

## UH BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE: PROGRESS REPORT 2019-2022

The University of Hawai‘i Student Basic Needs Committee (UHSBNC) was formed in 2019 by UH President David Lassner to better understand and address food and other forms of basic needs insecurity in the student population. The role of the UHSBNC is, through a range of research, education, outreach and planning activities, to help understand the nature and extent of basic needs insecurity and ensure that all students in the UH system have access to basic needs resources for strong academic performance, persistence and graduation and overall student wellbeing.

Since its founding in 2019, the UHSBNC has defined and executed on the following basic needs priorities:



Image: Timeline of UHSBNC Key Activities (2019-2022)

### 1. The Hope Center Research on Student Basic Needs Insecurity in the UH System

In 2020, the UH contracted The [The Hope Center](#), a leading student basic needs research team, to administer the #RealCollege Survey to students across all 10 campuses in the UH System. The [study](#), published in June 2021, found that a total of 58% of respondents experienced some form of basic needs insecurity, with 39% experiencing food insecurity in the previous 30 days, 44% experiencing housing insecurity in the past 12 months and 14% experiencing homelessness in the previous 12 months. Despite the low response rate (2%), these UH findings are consistent with the findings of [The Hope Center's 5-year national study](#) of more than 195,000 students in higher education.

The UHSBNC has used this and other data to inform the development of the first UH System Student Basic Need Master Plan to guide future research, education and outreach activities over the next three years. Throughout the planning process, the UHSBNC will use the survey data to inform the types of programming and resources that may best meet the needs of UH students. The UHSBNC anticipates basic needs surveys being administered to students every three years to ensure that basic needs master planning is informed by recent data and in alignment with changing students needs.

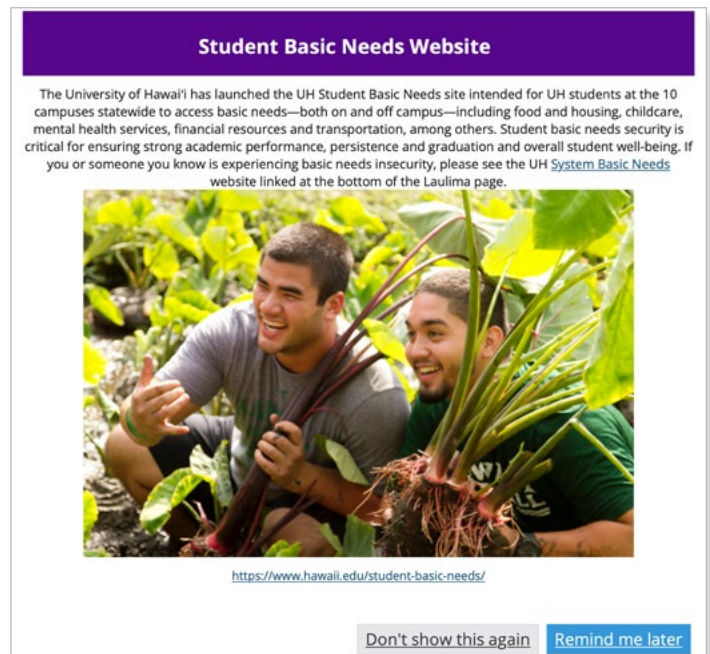
## 2. UH System Student Basic Needs Coordinator:

In January 2021, the first UH System Student Basic Needs Coordinator (see appendix A) was hired to help support basic needs related projects and tasks. The Student Basic Needs Coordinator has assisted with crafting the university’s basic needs website, providing consistent updates to the UH Student Basic Need website and working toward completing the UH System Student Basic Needs Master Plan (see below for details).

## 3. Laulima & Course Syllabi Basic Needs Statement:

In February 2021, the UHSBNC collaborated to produce a basic needs statement that course instructors can include on their course syllabi that directs students to the UH Student Basic Needs website. An announcement was also sent to students informing them of the permanently embedded link in Laulima (the online course management platform for UH) for easy access to the Student Basic Needs website. The statement is as follows:

*Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources and transportation, among others. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation and overall student well being. If you or someone you know are experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the following resources: [UH System Student Basic Needs](https://www.hawaii.edu/student-basic-needs/).*



The screenshot shows a notification from the UH Student Basic Needs Website. At the top, there is a purple header with the text "Student Basic Needs Website". Below the header, there is a paragraph of text: "The University of Hawai'i has launched the UH Student Basic Needs site intended for UH students at the 10 campuses statewide to access basic needs—both on and off campus—including food and housing, childcare, mental health services, financial resources and transportation, among others. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the [UH System Basic Needs website](https://www.hawaii.edu/student-basic-needs/) linked at the bottom of the Laulima page." Below the text is a photograph of two young men in a garden, smiling and looking at a large plant. At the bottom of the notification, there is a URL: <https://www.hawaii.edu/student-basic-needs/>. At the very bottom, there are two buttons: "Don't show this again" and "Remind me later".

#### 4. UH Student Basic Needs Site:

The [UH System student basic needs website](#) launched on February 1, 2021. The purpose of this website is to deliver campus-based resources to those in need within UH campus communities. The website highlights basic needs resources by campus and connects students to an online clearinghouse of community resources in partnership with [findhelp.org](#). It also provides a clear description of the UH Student Basic Needs Committee, and displays all of the #RealCollege surveys collected for each campus (with the exception of Kaua'i CC). The student basic needs website has a Resources for Administrators section, which includes the student basic needs syllabi statement.



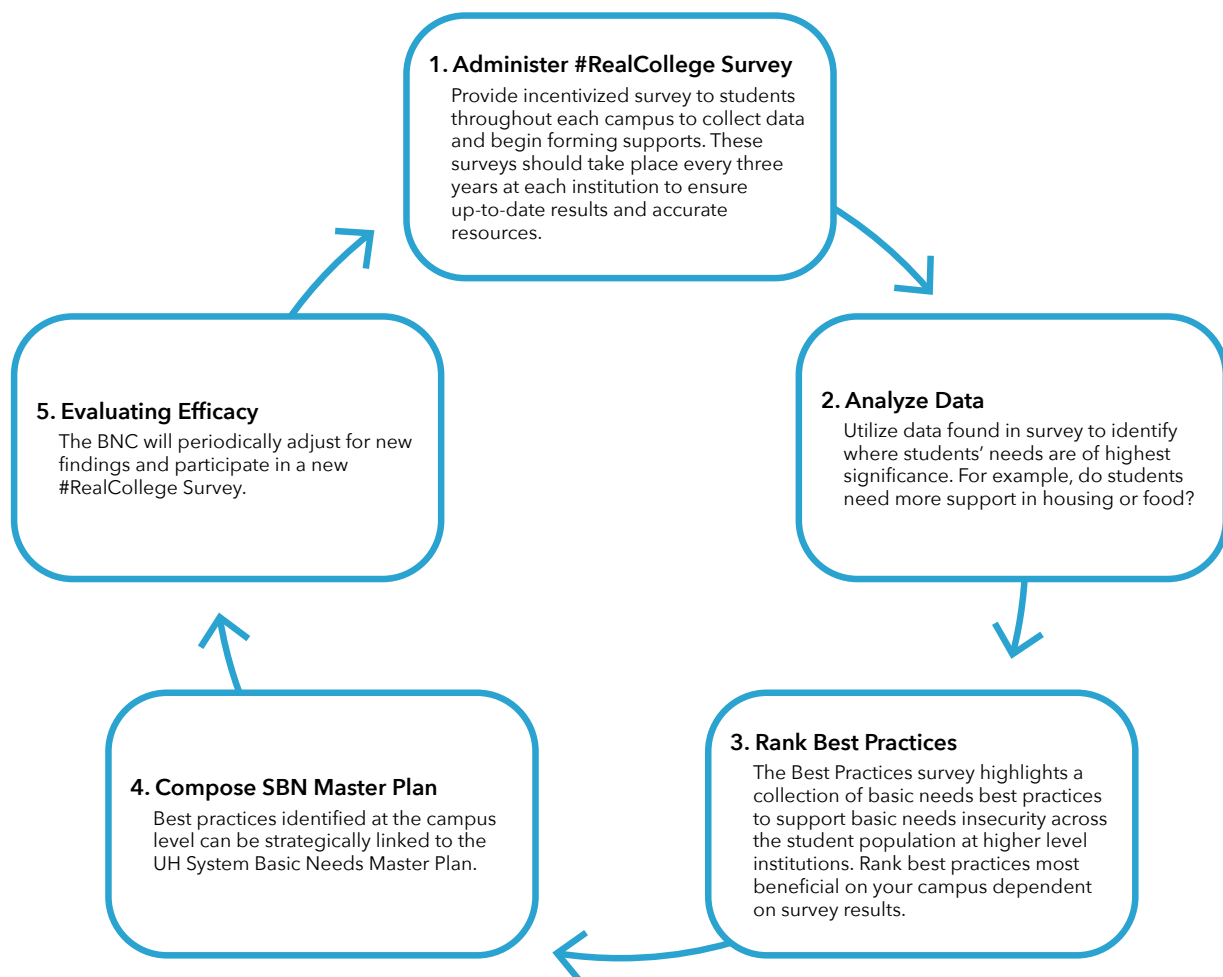
To further destigmatize the use of basic needs supports, the UHSBNC worked in collaboration with Lilinoe Andrews, faculty specialist at UH-West O'ahu, to bring a completely translated version of the basic needs website to students. Launched in September of 2021, this site, entitled [Nā Pono Ola Haumāna](#) provides every resource in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i for the UH community, and supports the recognition of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as an official language of the State of Hawai'i.

#### 5. Launch Findhelp.org Online Clearinghouse of Basic Need Resources

In March 2021, the UHSBNC partnered with [Findhelp.org](#)—a basic needs database and search engine—to create an comprehensive online clearinghouse of basic need service providers—local and national—that are readily available for students (also available for faculty and staff) to utilize when in need. The purpose of this resource is to connect those within the campus community who are insecure in basic needs to resources that can help them gain access to support related to food, finances, housing and health care, etc. In addition to connecting students to resources, the Findhelp.org site allows the UH Student Basic Needs Committee to access user meta-data and generate reports on user trends (e.g. number, locations and time period students seeking food or housing support). This data will be used by the UHSBNC to inform the master planning process, and to adjust planning and programming based on student needs.

## 6. UH Student Basic Needs Master Planning Process

With technical assistance from The HopeCenter, the UH Basic Needs Committee has started the planning process for basic needs across the UH System and campuses. This document is to help provide a road map of basic needs initiatives that the UH system and campuses will take part in to bring forth accessible basic needs resources to all students. It will advise best practices and long-term and short-term goals, while also taking into consideration the most sustainable approach to accomplishing next steps. With appointed committee members from each campus, the UHSBNC is collaborating to input campus-specific details that will promote integration of the UH system master plan by each campus. It is critical that the master plan also incorporates Native Hawaiian best practices to support the destigmatization of basic needs support and enhance our approach utilizing cultural knowledge.



## 7. Monthly UH Student Basic Needs Webinars

In summer 2021, the UHSBNC started a series of outreach webinars to inform students of basic needs resources. In these webinars, the student basic needs coordinator provided students with a practical half-hour demonstration of the new [Students Basic Needs website](#). Students learned how to find community, island, state and federal resources to support their food, housing, financial, counseling, childcare and other basic needs. Similar webinars are continuing through the fall 2021 semester. Attendees also receive a thorough walk-through of the UH [findhelp.org](#) site to accurately search for federal, state and community basic needs resources.

## 8. UH Student Basic Needs Communications

To raise community awareness of the issue of student basic needs insecurity nationally and within the UH System, the UHSBNC has produced a series of [publicly facing news articles](#) documenting the work of the UH Student Basic Needs Committee.

The image displays three screenshots of news articles from the University of Hawai'i News website. Each article has a header with the university logo and navigation links for Academic, Research, People, and Community.

- Left Article:** Features a portrait of Mikyla H'i'iani Thomas. The text describes her as a single mom who struggles with affording food and housing. It mentions her experience at UH Maui College and her current situation in a 30-minute drive from campus.
- Middle Article:** Shows a group of people in red shirts loading boxes onto a pallet at an emergency food distribution site. The text states that UH West Oahu staff and students volunteer here to serve hundreds of families each month. It also mentions the UH Student Basic Needs site and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Right Article:** A video thumbnail with a play button icon. The title is "of UH students surveyed in 2020 lacked food, housing or other basic needs". Below the title, it lists survey results: 58% experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity, 39% experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days, and 44% experienced housing insecurity in the previous year. It also notes that 39% of UH students surveyed experienced food insecurity last year.