briefs titled [Supporting California's Homeless & Low-Income College Students: A Practical Guide](#) that provide an overview of the top five needs of students experiencing homelessness and the resources that can support them.

“[We need] policies that can join many members of a community to help the homeless population in a few ways ... [financially], academically, and humanely, carrying out help where it is needed.”

– CCC Homeless Liaison/Financial Aid Advisor

3. Housing is the most difficult need to meet for students experiencing homelessness.

Survey respondents identified housing as the greatest need of students they serve, yet 82% of respondents said that housing is the support that they are least able to provide. This may be due to limited student housing options at California’s community colleges, where almost all of the survey respondents work. Only 11 out of 114 CCCs offer student housing, thus housing only a small fraction of the total CCC student body.²⁰ In contrast, all of the CSUs and UCs offer student housing and house about 11% and 34% of their total student bodies, respectively.²¹

“There needs to be more low-income housing, transitional housing, and 18-24 year shelters with an emphasis on academic support and degree completion. A student who cannot be full-time and receive low-income housing is not supported in their goals.”

– CCC Homeless Liaison

In response to the need for more housing resources for students, several respondents recommended building short- and long-term campus housing. When asked what policies need to be in place to support students experiencing homelessness, campus staff suggested “modular housing on campus,” “affordable student housing,” and “rapid housing.” Respondents also offered approaches to building campus housing on unused college land such as creating public-private incentives for development and utilizing existing campus construction programs.

Beyond on-campus student housing, respondents highlighted the need for more low-income housing, transitional housing, and emergency shelters. They also highlighted the need for partnerships with

local agencies, nonprofits, and landlords to offer a comprehensive portfolio of housing resources to students experiencing homelessness. When asked what policies could be put in place, higher education staff and administrators said:

- *“Support to waive or pay for rent deposits. Create policies to compensate community members willing to rent rooms to our students.”*
- *“Provide funding for community colleges to build on-campus housing that would prioritize homeless youth.”*
- *“[Create] designated housing facilities that we can send the students to. Currently, we refer them out but are unsure if they find a place.”*
- *“Incentives to landlords to rent to students, especially students with children.”*

In sum, respondents reported being unable to refer students to housing not only because of a dearth of housing options for students, but also because of limited connections and financial supports to connect students with existing systems.

4. The majority of respondents are aware of recent legislation affecting students experiencing homelessness, though implementation is incomplete.

California law only recently created many of the key supports available to college students experiencing homelessness. Encouragingly, respondents reported being broadly familiar with these recent changes in law. However, respondents also reported that implementation of these recent changes in law lags behind respondents’ familiarity with them.

Most notably, when provided a description of AB 801, The Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act, a substantial majority of respondents said they were familiar with the law’s requirements and that those requirements were implemented at their campus. Enacted in 2016, AB 801 requests UC campuses and requires



CSU campuses and all CCCs to designate at least one liaison on every campus to identify resources available to students experiencing homelessness, inform them about these resources, and help them with application processes. Nearly all respondents (88%) are familiar with these requirements and report they are being implemented on their campus. The law also affords homeless and foster youth priority class enrollment at the CCCs and CSUs, and requests that UCs do the same.²² Again, a substantial majority of respondents (86%) reported being familiar with the priority enrollment requirement, though slightly fewer respondents (81%) reported the requirement being implemented on their campus.

Similarly, most respondents were familiar with AB 214 (2017), which aims to increase college student enrollment in CalFresh, California's version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).²³ A college student enrolled at least half-time must also work at least 20 hours per week or qualify for a work exemption to be eligible for CalFresh. AB 214 requires the Department of Social Services to create and maintain [a list of college programs](#) and allow students enrolled in these programs to be exempt from the CalFresh work requirement.²⁴ In addition, this law requires the California Student Aid Commission to notify Cal Grant recipients who meet eligibility requirements under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program about their potential eligibility for CalFresh.²⁵ A substantial majority of respondents (75%) reported being aware of these new opportunities for students facing food instability. However, a smaller number of respondents (44%) said AB 214 is being implemented on their campus, while just as many

(44%) reported not knowing whether or not the new law was being implemented.

In sum, though school personnel's familiarity with AB 801 and 214 is high, implementation of these relatively new laws may still be incomplete.

5. California Community Colleges are not methodically identifying students experiencing homelessness across the system or at individual campuses.

Based on the results of the survey, it appears the CCCs are not methodically collecting data about students experiencing homelessness across the CCC system. In other words, the CCCs lack a system for assessing, compiling, and reporting overall rates of student housing instability and homelessness across their 114 campuses. In contrast, California's public universities have conducted census surveys to estimate the system-wide rates of student homelessness system-wide. Available data from the CCCs suggests rates of student homelessness far above the national average,²⁶ and the recent Hope Study report confirms that nearly 1 in 5 students (19%) experience homelessness.

"We don't need better policies. We need a better way to identify homeless students."

– CCC Homeless Liaison

In addition, most college liaisons are not systematically and comprehensively identifying students experiencing homelessness at the school-level. Only five respondents said that their campus assesses every student at the beginning of the year to identify students at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Many schools rely on enrollment packets and the FAFSA to identify students experiencing homelessness—about six out of ten respondents said they used these forms to identify students at the beginning of the school year (63%) and during the school year (58%). However, these methods are imperfect.

“We haven’t had a large of amount of students identify as homeless.”

– CCC Homeless & Foster Youth Liaison / CalWORKs / Advisor

Not all students experiencing homelessness are eligible for federal financial aid, complete the FAFSA, or know to self-identify as “homeless” on the federal application even if they do complete it. Respondents also rely heavily on passive systems of identification, such as referrals from other offices—for example, 93% of respondents rely on referrals from other offices to identify students during the school year. Accordingly, over one third of survey respondents (37%) said that they did not know how many students were experiencing homelessness on their campuses – and one

respondent guessed that their campus had none. Thus, the CCCs do not yet have in place systematic and affirmative practices for identifying students experiencing homelessness.

Difficulty identifying these students is reflective of a lack of formal training available to higher education staff and administrators. According to respondents, the three most common types of training that they received were webinars (73%), workshops or conferences (70%), and emails (60%). Meanwhile, less than half said that they received on-the job training or training with their supervisor, and only one in three said that they attended government-provided trainings. The lack of formal training by supervisors and/or campuses likely impacts staff and administrators’ ability to systematically identify students in need and to provide them with comprehensive services and referrals.



Recommendations

1. Community colleges should fully fund homeless liaison positions in conjunction with the State of California.

CCCs should designate at least one employee whose primary responsibility is to support students experiencing homelessness at each campus. Doing so would give homeless liaisons the capacity to build partnerships with nonprofit service providers and local county agencies; develop databases of local, state, and federal resources that students may qualify for; conduct student outreach; increase awareness of student homelessness in the campus community; and provide comprehensive case management. Similarly, California's community colleges should provide sufficient support staff and other resources to their homeless liaisons to help students meet their basic needs and reach their educational goals.

2. Community colleges should pursue more housing resources specifically for college students experiencing homelessness.

California's community colleges must leverage additional housing resources for students experiencing homelessness. Possible housing resources include advocating for affordable student housing on or near each campus, developing emergency short-term housing for students experiencing homelessness, and creating student housing by leasing existing housing stock near each college. The State of California should incentivize and help fund these efforts. Some campuses, such as San Diego State University and Sacramento State University, are taking action, creatively partnering with local housing authorities, religious organizations, and even college alumni to find shelter for students.

Spotlight: San Diego University's Economic Crisis Response Team

San Diego State University (SDSU) has an Economic Crisis Response Team that helps students facing immediate crises, including food insecurity, housing insecurity, and a lack of transportation. Students experiencing homelessness who have been in foster care may also qualify for the [Guardian Scholars Program](#). In 2015, SDSU collaborated with the San Diego Housing Commission and used federal funding as a [pilot program](#) to secure year-round housing for Guardian Scholars over the following three years.

Spotlight: Sacramento State University's Emergency Housing Program

In 2017, Sacramento State debuted their [Emergency Housing Program](#), providing short-term housing assistance and meal plans to students for up to 30 days in the residence halls. This time period allows students and the crisis manager to begin to plan and arrange for long-term housing. The campus's Host a Hornet Program matches interested alumni with a food-insecure student, whom they invite into their home for dinner twice a month. In addition, members of local churches close to the campus have opened up their homes to students in need.

3. Community colleges should implement systematic and effective ways to identify students experiencing homelessness.

California Community Colleges, to date, do not yet have an ongoing process to determine how many of their students are experiencing homelessness. Not understanding the scope of the problem across the community college system delays solution-oriented conversations and impedes informed actions that would benefit students at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

In addition, the majority of CCCs lack information about the number of students experiencing homelessness at their individual campuses. Without a thorough identification processes, homeless liaisons at each campus are not able to fulfill their responsibility to assist students who are struggling to meet their basic needs.

Community colleges should implement systematic and effective ways of identifying students experiencing homelessness. A simple but effective way of identifying such students would be for CCCs to include and utilize standardized questions on their college applications concerning students' current or prior experiences with homelessness or risk of homelessness (in alignment with existing federal definitions of homelessness). Doing so would create annual system-wide data on this issue, which the CCCs Chancellor's Office could compile and share for decision makers at the state and local levels. In addition, this information would apprise individual campuses of their incoming students' needs and empower homeless liaisons to better serve their students. As another strategy, since a student's housing situation could change at any time, California's community colleges could also administer a survey to all of their students during the academic year to identify students who lose permanent housing during the semester.

Spotlight: California State University's Basic Needs Study

The California State University recently commissioned a study of food and housing security among CSU students. As part of the study, a comprehensive survey—which included a section on homelessness—was administered to over 27,000 students across 23 CSU campuses.²⁷ Recognizing the need for greater systemwide data collection, and the lack of recognized standardized measurement for food and housing security among college students, the study's authors have shared the survey instruments and methodology, which are available [online](#).



Conclusion

Students experiencing homelessness often report having no one to turn to when they need help the most. California's community college homeless liaisons can play a critical role ensuring these students get the help they need and deserve. As a result, community colleges and the state must provide additional and targeted resources to better equip liaisons to carry out their duties under the law. In addition, community colleges must take

deliberate action to identify students experiencing homelessness and connect them with housing, students' most urgent need. Only through purposeful and ambitious statewide action will we ensure students experiencing homelessness are adequately supported and no longer remain hidden in plain sight.

APPENDIX A - SURVEY DESIGN AND DISSEMINATION

Two years after AB 801 became law, the California Homeless Youth Project and the ACLU Foundations of California collaborated to evaluate whether California's homeless liaisons are equipped and empowered to support students experiencing homelessness. To explore this issue, the team conducted an anonymous survey of homeless liaisons in K–12 school districts and in the state's public higher education institutions.

To design their survey, CHYP and the ACLU looked to models like the Texas Network of Youth Services homeless liaison survey.²⁸ Survey questions were then adapted to California, including adding questions for liaisons at higher education institutions. CHYP and the ACLU also adopted a multiple-choice format to reduce the amount of time needed to complete the survey and increase the response rate. Before finalizing the survey, the authors piloted the survey with a small sample of higher education homeless liaisons. The final survey launched on May 1, 2018, and remained open until June 1, 2018.

The survey effectively reached California's community colleges. CCC homeless liaisons, whose updated contact information was readily available online, received a series of five emails from our team over the course of a month until the survey closed. In contrast, contact information for homeless liaisons within the CSU and the UC systems was not readily available online. Though attempts were made to connect with CSU and UC basic needs offices, in the absence of contact information, we were unable to directly invite homeless liaisons at California's public universities to participate in the study. Consequently, the survey results represent the experiences of homeless liaisons at California's community colleges.

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