

401 Golden Shore, 5th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

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Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Chief Financial Officer

562-951-4600
srelyea@calstate.edu

July 15, 2020

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gabriel Petek
Legislative Analyst Office
925 L Street, #1000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Keely Bosler, Director
Department of Finance
State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814

Erika Contreras
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

Diane Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel
State Capitol, Room 3021
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sue Parker
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: College-Focused Rapid Rehousing

The attached report highlights efforts to address students' basic needs insecurities within the CSU system through funding provided in the Amended Budget Act of 2019, Senate Bill 109. Fourteen of 23 campuses submitted a proposal for funding in the fall of 2019 and seven (7) were allocated monies in early 2020 to enhance their current basic needs efforts, with a specific focus on expanding external partnerships to extend the reach of support for students who are housing insecure or homeless.

Across the seven campuses receiving funding for rapid rehousing, partnerships with community-based continuum of care agencies experienced in providing rapid rehousing support will extend the reach of the campus' existing basic needs supports. Planned efforts include comprehensive case management support including, but not limited to, emergency grants to secure housing or prevent the imminent loss of housing, utility assistance, financial literacy, academic and personal support. Taken together, the partnership between the campus-based housing liaison and agency-based case manager will ensure a safety net of support for students. Long-term impacts of the program include

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

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a decrease in student homelessness, increase in wellness and long-term housing stability to facilitate retention and persistence to graduation.

The amended Budget Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 109) requires the CSU to prepare this systemwide report for the budget committees of the Legislature by July 15, 2020.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations at (916) 445-5983 or Luoluo Hong, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at (562) 951-4732.

Sincerely,


Steven Relyea (Jul 15, 2020 09:45 PDT)

Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

SR:dr

Full report posted to <https://www.calstate.edu/legislativereports/>

c: Members, California State Legislature
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Garrett Ashley, Vice Chancellor, University Relations and Advancement
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Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget
Kara Perkins, Executive Budget Director
Luoluo Hong, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

**California State University
College-Focused Rapid Rehousing
A Report Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2019 (SB 109)
July 15, 2020**

Summary

This report highlights efforts to address students' basic needs insecurities within the California State University system (CSU). Campuses participated in a competitive application process in the fall of 2019 to apply for \$6.5 million in ongoing monies made available through the amended Budget Act of 2019 (SB 109). This Act requires the CSU to provide a report on an annual basis, which includes information on the use of the funds. Report variables will include the number of housing coordinators hired, the number of students served by each campus, the distribution of funds by campus and a description of the types of programs funded. Other relevant outcomes may also include the number of students who were able to secure permanent housing, and whether students receiving support remained enrolled at the institution or graduated. The systemwide project is known as "College-Focused Rapid Rehousing" (RRH). Resources were allocated to campuses for the purpose of developing and enhancing programs and services for students who face challenges with housing instability and homelessness. RRH requires that CSU campuses establish ongoing partnerships with community organizations that have a tradition of helping populations experiencing homelessness with the provision of wrap-around services and rental subsidies. Resources were allocated to the external partners identified by the awarded campuses, to support homeless or housing insecure CSU students. It is anticipated that 421 students will be served during the first year of the program. The number of students served per agency ranges from 16 to 125. The seven campuses selected for the program were awarded funding based on their demonstrated need, strength of their formalized partnership(s), campus readiness for program implementation, planned use of the funds in an efficient manner and articulated method for evaluation of program impact.

Background and Overview

The success of college students can be derailed when they face uncertainty in meeting their basic needs (CSU Comprehensive Study of Student Basic Needs, January 2018). In concert with its multi-year effort to improve student success, known as Graduation Initiative 2025, the CSU identified the promotion of student wellness and engagement as one of the six guiding pillars in our efforts. This pillar includes implementing a number of out-of-classroom supports including the following:

1. Ensure services are easy for students to identify, locate and access;
2. Ensure that campus communications normalize the use of services as a strategy for student success;
3. Employ efficient and consistent methods of communication campuswide to ensure services are widely known and easily referred to; and
4. Work to identify and secure on-going resources over time to sustain services to support student success

The CSU is being proactive and innovative in using the funding allocated via SB 109 to support campus efforts via expanded external partnerships to extend the reach of available campus-based programs and services, promote sustainability of our efforts, and meaningfully impact students' lives.

Funding Criteria and Requirements

A competitive systemwide Request for Proposals process (RFP) was issued in September 2019 with an application due date of early November. The RFP highlighted the College-Focused Rapid Rehousing program funding goals. The funds are to be used to:

1. Connect students with community case managers who have knowledge and expertise in accessing safety net resources;
2. Establish ongoing emergency housing procedures, including on-campus and off-campus resources; and
3. Provide emergency grants that are necessary to secure housing or to prevent the imminent loss of housing.

Fourteen (14) of the 23 campuses submitted a funding proposal. The RFP process resulted in the selection of seven (7) CSU campuses that will participate in the program during 2020-2023. These seven campuses are: Chico, Long Beach, Pomona, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco and San José. Each demonstrated need amongst its students and identified at least one local, external housing provider with the capacity to build a college-focused rapid rehousing program. Campuses described the strategies they will use to ensure that funding is targeted to those students with the greatest level of need and included a detailed plan for a partnership with a local housing agency to help with the placement of students into long-term housing. Three of the seven campuses are working with two external partners each. The partners include: Chico Housing Action Team, True North Housing Alliance, Jovenes (working with two campuses), Lutheran Social Services, Sacramento Self-Help Housing, Home Start, Inc., 3rd St. Youth Center Clinic, Lyric Center for LGBTQ Youth and the Bill Wilson Center. To facilitate institutionalization of efforts on the campuses, funding was allocated to support the hiring of dedicated housing liaisons to work collaboratively with the external partners. These staff will facilitate program outreach and identification of students who meet the RRH program criteria. Working in partnership with their external partners, the housing liaisons will provide timely linkages to campus-based resources that provide on-going social and academic supports.

Campuses that applied for these funds demonstrated that they have taken concrete steps to create a formalized on-campus and/or off-campus emergency housing procedure for students who are in a housing crisis. In addition, campuses addressed how they will continue to support an emergency aid program for students experiencing a housing crisis and how this program is disseminated on their campus. Finally, campuses addressed in detail how they will assess the programs and services to measure the progress and/or impact they are having on student success. Evaluation efforts included tracking of whether students receiving support maintained permanent housing and remained enrolled in school and/or completed their degree.

Allocation Process

Applications were evaluated via a peer review process and rated on a 1-to-5 scale for each funding category. Fourteen (14) of the 23 campuses submitted a funding proposal. Seven (7) campuses were awarded funds. Three of the campuses identified two external partners each resulting in a total of seven campuses and ten external agencies receiving a grant. The total amount of funds distributed to campuses was \$1,540,000. Total distribution to external partners will be \$4,539,091 (effective 2020-2021) for a total of \$6,079,091. Additionally, \$420,909 was allocated to technical assistance and assessment. Campus-based allocations and planned external partner allocations are listed below:

CAMPUS	CAMPUS ALLOCATION	EXTERNAL PARTNER(S)	PARTNER ALLOCATION	TOTAL CAMPUS & PARTNER ALLOCATION
Chico	\$ 220,000	Chico Housing Action Team True North Housing Alliance	\$ 192,696 \$ 446,395	\$ 859,091
Long Beach	\$ 220,000	Jovenes, Inc.	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
Pomona	\$ 220,000	Jovenes, Inc.	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
Sacramento	\$ 220,000	Lutheran Social Services Sacramento Self-Help Housing	\$ 325,000 \$ 325,000	\$ 870,000
San Diego	\$ 220,000	Home Start, Inc.	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
San Francisco	\$ 220,000	3rd St. Youth Center Clinic Lyric Center for LGBTQ Youth	\$ 325,000 \$ 325,000	\$ 870,000
San José	\$ 220,000	Bill Wilson Center	\$ 650,000	\$ 870,000
Total Campus Allocation				\$ 1,540,000
Total External Partner Allocation				\$ 4,539,091
TOTAL ALLOCATION				\$ 6,079,091

Next Steps and Future Reports

Detailed information on the use of the funds, including the number of rapid-rehousing coordinators hired, the number of students served and the distribution of funds by campus will be provided by June 1, 2021. A comprehensive evaluation process will include an analysis of the types of programs funded, the number of students who were able to secure permanent housing and whether students receiving support remained enrolled at their institution or graduated. Finally, practices that yield positive results will be illuminated in future versions of the College-Focused Rapid Rehousing funding reports. Outcome variables including student term-to-term persistence, retention and/or graduation along with students' securing long-term, stable housing serve as examples of best practice outcomes.

PROJECT UPDATE

First-Year Funding Initiative: 2019-2020

The Emergency Housing Initiative (EHI) is another housing effort focused on serving homeless students funded with the first year (2019-2020) of the RRH funds. This initiative was quickly established in partnership with our campuses in order to serve housing insecure and/or homeless students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several campuses found themselves with unexpected housing vacancies as students vacated campuses in response to the CSU system moving to virtual/remote instruction in the spring. This collaborative partnership between the Chancellor's Office and select campuses with available on-campus housing inventory will transfer RRH grant funds to pay for room and meal service to students who are housing insecure or homeless. The campuses participating in this initiative include: Bakersfield, Chico, East Bay, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Maritime, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo and Stanislaus.

The \$6.5M RRH funding allocated in 2019-2020 included a campus and external partner agency allocation. While the campus allocations were distributed in January 2020, the work to build the program with the external agencies was a lengthier process. As a result, the first year (2019-2020) of external partner RRH allocations remained available to address the housing needs of housing insecure and/or homeless students within the system, many of whom were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the Chancellor's Office pivoted in response to emerging student needs and identified a way to invest this funding, while still honoring the legislative intent of the allocation. At the same time, the Chancellor's Office staff responsible for the CSU's Student Wellness & Basic Needs Initiatives continued work with the awarded campuses and their partners to establish grant agreements, scope of work documents, and external agency budgets. This work was completed by the end of spring 2020.

In addition to providing emergency, no-cost, temporary on-campus housing, the EHI provides support services to enable students to become housing stable while they work with campus personnel to obtain their own housing or connect with permanent housing options. The initial short-term placement (30-day period) may be subject to renewal for up to an additional 30-day period subject to availability of funds, campus housing inventory and approval by campus housing personnel. Participation in EHI is not a promise or guarantee of future or permanent housing. Once the emergency housing is no longer available, students may be placed in on-campus or off-campus housing provided through the RRH grant, dependent upon their campus' participation in the rapid rehousing program.

Role and Responsibility of Student Wellness and Basic Needs Initiative

The Director of Student Wellness and Basic Needs initiatives surveyed CSU campuses to determine who had available housing inventory from May 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

Reimbursement for housing and meal plan expenses was provided by the Chancellor's Office to the campuses. Campus fiscal operations was responsible for reimbursing their respective housing authorities.

Student Wellness & Basic Needs Initiatives staff will work with the campuses to collect documentation of expenses incurred by the campus housing authorities. Reimbursements will be provided on a monthly basis for the duration of the initiative.

The Chancellor's Office finance department will arrange for the appropriate transfer of funds for campus reimbursement.

Role and Responsibility of CSU Campuses Participating in Emergency Housing Initiative

Campus Basic Needs staff worked closely with designated campus Housing personnel to receive and process referrals based on eligibility, prioritization, and availability.

The campus assessed their available housing inventory from May 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020.

Campus Basic Needs personnel were responsible for determining the student's eligibility for services. Campus Housing personnel was responsible for determining appropriate placement and meal assistance, maintaining records and securing a signed Emergency housing agreement. Campus fiscal operations were responsible for accepting funds and reimbursing their respective housing authorities.

The Emergency Housing Initiative will end at the end of July as the campuses prepare for a percentage of student repopulation in their on-campus housing inventory leading to the beginning of the fall 2020 term. Efforts to support housing insecure and/or homeless students will pivot to the long-term Rapid Rehousing program for fall 2020 through spring 2023.