



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I-WEST O'AHU



SUMMARY: STUDENT BASIC NEEDS SECURITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I - WEST O'AHU⁷:

2021 [The Hope Center Report](#): UH West O'ahu student participation in The Hope survey was low (4.2%), likely due to the timing of its distribution and well-documented survey fatigue. Invitations to complete the questionnaire were sent by email to 3,168 students from UH West O'ahu and 134 students participated. UH West O'ahu plans to regularly update this data every 3 years along with other campuses.

We learned that:

- 56% experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity, including
 - 39% who experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days,
 - 40% who experienced housing insecurity in the previous year, and
 - 8% who experienced homelessness in the previous year.

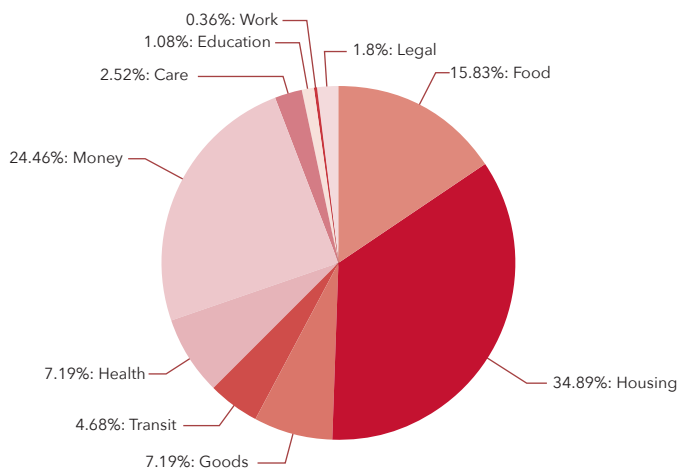
We also learned that:

- 23% had a close friend or family member who was sick with COVID-19, while 1% were sick with COVID-19 themselves.
- 42% of students exhibited at least moderate anxiety.
- 16% of students who experienced basic needs insecurity used emergency aid, but 39% had not heard of emergency aid programs on campus.
- 60% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity did not apply for campus supports because they did not know how.
- 57% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity received some form of public assistance.

[Find Help](#) User Data: Find Help is the University of Hawai'i branded version of findhelp.org, an online platform that allows students to use a search engine to find basic needs resources available in their community. Data from this resource indicated that UHWO affiliated users completed 463 searches in the period of the fall 2021 semester. The top three searches were:

1. Help Pay for School (20)
2. Help Find Housing (20)
3. Financial Aid & Loans (19)

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



⁷ To be updated approximately every 1-3 years with additional research support from The Hope Center.

EXISTING BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES AT UH WEST O'AHU:

Currently, our campus has a number of services for students that support basic needs security, however, they are located in a variety of offices. A recent convening of several UHWO staff and faculty confirmed that it is difficult to know where to turn for various resources, contact information, etc. The following UH West O'ahu basic needs programs and practices are current as of Fall 2021:

- **Emergency Aid:** Distribution of temporary Student Aid and CARES ACT funding.
- **Outreach to Students:** Basic needs course syllabus statement was shared with all instructional faculty at beginning of Fall semester (August 2021). Basic Needs webinars were run multiple times throughout the semester.
- **Direct Service:** UH System and Campus Basic Needs website was launched; FAFSA screening & application support was provided; weekly harvest of fresh vegetables and fruit was available in the UH West O'ahu Māla (garden) on campus every Tuesday each week.
- **Institutional Policy:** Financial Aid assistance was provided to students in need by financial aid staff. UH West O'ahu is now working to create a standing Basic Needs Committee, likely to be formally approved by the UH West O'ahu Faculty Senate for AY 2022-23.
- **Education for Faculty & Staff:** Held a student basic needs webinar for UH West O'ahu faculty and staff as part of the Fall 2021 Institute Week. Interest was expressed and request were made for more training opportunities like this by attendees.
- **Staffing:** There is support from campus administration, yet there is no central position, office, or committee to compile all of these efforts and develop further into a centralized resource.
- **Partnerships:** Partnered with Hawaii Food Bank for several on-campus food distributions from July-November 2021.
- **Measuring Impacts:** No progress to date has been made in measuring impact.



NEW BASIC NEEDS PRIORITIES AND BEST PRACTICES:

The UH West O'ahu assessment of student basic needs priorities and best practices was completed by a convening of faculty and student affairs staff in October 2021. The rankings of UH West O'ahu basic needs priorities and best practices is reflected in the table below.

PRIORITY LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
1	Communications and programming 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.
2	Providing faculty and staff with educational opportunities to better understand basic needs insecurity and how best to connect students to basic needs resources.
3	Changes to university policy that serve to address upstream determinants of basic needs insecurity (e.g. tuition, financial aid, etc.).
4	Implementation of provisioning programs that will directly support student basic needs security (e.g. food pantry).
5	Emergency Financial Aid
6	Basic needs staffing
7	Measuring the efficacy of basic needs programming
8	Creating partnerships with others outside of the University (e.g. food banks, foundations).

University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu: Basic Needs Best Practices and Priorities

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

PRIORITY 1: DESTIGMATIZING BASIC NEEDS & STUDENT OUTREACH			
SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
1) Basic Needs statement presented to UHWO faculty.	1) Basic Needs syllabus statement is now included in the official UHWO syllabus template for all faculty. 2) Continue to promote basic needs webinars and OER education.	TBD	Social media outreach to students in conjunction with ASUHWO student representatives.
PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION FOR FACULTY AND STAFF			
SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
1) Promote syllabus statement. 2) Webinar held during Institute Week (12/15)	1) Create AY 2022-23 PD schedule in conjunction with OPDAS.	TBD	1) Solidify and implement a PD schedule for training for all UHWO faculty, staff, administrators who work directly with students.
PRIORITY 3: INSTITUTIONAL POLICY			
SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
1) Establish a Basic Needs campus advisory committee to receive feedback on current vs. best practices.	1) Hold initial meeting with UHWO division Chairs and VCAA to present the need for a standing committee.	1) Continue working with UHWO Basic Needs campus advisory committee. 2) Advocacy for campus policy on student basic needs	1) Present proposal for standing UHWO Basic Needs Committee to Faculty Senate. 2) Develop a campus policy on student basic needs. 3) Integrate basic needs training to new faculty and staff orientation regarding direct students to appropriate campus support services.

With additional funding secured, UH West O'ahu would aim to advance the following additional priorities and basic needs best practices:

- Staffing to coordinate all basic needs efforts across the UH West O'ahu campus;
- Incorporate WIC/SNAP assistance along with student financial aid advising (FAFSA);
- Host events for student parents to increase financial literacy as it relates to navigating bureaucracies for financial aid, childcare, etc.;
- Build up the UH West O'ahu campus garden for periodic harvesting by students.