

The Principles of Basic Needs Master Planning for the UH System: Leadership, Culture of Care, Inclusivity, Sustainability

The principles underlying the UH Student Basic Needs Master Planning process consist of: leadership, culture of care, inclusivity and sustainability. These principles help to structure and strengthen the SBNMP process while providing opportunities for input from a diverse set of UH and community stakeholders:

- **Leadership:** Leadership is the ability of an individual or a group of individuals to influence and guide other members of an organization. As appointed by UH President David Lassner, the UH Student Basic Needs Committee has been assigned the leadership responsibility to provide the strategic direction, priorities and programming, including research, education, communications, staffing, direct services and other programming for the UH System over the long-term.
- **Culture of care:** The UH System Student Basic Needs Committee and the UH Student Basic Needs Master Planning process is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, caring and inclusive environment for all UH students to access the essential basic human needs for academic success and human well being are fulfilled. The UH System Student Basic Needs Committee and the UH Student Basic Needs Master Plan intend to fulfill this obligation in such a way that the dignity of all students is maintained and that basic needs insecurity is destigmatized and understood in the context of larger socio-economic conditions, including histories of structural racism.
- **Inclusivity:** The UH Student Basic Needs Committee membership and the UHSBNMP process has, and will continue to be, representative of all 10 UH campuses and is informed by a diverse set of UH and community stakeholders, including undergraduate and graduate students.
- **Sustainability:** The UH System and the UH Student Basic Needs Committee is committed to the above principles and addressing basic needs insecurity in the student population over the long-term.

Achieving Student Basic Needs: A Multi-pronged Approach

To enhance university-wide awareness of the issue of student basic needs insecurity, increase student knowledge of services available, and to begin addressing basic needs insecurity across the University of Hawai'i System, a multi-pronged approach will be taken. Our approach will involve university staff, faculty, administrative leadership and key partners in the philanthropic community. Given recent survey findings (see below) and the resource constraints faced at the UH System and campus level, a priority of UH basic needs programming will focus on outreach and education, with the aim of connecting qualified students to available resources, along with limited direct provisioning of basic needs resources to students on-campus.

The available data indicate that due to a lack of student knowledge about available services, the application process, and/or who qualifies, there are significant gaps between the range of basic needs services currently offered to UH students and the volume of services being utilized. For example, the 2021 UH System [report](#) prepared by The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice (The Hope Center) indicated that 58% of students who participated in the survey did not apply for campus-level basic needs support services because they believed they were not qualified or did not know how to apply. Similarly, only 15% of respondents who indicated experiencing some form of basic needs insecurity used emergency aid. 45% of the student respondents had not heard of the emergency aid programs available on their campus.

Given the significant awareness gap and limited resources available for direct services provisioning on individual campuses, the UHSBNC has identified the following approach to basic needs staffing, research, planning, education and outreach and direct service priorities:

- **Capacity Building:** Essential university basic needs capacity building will be achieved through ongoing staffing of the UH System Student Basic Needs Coordinator position and the support for the UH Student Basic Needs Committee (UHSBNC) and chair in order to maintain the momentum and develop and implement new basic needs programming.
- **Iterative Basic Needs Research and Planning:** Assessments of the UH student body and a review of basic needs plans and priorities will be conducted every 3–5 years (following the protocols outlined herein) to account for new research findings, emerging best practices in the field, and changing resources conditions at the system and campus level.
- **Outreach and Education:** A priority will be placed on student-focused outreach and education to raise awareness of basic needs insecurity across the UH System and its potential impacts on student academic success, to destigmatize basic needs insecurity, and to connect students to basic needs resources in accessible ways.
- **Centralized Basic Needs Resource Access:** Through multiple strategies and points of entry (e.g. Lulima, social media, course syllabi, registration), all UH students will be informed of and directed to the UH System [Student Basic Needs](#) site and the [findhelp.org](#) search engine to gain access to key basic needs services providers.
- **Campus Level Organization and Implementation of Basic Needs Plans:** The formation of campus-level committees will guide campus-level basic needs planning and service provision.