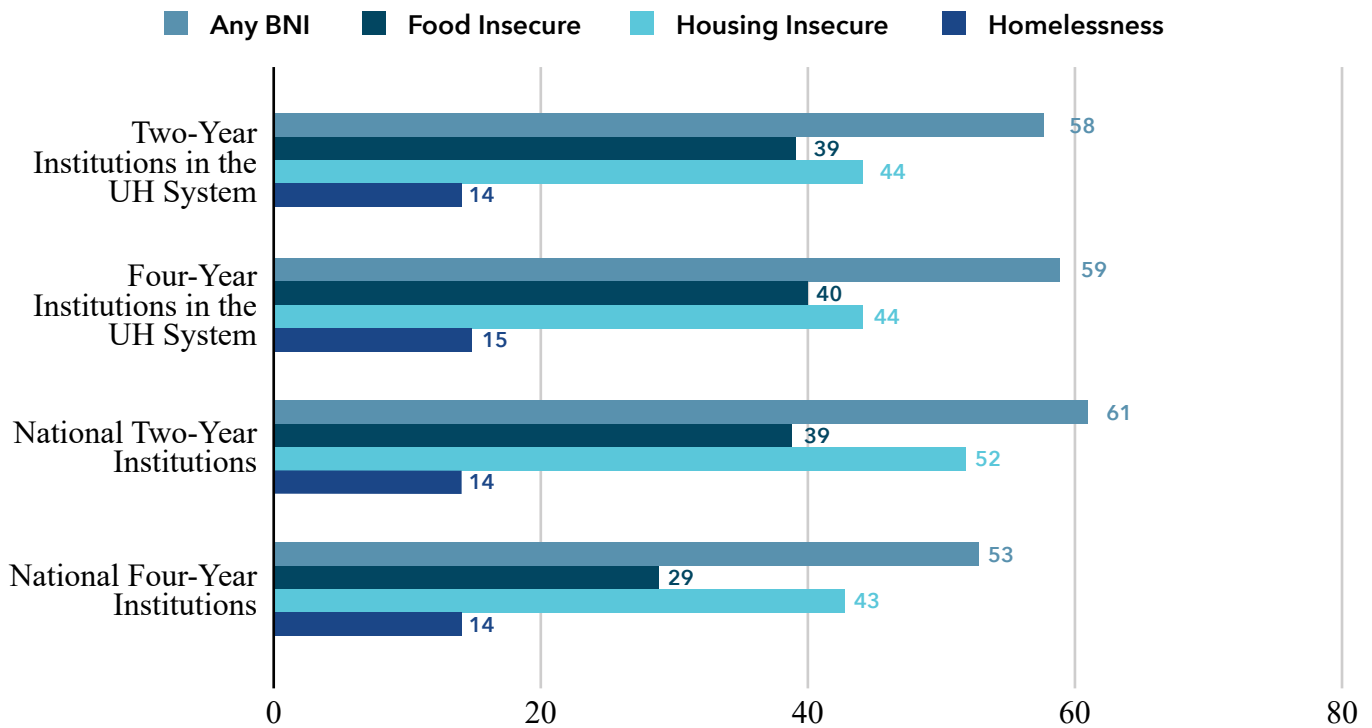


## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Summary of Student Basic Needs Insecurity Data

National [#RealCollege](#) survey results presented by [The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice](#) show that students across the U.S. experienced high levels of basic needs insecurity, with 39% experiencing food insecurity, 46% experiencing housing insecurity, while 17% experienced homelessness (Figure 1).

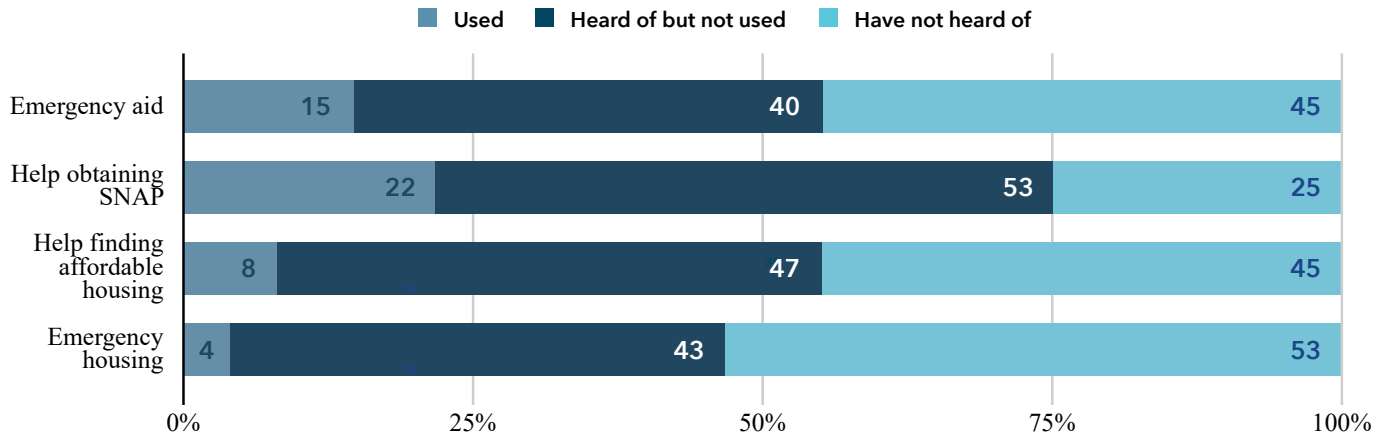
**Figure 1. Comparison of basic needs insecurity rates**



The [UH System report](#) composed by The Hope Center also highlights similar findings. Of those who responded, 39% were food insecure within the prior 30 days, 44% were housing insecure within the last year, and 14% experienced homelessness within the last year.

While high levels of basic needs insecurity were identified, The Hope report also showed that only a small number of students reached out for support. Of those who responded to the survey in fall 2020, 45% of students have not heard of emergency aid, 25% never heard of assistance for SNAP applications, 45% didn't know of available resources for finding affordable housing, and 53% never heard of emergency housing (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Use of campus supports among students who experienced basic needs insecurity in the University of Hawai‘i**



## Emergency Aid for Students

In April of 2020, the [Urgent Student Relief Fund](#) (USRF) was launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, awarding a total of \$1,064,929.89 in student aid between April 1 - August 24, 2020. USRF funds were divided based on the student population of each UH campus and allocated to qualified students through an online application process. Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) dollars were also utilized to assist students experiencing financial or other forms of basic needs insecurity due to the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis. As of September 30, 2021, a total of \$242.4 million was awarded to the UH System with [\\$74.6 million](#) expended or otherwise allocated to UH students in the form of emergency aid grants.<sup>1</sup> Hundreds of students across the UH System have benefited from the implementation of these types of Emergency Aid. In addition to student basic needs insecurity [data gathered before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic](#), the above indicate the level of basic needs insecurity in the UH student population and the need for ongoing research, coordination and long-term master planning for addressing student basic needs insecurity well into the future.

## UH System Student Basic Needs Recommendations

To ensure that UH students’ basic needs are met, there needs to be an on-going committee with appropriate resources. This includes staffing, education and a clearinghouse of resources available to students. For UH to successfully address our students’ needs, there needs to be both a system-level commitment and campus-level commitment. This document lays forth the UH Master Plan to address both these areas and our identified needs.

<sup>1</sup> HEERF funds are one-time with no expectation of additional support beyond FY22. HEERF funds are to be used to address COVID-19 related costs and revenue shortfalls, including the need for enhanced student support during this economic and health crisis.

BEST PRACTICE	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST: 3 YEARS
Core Staff: UH Student Basic Needs Coordinator and UH Student Basic Needs Committee Chairperson	UH Student Basic Needs Coordinator and Committee Chairperson: Provide salary, benefits and course release for 3 years to support foundational basic needs programming at the System level. Core staff will carry out all necessary coordination, planning and operations to support the completion and implementation of the UH Student Basic Needs Master Plan and related activities in close coordination with the UH Student Basic Needs Committee (UHSBNC) and key constituencies, including students. The UHSBNC will support UH System- and campus-level basic needs programming.	\$360,000 (\$120,000 annually)
Basic Needs Outreach & Education Events	Multiple (2-3) public education and outreach events will be coordinated by the project personnel (above) and in consultation with the UHSBNC. Events will include, but are not limited to, inviting national experts to dialogue with the UHSBNC and UH administrative leadership, conduct public talks and provide strategic advice to UH and prospective funders (philanthropic, governmental). In addition, there will be multiple system-level education and outreach events directed toward the UH student body, faculty and staff to raise awareness of the issue of student basic needs insecurity, connect students to basic needs resources, and solicit input into the improvement of delivery of food and basic needs programming in the UH System.	\$150,000 (\$50,000 annually)
Maintain & Update the UH Student Basic Needs Online Clearinghouse	UH Student Basic Needs online clearinghouse will be regularly updated with current data, plans, news and resources. The UH Student Basic Needs site will be linked with each of the 10 UH campus home pages.	\$25,000
Iterative Basic Needs Survey to Measure Progress	Contract with The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice (The Hope Center) to deliver the #RealCollege survey to students across the UH System every three years. This process will serve to measure changes in student basic needs insecurity through time and the efficacy of UH basic needs programming, and allow for adjustments in the UHSBNMP to align with emerging priorities. The UHSBNC will also facilitate an annual review of UH basic needs programming and efficacy.	\$100,000 (Survey will occur once over next 3 years)
Emergency Aid	Following procedures developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the UHSBNC will work with the UH Foundation and individual UH campuses to provide emergency student funding as circumstances and needs arise.	In-Kind

BEST PRACTICE	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST: 3 YEARS
Campus-Level Committees	<p>Create a 2-3 person campus-level Student Basic Needs Committee. The campus-level Student Basic Needs Committee is ideally headed and organized by the UH Student <a href="#">Basic Needs Committee member</a> previously assigned by each UH chancellor. Committee members may include counselors, advisors, faculty, financial aid representatives, or others familiar with the basic needs of students at a campus. Campus-level Student Basic Needs Committees will provide updates to the UHSBNC each month, inform the committee about changes to campus programming, resources and plans, and provide updates to the online clearinghouse.</p>	In-Kind