



HONOLULU COMMUNITY COLLEGE



SUMMARY: STUDENT BASIC NEEDS SECURITY AT HONOLULU COMMUNITY COLLEGE⁹:

2021 [The Hope Center Report](#): Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to 3,378 students from Honolulu Community College (Honolulu CC) and 171 students participated. The estimated response rate is 5.1%.

We learned that:

- 60% experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity, including
 - 41% who experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days,
 - 48% who experienced housing insecurity in the previous year, and
 - 17% who experienced homelessness in the previous year.

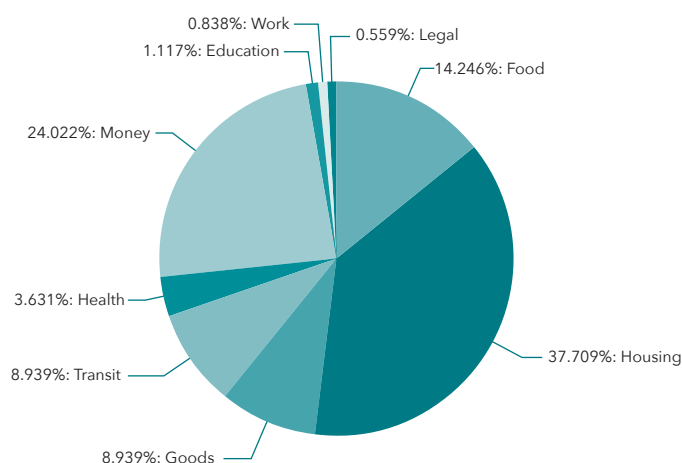
We also learned that:

- 22% had a close friend or family member who was sick with COVID-19, while 5% were sick with COVID-19 themselves.
- 38% of students exhibited at least moderate anxiety.
- 19% of students who experienced basic needs insecurity used emergency aid, but 40% had not heard of emergency aid programs on campus.
- 51% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity did not apply for campus supports because they did not know how.
- 69% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity received some form of public assistance.

[Find Help](#) User Data: Honolulu CC affiliated users on the Findhelp.org site had a total of 570 searches for the fall 2021 semester. The top three most common search terms were:

1. Help Pay for Housing - housing (51)
2. Help Pay for School - money (32)
3. Financial Aid & Loans - money (23)

Searches by Category | 2021-08-15 to 2021-12-15



⁹ To be updated approximately every 1-3 years with additional research support from The Hope Center.

EXISTING BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES AT HONOLULU COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Honolulu CC offers a wide range of services and resources to help students with basic needs, including financial assistance, mental health and wellness, housing referrals, and other facets that contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of students. Assistance and support falls under various departments and initiatives have been on-going through the pandemic. Some of these initiatives will continue to be a part of our annual efforts, while others may be pandemic driven. The long-term sustainability of pandemic driven efforts may be limited by the nature of the temporary funding available to Honolulu CC students. The following is a list of activities that were offered to help provide students with the necessary support to continue and pursue their educational goals.

1. **Financial and Food Security Initiatives:** Honolulu Community College has been actively involved in various financial and food insecurity initiatives from pre-pandemic to the present. Before the pandemic, Honolulu CC began its partnerships with various entities such as Hawaii Nutrition Employment and Training (HiNET) who provided over \$50K in financial resources to the college. Aloha Harvest - a nonprofit that rescues quality excess food and delivers it free of charge to social service agencies feeding the hungry in Hawai'i - fed over 1,900 students between Fall 2019 and March 2020. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, Veterans Services, and Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) were also key actors supporting student basic needs. These services all act as a source of financial assistance for the Honolulu CC student population. Since the pandemic, Honolulu CC has distributed over \$1,320,731.00 to 2,533 students through multiple Urgent Student Relief funds initiatives.
2. During the pandemic, mental health and wellness became a top priority for our students. Issues ranging from financial stressors to homelessness weighed heavily on many of our students. Honolulu CC quickly pivoted to ensure that support outside of the classroom was provided through: wellness screenings, student support groups, referrals to campus and community agencies, and regular check-ins. Outreach to students became an all hands on deck approach and much more personalized. Digital technology platforms such as Signal Vine made it possible for students to get timely information on various basic needs support initiatives and financial resources.



NEW BASIC NEEDS PRIORITIES AND BEST PRACTICES:

The Honolulu Community College Basic Needs Committee (Honolulu CC BNC) re-evaluated the results of its campus goals that were set in July 2021. After careful consideration, the committee has identified its top three priorities that will take us through to Fall 2022. The Honolulu CC BNC strongly felt that these priorities will help to begin meaningful discussions with its administration and campus community at-large. Through these efforts, the committee hopes to build stronger connections with all key stakeholders which in turn will build sustainable programming and continued resources for our students.

Selected by the Honolulu CC BNC in October, 2021, the top three basic needs priorities are listed and described below:

PRIORITY LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
1	Institutional Policy: Changes to university policy that serve to address upstream determinants of basic needs insecurity (e.g. tuition cost, financial aid, etc.).
2	Staffing: Adjusting or increasing basic needs staffing.
3	Outreach to Students: Communications and programming (e.g. webinars) directed toward UH students intended to raise awareness of basic needs insecurity and connect students to resources and services that will support basic needs security.
4	Partnerships: Creating partnerships with others outside of the University (e.g. food banks, foundations).
5	Direct Services: Implementation of provisioning programs that will directly support student basic needs security (e.g. food pantry).
6	Emergency Aid:
7	Education for Faculty and Staff: Providing faculty and staff with educational opportunities (Professional Development) to better understand basic needs insecurity and how best to connect students to basic needs resources.
8	Measuring Impact: Measuring the efficacy of basic needs programming.

Priority 1: Institutional Policy & Staffing:

Staffing is a key element for the Honolulu CC campus to sustain efforts surrounding student basic need support. The Honolulu CC BNC has requested the institutionalization of a stipend for an individual(s) to dedicate time in ensuring Honolulu CC is meeting its institutional and UH System commitment to this cause.

Honolulu CC has already begun to mandate various policies like integrating basic needs statements in course syllabi. The Honolulu CC web page has also been modified to show access to key food distribution sites. The Honolulu CC BNC commends the work that has already started. Areas of policy that the Honolulu CC BNC would like to address include fiscal policies and practices that will enable purchasing flexibility and easier food distribution to students.

Priority 2: Outreach to Students:

Honolulu CC has been successful in advertising various basic needs resources via campus website and faculty course syllabus. The Honolulu CC BNC would like to develop additional outreach efforts including basic needs webinars, podcasts, social media, Signal Vine messaging, through student life and student government activities, student orientations and advising/academic support avenues. During the onboarding process, every student attending Honolulu CC is informed of basic needs resources. Honolulu CC BNC intends to use a social norming and destigmatizing approach to the issue of students accessing basic needs resources. Adding basic needs resource links to faculty and staff's signature lines in email is another way Honolulu CC BNC intends to reach students.

Priority 3: Partnerships / Direct Services:

Partnerships with community organizations to address basic needs insecurity is an on-going effort at Honolulu CC. Our partnership with Aloha Harvest helped us feed over 1,347 students in Fall 2019. We hope to resume that partnership in Fall 2022. Additionally, Honolulu CC has been working with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to administer the HINET program which helps roughly 25-30 students each month with SNAP and reimbursements for transportation, books, tools, etc. October 2021, for example, HINET students at Honolulu CC received a total amount of \$24,187 in SNAP benefits. Beyond these existing partnerships, the Honolulu CC BNC hopes to make stronger connections with community partners (e.g. Hawaii Food Bank, Helping Hands, IHS) to help students find food, shelter, and mental health and wellness resources.

The top three new priorities are detailed further below and placed within an estimated timeline for implementation.

PRIORITY 1: INSTITUTIONAL POLICY & STAFFING			
SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A person dedicated to lead this effort. (Full-Time professional) 2) Secure sustainable compensation and budget allocation. 3) Begin looking at fiscal policy and guidelines and working with Honolulu CC Financial Officer to determine parameters to food purchasing and distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Institutionalized position. 2) Integrated policies that are mindful of student basic needs. 3) Appropriately adjusted budget allocations to meet the demands of the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Institutionalized policies in place. 2) Permanent position and location of office will be identified. 3) Revising the Honolulu CC Basic Needs campus master plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementing institutional policies. 2) Committee to begin working with various groups such as Committee on Student Affairs, Student Life and Development, Student Government, Student Activities Board and other service areas to build a cohesive and collaborative programming that supports our Honolulu CC students. Efforts should be coordinated by Honolulu CC BNC and its community of supporters.

Honolulu Community College: Basic Needs Best Practices and Priorities

PRIORITY 2: OUTREACH TO STUDENTS			
SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
1) Campus media to assist the committee with stronger social media presence regarding activities around Basic Needs (Drives, HINET, Urgent Student Relief Funds).	1) Committee to coordinate training to all services areas and instructional areas to learn how to refer students in need to various resources on and off-campus. 2) Identify what types of messaging should go out to students via social media vs. email vs. text. 3) Encourage Honolulu CC institution to add information on basic needs resources on signature line.	1) Work with onboarding initiatives to provide information and necessary messaging to all incoming students. 2) Committee to work on a sustainable annual plan and calendar of communication for Honolulu CC.	1) Committee to work with various departments, campus committees and organizations to bring further awareness of basic needs resources to students. 2) Further develop Honolulu CC website to have various videos about resources, a referral guide, outreach materials.

PRIORITY 3: PARTNERSHIPS			
SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
1) Aloha Harvest will provide a presentation for the Sustainability Committee (feeding the community and reducing waste).	1) Work with Institutional Research to gain institutional data for refining our campus activities. 2) Evaluate past programs and initiatives related to basic needs. 3) Identify community partnerships. 4) Partner with Sustainability Committee to outreach and educate campus regarding basic needs resources.	1) Work with community partners to build programming initiatives. 2) Begin to identify, build, and showcase our various partnerships both on and off-campus.	1) Implement our partnership activities.