



**2023 REPORT**

# California Community Colleges Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot Program

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Daisy Gonzales, Ph.D, Interim Chancellor

# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES HOMELESS AND HOUSING INSECURITY PILOT PROGRAM LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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Prepared By

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**  
Educational Services and Support Division



California  
Community  
Colleges

**DAISY GONZALES, Ph.D**  
Interim Chancellor

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California Community Colleges Homeless and Housing Insecurity  
Pilot Program**

Dear Governor Newsom:

Pursuant to Education Code, Section 9795, please find enclosed the California Community Colleges Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot Program Legislative Report.

A significant number of California community college students face homelessness and housing insecurity. To help, the State Legislature appropriated \$9 million of ongoing funding in 2019-2020 to provide housing services to students. Those funds, in turn, were distributed to 14 California community colleges as part of the California Community Colleges Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot (CCC HHIP) Program. This report details the progress of the CCC HHIP Program.

If you have any further questions on this report, please contact Interim Deputy Chancellor Lizette Navarette at [LNavarette@CCCCO.edu](mailto:LNavarette@CCCCO.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daisy Gonzales".

Daisy Gonzales, Ph.D,  
Interim Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

**Chancellor's Office**

1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 | 916.445.8752 | [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu)

## INTRODUCTION

In response to the significant and still growing number of college students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in California, the State Legislature appropriated \$9 million in the 2019-2020 State Budget for ongoing funding to provide housing services to students. Per section 9795 of the statute, colleges, in partnership with local housing service agencies, must provide housing navigation and placement services, academic support, and case management services to homeless students or those at risk of becoming homeless. As an additional requirement of the legislation, funds were allocated to colleges that demonstrated the greatest need.

In February 2020, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office ("Chancellor's Office") evaluated the need and capacity data submitted by interested colleges, including campus- and county-based data such as financial aid uptake rates, low-income housing availability, and poverty rates, and distributed funds to 14 California community colleges as part of the California Community Colleges Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot (CCC HHIP) Program. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has caused some delay in the implementation of the CCC HHIP Program, participating colleges have made significant strides in operationalizing their programs locally. Upon receipt of funding, participating colleges immediately began developing the necessary infrastructure to implement the program, including hiring staff, developing outreach and retention strategies, and engaging key internal partners such as campus financial aid and facilities staff.

The following report provides an outline of the progress that the 14 colleges have made in supporting homeless and housing-insecure students. Despite facing several unexpected COVID-19 related challenges in the first year of the program, the 14 colleges developed the required infrastructure and provided support services to over 500 homeless or housing insecure students. This report describes the challenges, steps and successes that occurred along the way.

## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The CCC HHIP Program is based on the "rapid rehousing" model, which is widely used to quickly move homeless individuals and families into housing with the aim of long-term stability and self-sufficiency. The three main components of a rapid rehousing model are:

- **Housing Identification** to quickly support individuals to exit homelessness;
- **Rent and Move-In Assistance** to help with the costs associated with getting into housing;
- **Case Management** to help stabilize people once housed.

In recognition of the complexities associated with serving homeless students and those at significant risk of becoming homeless, colleges participating in the CCC HHIP Program are required to establish ongoing partnerships with local housing service providers. This requirement ensures that campuses leverage the resources of these providers, including housing search and placement services, management of ongoing rental subsidies and navigation of tenant/landlord relationships. In turn, this allows the colleges to focus on the student's successful educational journey, ensuring that they reach their academic and career completion goals.

Participating colleges provide a full array of services that are vital for students to maintain their housing placement. The colleges are uniquely positioned to conduct outreach and recruit historically underrepresented student groups and those with the greatest need, including students of color, student veterans, students with disabilities, and current and former foster youth. Many of these students are overrepresented within chronically homeless populations and, due to economic circumstances, are at high risk of dropping out of college.

The colleges also bring expertise in supporting these students to successfully enroll and persist in college, complete their educational goals in a timely manner, and enter the workforce through meaningful and self-sustaining employment. College services include:

- Wrap-around case management that ensures students are accessing the myriad campus-based resources, including supplemental support programs, tutoring, transportation and technology supports, and access to staff trained to support their unique needs;
- Career exploration opportunities and development of focused educational plans that align with the student's goals;
- Progress monitoring and early academic interventions, when necessary;
- Assisting students with access to additional public benefits including CalFresh, MediCal, emergency food security resources, health and mental health services and CARES Act related emergency grants; and
- Coordination with campus financial aid staff to ensure that students are accessing the maximum financial aid they are eligible to receive.

## DATA METHODOLOGY AND KEY FINDINGS

The Chancellor's Office collected quantitative and qualitative data from the colleges to inform program progress and the areas for continuous improvement. Quantitative data collection included the total number of CCC HHIP Program staff hired, the number of students served, and the year-to-date total funds expended. This data was complemented by qualitative data that included the status of the required partnership agreements, the types of services provided to students, and information about COVID-19 related challenges.

Based on reports from the 14 participating colleges, key findings included:

- 224 homeless students received services;
- 295 housing-insecure students received services; and
- 116 homeless/housing-insecure students have maintained stable housing for six months or more.

Services provided by the colleges and/or housing services provider included:

- Case management services;
- Comprehensive educational planning and academic support;
- Support for temporary hotel/motel placements;
- Housing navigation and placement services;
- Financial assistance with deposit and/or move-in costs; and
- Ongoing rental subsidies.

The CCC HHIP Program staff also leveraged existing campus and community resources to provide supplemental services to participating students enrolled in the program. This included distribution of emergency food security supplies, support accessing additional public benefits, and referrals to academic support programs, including Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) and/or NextUp/Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Services (CAFYES) for eligible students.

Participating colleges experienced delays with program implementation because of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in obtaining a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local housing service provider agencies. As the COVID-19 pandemic intensified throughout the state, many of the housing service providers were required to redirect their efforts towards emergent needs associated with the pandemic. While many colleges had begun developing partnerships prior to the pandemic, these local agencies temporarily paused the process, unfortunately delaying the development of the CCC HHIP Program.

Colleges cited additional pandemic-related challenges in performing outreach and maintaining contact with students during campus shutdowns. While many services throughout the California Community Colleges have pivoted and are increasingly web-based, CCC HHIP Programs have the additional challenge of providing support to a student population that is less likely to have access to the internet and/or a telephone.

Although these barriers introduced additional delays into the implementation of the CCC HHIP Program, colleges have already begun to develop creative solutions to these unexpected challenges. Many campuses provided an increased amount of support in the form of hotel and motel vouchers, offering students vital relief during this period of heightened danger. Increasing awareness throughout the community, campuses have developed outreach strategies that reach across multiple channels, including on-campus fliers, drive and walkthrough food pantries, and email, social media and web-based announcements.

At the time of writing, all 14 participating colleges have either completed an MOU or have identified and are currently in the process of executing MOU agreements with their local housing services providers. Although the MOU agreements took longer than could have been expected, the execution of these partnerships marks an important success for the CCC HHIP Program, as the housing service agencies will primarily be responsible for identification of affordable housing placements for students experiencing homelessness.

## **CONCLUSION**

The colleges participating in the first cohort of the HHIP program have taken important steps toward supporting students experiencing homelessness and/or housing insecurity. All 14 colleges have, or are currently completing, an MOU with a local housing service provider agency, and, with the guidance from the Chancellor's Office, the colleges have begun to develop a network for disseminating promising practices and resources. In addition to coordinating services with their local housing service providers, participating colleges are working with multiple campus and community partners to ensure students have access to needed services including CalFresh benefits, emergency food security resources, health and mental health services, transportation supports, technology, and Federal CARES Act related emergency grants. The CCC HHIP Program staff serve as trusted liaisons and provide a gateway to access holistic support services that will ensure their students are successful. Although the COVID-19 pandemic introduced some delays into the process, colleges have developed creative solutions to address these unexpected barriers.

With the end of the public health emergency, the need for the CCC HHIP Program will continue to increase. Students will be forced to navigate an adverse economic landscape, and an increasing number of them will face housing insecurity. The Chancellor's Office is confident that it will be able to build on the success of the CCC HHIPP Program and continue to create long-term solutions that reduce student homelessness and guide students to post-secondary education success.

Below is a list of California community colleges participating in the California Community Colleges HHIP Program including the total funding awarded to each college.

**Figure 1. List of Colleges Awarded \$9 Million for Rapid Rehousing Student Support Services**

College	Award Amount
Antelope Valley College	\$ 700,000.00
Barstow College	\$ 500,000.00
Butte College	\$ 700,000.00
Cerritos College	\$ 700,000.00
Gavilan College	\$ 500,000.00
Imperial Valley College	\$ 600,000.00
Long Beach City College	\$ 700,000.00
Los Angeles Southwest College	\$ 700,000.00
College of the Redwoods	\$ 500,000.00
Riverside City College	\$ 700,000.00
San Diego City College	\$ 600,000.00
Fresno City College	\$ 700,000.00
Victor Valley College	\$ 700,000.00
Modesto Junior College	\$ 700,000.00
	\$ 9,000,000.00

Front cover photo: Imperial Valley College.

Photo at right: Contra Costa College.

Back cover photo: Mt. San Antonio College.



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