



TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Business Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers

FROM: Rhonda Mohr
Vice Chancellor, Educational Services

RE: Funding Opportunity for College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program

Background

The significant number of college students facing homelessness and housing insecurity in California has been well documented. Community colleges have the highest rates of homelessness and housing insecurity across California's three public systems of post-secondary education. A recent California community college survey assessed the degree to which students are able to meet their basic needs—defined as the absolute minimum resources necessary for long-term well-being—and found that 19% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness in the previous 12 months. Rates of basic needs insecurity are higher for particular students groups including students who have served in the military, former foster youth, and students with disabilities (Goldrick Rab et. al, 2019).

College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program

In response to the growing problem of homelessness and housing insecurity among California community college students, and in alignment with authorizing legislation included in [Senate Bill 74](#), the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is soliciting interest from California Community Colleges to participate in a College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program. Colleges selected to participate in the College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program will be required to establish partnerships with community organizations that have experience providing wraparound services and rental subsidies for homeless and housing insecure students. Colleges may also conduct the following, and other activities, including: connecting students with community case managers who have knowledge and expertise in accessing safety net resources; establishing ongoing emergency housing procedures, including on- and off-campus resources; and providing emergency grants needed for students to secure housing or to prevent imminent loss of housing. Additional information regarding existing College Rapid Rehousing program models is available at the [Jovenes College Success Initiative website](#).

Considerations for Participation Criteria

The Chancellor's Office will identify colleges with the greatest need based on existing data points (identified below). The existing data field, SG16, that colleges use to report the number of homeless

students within the Management Information System (MIS) has only recently become available, and not all colleges are populating this data field. In lieu of SG16 data, the Chancellor's Office has identified proxy measures to assess need across interested colleges including:

- Percentage of students receiving Pell grants
- Average Pell grant award for students enrolled full-time (enrolled in 12 units)
- Percentage of students receiving California College Promise grants A, B or D

In recognition that various student groups experience higher rates of homelessness, various student demographic data will be considered when determining colleges, within each region, with the greatest need including:

- Percentage of foster youth students
- Percentage of student veterans
- Percentage of students with disabilities

Interested colleges must provide county-based data including:

- Availability and accessibility of low-income housing
- Percentage of county population living below the poverty line
- High school graduation rate within the county

As is noted on the enclosed Letter of Interest (LOI) form, the Chancellor's Office will draw financial aid and student demographic data directly from the MIS system. Detailed instructions regarding the source and method of extraction of the county-based data are included in the LOI form. Required data must be drawn from the sources identified in the LOI form and will be verified. **Data drawn from alternative sources will not be accepted.**

Interested colleges must also have the following components in place:

- Established and regular food pantry services
- Designated Assembly Bill 801 Liaison(s)
- Support to students with public benefit access
- An existing Memorandum of Understanding and/or contract in place with a local housing services provider OR intention and capacity to enter into a formal MOU/contract with a local housing services provider within six months.

Memorandum of Understanding

Per the authorizing legislation, participating colleges will be required to establish formal contracts/Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with local housing service providers. These contracts/MOUs must include mechanisms that allow for subcontracting program components under which the housing service providers will deliver services directly to students.

By responding to this Solicitation of Interest through submission of the attached LOI form, colleges acknowledge and agree that the above-identified components are in place, including the existence of a food pantry, designated Assembly Bill 801 liaison (s), support to students with public benefit access and an obligation and capacity to enter into contract with local housing services provider within six months of the funding award.

Required Technical Assistance

The Chancellor's Office, in partnership with the John Burton Advocates for Youth, will be offering comprehensive technical assistance to colleges selected to participate in the College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program. Selected colleges will be required to participate in ongoing training and regular technical assistance regarding the development and implementation of their College Homeless and Housing Insecure pilot projects. The purpose of the required TA includes ensuring that participating colleges are developing and implementing effective programs and, that MOUs with local housing assistance providers are established.

Total number of colleges for participation

Up to fifteen colleges with the highest need, as reflected by financial aid; special population enrollment data and county-based data will be selected to participate in the College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Project. During the pilot phase, participating colleges will work with their local housing service provider agencies to develop and implement services to students with the long-term goal of institutionalizing efforts locally. In partnership with participating colleges, the Chancellor's Office will evaluate progress, including documenting lessons learned and best practices. The overarching goal of this collective effort will be to establish working models that can be replicated and scaled throughout the state.

Participating colleges will receive funding amounts ranging from \$500,000 to \$700,000 annually over a three-year period. The Chancellor's Office will be monitoring the development and implementation of these pilot programs. Funding over the three-year period will be contingent on performance. The goal of the College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Project is to build upon existing infrastructure and resources within the colleges and within the local housing services community to implement a sustainable program to support homeless and housing insecure students. During the three-year duration of piloting the project, colleges will be required to develop a sustainability plan that includes ongoing coordination with local community-based housing service providers. This plan, which will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for review, must include a comprehensive sustainability strategy, including information regarding how the project will be institutionalized through elements such as expanded financial aid to students; leveraging local, state, and federal housing funds; and regular and ongoing college general funds support. Legislative funding distributed through the Chancellor's Office will cease at the end of the three-year funding cycle for first group of colleges selected to pilot the program, with the expectation that the program will continue without this support. A second (and third and fourth) cohort of colleges will then be selected to pilot the College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Project for three-year funding cycles.

To ensure geographic diversity in funding distribution across the state, the Chancellor's Office will distribute one allocation/award per each of the seven established California community college regions across the state. Communities with high population density and/or high cost of living may be eligible for two allocations in those regions.

Reporting Requirements of Participating Colleges

By May 15, 2020, selected colleges shall submit to the Chancellors Office information regarding the use of these funds, including the number of coordinators hired; the number of students served by

Funding Opportunity College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program

December 4, 2019

the campus; the distribution of funds by the campus; a description of the types of programs funded; other relevant outcomes (e.g., number of students who were able to secure permanent housing, and whether students receiving support remained enrolled at the institution or graduated), and a discussion of promising practices. Subsequent reports shall be submitted to the Chancellor's Office every six months.

Submission Information

Interested colleges must submit the attached Letter of Interest form by email to EdServices@cccoco.edu by 5:00 p.m. PST January 6, 2020. Pending approval from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, colleges selected to participate in the College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program will be notified by March 16, 2020.