BRINGING STUDENTS HOME

Options for Addressing Homelessness Among College Students

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John Burton Advocates for Youth

- Foster youth: Education
- Homeless youth: Housing
- Technical Assistance & Training
- Advocacy & Policy
- Textbook Fund

Diagram: Foster youth (Education) connected to Homeless youth (Housing) with arrows indicating connections to Textbook Fund, Technical Assistance & Training, and Advocacy & Policy.
Homelessness Prevalence

- **1 in 5** CCC students experienced homelessness within the last year
- **1 in 10** CSU students experience homelessness
- **1 in 20** UC students experience homelessness
Homelessness

Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live

Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or a similar setting

Living in emergency or transitional shelters

Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds

INADEQUATE RESIDENCE

Sharing the housing of others due or “couch surfing”

Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
Homelessness

Students may have a history of homelessness or may experience homelessness for the first time as college students - 47% of youth experience homelessness both with and w/o their families.

Risk factors
• ~30% of foster youth will experience homelessness after foster care
• LGBTQ and gender non-conforming students
• Young parents
• Immediate or unexpected financial crisis
• Economic instability and lack of safety net
Addressing Homelessness Requires a Multi-Pronged Approach

- Campus-based emergency resources
- Referral to community homeless services
- Develop on-campus housing resources
- Partner with housing providers
The Homelessness Response System
Continuums of Care (CoCs)

**Continuum of Care (CoC) Basics**

- Entity that receives and administers HUD funding
- 44 CoCs in California (regional but not exclusively county-based)
- Primary vehicle for helping people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness
- Determines local priorities and makes funding decisions
- Does not administer Section 8 or Public Housing
How funding flows from HUD and some state programs to housing & service providers.
What is a Coordinated Entry System?

Without CES

With CES
CES Access Points

- May be Single or Multiple Points of Access
- Virtual or Phone Access
- Street Outreach
- Youth Coordinated Entry
Eligibility & Prioritization for Housing Resources

• Eligibility
  o Must meet HUD Definition of Homelessness for federal programs
  o Additional Program Requirements (e.g., veteran status, senior, chronically homeless, families, serious mental illness, youth)
• Prioritization
  o Vulnerability: Chronic Homelessness, Disability, and other factors
• Youth-Targeted Resources

**HUD definition:**
(i) living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
(ii) living in a shelter.
Practical Strategies for Campuses
1. Make Referrals to CES

Know your community’s coordinated entry access points

- Familiarize key campus staff with locations & phone numbers
- Are there youth-specific access points?
- What is the eligibility and referral process?
- Refer students in need of housing to appropriate access points
- Ensure that if students are current or former foster youth, they are referred to the child welfare agency or local provider.
2. Co-locate with a provider that assesses for coordinated entry.

Partner with the Continuum of Care or local provider to bring coordinated entry assessment on campus.

Provider with CES contract can assess students on campus and refer to housing and services.
3. Use touch points with students strategically.

When distributing emergency housing vouchers, ensure students are **connected to the local homelessness response system**.

When distributing any basic needs resources, ensure eligible homeless students are **completing FAFSA correctly** to get independent student status.

**Post contact information** in food pantries, support offices, health center, etc. for connecting with homelessness response system and homeless liaisons on your campus.
4. Get involved with CoC stakeholder meetings

- Opportunity to influence community priorities

- Stakeholder input was required for the HEAP planning process and open to the public.

- Get involved before critical input periods if possible
5. Participate in the Homeless Point-In-Time Count.

- Snapshot of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January in odd years
- Main source of data used by federal government
- Determines federal funding allocations and impacts state funding as well

Ensure homeless students are included in PIT Counts

- Volunteer for the count
- Make sure homeless students complete surveys
6. Ensure your campus’ financial aid policies address student homelessness.

- Ensure financial aid administrators are well-trained and advised on how to make a homeless determination
- Reevaluate Cost of Attendance based on individual circumstances
- Prioritize special populations in timing of disbursements
- Modify SAP appeals policy to make homelessness an extenuating circumstance
7. Ensure your campus is fully implementing AB 1393 & AB 1228.

**AB 1393:** Priority housing for current and former foster youth

**AB 1228:** Priority housing for current and former homeless youth

- CSUs required; UC and community colleges requested to grant priority for:
  - Student housing generally
  - Year-round student housing
  - Housing open for most days in year

Cannot charge during breaks
8. Consider providing temporary housing on campus.

Emergency housing on campus:

- Set aside dorms for emergency short-term housing while longer-term housing is identified and secured
- Hotel vouchers on campuses without housing / to supplement emergency on campus housing
Resources

• Continuum of Care (CoC) Roster: [https://www.jbaforyouth.org/coc-roster](https://www.jbaforyouth.org/coc-roster)
• 10 Practical Strategies for Campuses: [https://www.jbaforyouth.org/practical-strategies-for-campuses](https://www.jbaforyouth.org/practical-strategies-for-campuses)
Resources


- THP-Plus roster for former foster youth: [https://www.jbaforyouth.org/thp-plus-provider-roster](https://www.jbaforyouth.org/thp-plus-provider-roster)
## Program Overview

- $500 million one-time block grant to address homelessness

## Funding Mechanism

- Funds distributed to 43 Continuums of Care and 11 Largest Cities
- Each local agency developed a system to distribute funds to providers

## Key Elements

- At least 5% of the allocation MUST be used to establish or expand programs to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness

## Student Housing

- Three housing providers received HEAP funds to implement college-focused rapid rehousing with local community colleges (San Joaquin Delta, Santa Rosa JC, Southwestern)
- Imperial Valley College received a direct allocation for services
# Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) - 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Overview</th>
<th>• $650 million one-time block grant to address homelessness</th>
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| **Funding Mechanism** | • Funds distributed to 43 Continuums of Care and 13 Largest Cities and 58 Counties  
• Each local agency developed a system to distribute funds to providers |
| **Key Elements** | • Allocations are based on each CoCs proportionate share of the state’s total homeless population based on the 2019 homeless point-in time count (PIT).  
• At least 8% of the allocation MUST be used to establish or expand programs to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness |
## HHAP Important Dates

### HHAP Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Guidance</td>
<td>October 29, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocations announced based on 2019 PIT count and NOFA released</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for jurisdiction to submit applications to State</td>
<td>February 15, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final date to award funds to jurisdictions</td>
<td>April 1, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for program funds to be contractually obligated</td>
<td>May 31, 2023</td>
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<td>Funds shall be fully spent</td>
<td>June 30, 2025</td>
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HHAP ALLOWABLE USES

1. Rental assistance
2. **Rapid rehousing**
3. Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation shelters
4. Incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees
5. Systems support to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system
6. Hotel and motel conversions
7. Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing
8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need
Core Components of “College-Focused Rapid Rehousing”

- **Housing navigation** or search assistance including
  - recruitment of landlords
  - identification of shared housing opportunities
  - support with housing application processes
  - credit counseling
  - facilitation of access to on-campus housing and facilitation of reunification with family members willing to provide stable housing
Core Components of “College-Focused Rapid Rehousing”

**Housing-related financial assistance**
- rental application fees
- rental subsidies
- security deposit assistance
- utility payments
- moving cost assistance
- interim housing assistance while seeking permanent housing

**Housing stabilization services**
- ongoing tenant engagement
- case management
- credit repair assistance
- employment support
- life skills training
- referrals to other resources
Step 1: For campuses, the first step is connecting with a housing provider that can apply for HHAPP
Consider partnering with organizations that have contracts with the CoC, County or City

- Existing contracts and relationships facilitate issuing funds.
- Getting a contract for the first time is difficult.
- May 2019 study found few HEAP recipients were first-time CoC grantees.
Step 2: Make contact with your local Continuum of Care, county and large city

CoC

Large City
Anaheim, Bakersfield, Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana, and Stockton.

County

*Visit HHAPP webpage at www.jbaforyouth.org to find a contact for your CoC, County and Large City
HHAPP Considerations

• Move quickly: Funding processes are being determined NOW
• 8% youth set-aside is a minimum, even if their PIT youth percentage is lower than 8%
• Expect to have to educate your CoC, County and Large City on college student homelessness
• Visit JBAY web page on HHAPP implementation - www.jbaforyouth.org/hhapp
LSS PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN JOAQUIN DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UTILIZING HEAP FUNDS
Submitted RFP for HEAP to CoC for funds allocated for homeless youth

Planned to extend current housing program for TAY youth

Focused on homeless TAY at San Joaquin Delta Community College

Received funding and implemented program
IMPLEMENTATION

Identified and trained a case manager at LSS who would guide these youth to self-sufficiency

Utilized established relationship with Guardian Scholars (foster youth) program on Delta College’s campus
IMPLEMENTATION

Created and utilized Release of Information (ROI) to build partnership with Financial Aid, EOPS, Counselors, Instructors, Tutors, Coaches, etc.

Communicated with established and new property managers about vacancies

Established procedures to intake youth for housing
Cycle of Support

- Financial Aid
- EOPS
- Counselors
- Instructors
- Tutors
- Other Support
CREATING STABILITY

- Explain the program
- Complete application and intake
- Accept into program
- Create life plan
- Move in
Survival mode to comfort

Other issues surface: mental health, self-esteem, bullying, lack of financial awareness, physical health concerns, lack of a family unit, and losing their voice
Referrals and resources
Being available to listen
Team approach