

A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing on a document with a pen. The document appears to be a form or a contract, with some text visible but mostly obscured by the hands and the pen. The background is a wooden surface.

Research Roundup: The Empirical Basis for Current Bills Supporting College Success for Foster Youth and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Wednesday, July 20, 1PM Eastern

Today's Agenda



- Introductions
- Overview of Federal Bills
- Research Roundup
- Resources
- Q&A

Briefing Hosts



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth



In collaboration with the Office of Representative Danny Davis

Senator Patty Murray is an honorary co-host

Panelists



Rashida Crutchfield, California
State University, Long Beach



Mary Haskett, North Carolina
State University at Raleigh



Amy Dworsky, Chapin Hall at the
University of Chicago



Angelique Day, University of
Washington

Federal Bills To Support Youth with Experience in Foster Care and Homelessness

[The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act](#)

- (S 3616/HR 6666) (Murray, Portman, Clark, Young)

[The Fostering Success in Higher Education Act](#)

- (HR 6669/S3605) (Davis, Krishnamoorthi, Casey, Brown, Smith)

Areas Addressed by Bills



Access to housing,
including during breaks



Access to campus-
based services



Financial aid
access



College access
and transition



Data collection

HOUSING

Priority for on-campus housing during and between academic terms. (HEASHFY)

Housing and Health

“ Friend’s couches, ya know, a couple nights in my car. Thankfully it was warm enough to where I’m not freezing to death in the...when I stayed at a certain friend’s house and her roommate was kind of getting annoyed I was there, and I didn’t want to overstay my welcome...and I had left that day before showering, and so it really hit me like I don’t have a place to shower . . . Something I would never want to wish upon anybody to go through.



Elizabeth (FSU)

Prevalence

Homelessness

10.9%

**of CSU STUDENTS report
being homeless**

18%

**of African American and first-
generation college students
experienced homelessness
(a higher rate than any other
group)**

Housing and Well-being

- Conditions of housing location impact health
 - Environmental hazards
 - Access to resource
- Housing conditions and design
 - Conditions in the home impact physical and mental well-being
 - Housing designed to support well-being
- **Housing status impacts health**
 - **Negative impact of housing instability**

Research Highlights



Qualitative study of students experiencing homelessness

- Students were at particular risk of homelessness when residence halls closed over school breaks

Pilot project over Thanksgiving break

- More than 700 students opted to remain in their dorm room

SERVICES

1. Designate liaisons to assist homeless and foster youth (HEASHFY)
2. Require colleges to include voluntary questions on admissions applications about students' status as homeless and foster youth (HEASHFY)
3. Invest \$150 million a year to establish or expand statewide initiatives to assist foster and homeless youth in enrolling in and graduating from institutions of higher education (FSHEA)

Liaisons



Designating liaisons to assist homeless and foster youth and include liaison name and contact information

- Survey of 49 liaisons at higher education institutions in four states
- 47% of liaisons were listed as point of contact for students experiencing homelessness
- Most liaisons were professional in financial aid
- 80% of liaisons devoted 10% or less of their time to liaison duties

Identification



- Require colleges to include voluntary on admissions applications about students' status as homeless and foster youth
- Reliance on self-referrals and FAFSA is not enough
 - Gross underestimate of number of homeless students on campus

CAMPUS SUPPORT PROGRAMS



- Provide wraparound services and supports to help young people who are or were in foster care succeed in school and graduate.
- Typically address students' academic, financial, housing, and social/emotional needs



Supporting College Students Transitioning Out of Foster Care: Formative Evaluation of the Setia Scholars Program



Analyzed program and
WMU administrative
data



Conducted
interviews and focus
groups



Supporting College Students Transitioning Out of Foster Care: Formative Evaluation of the Setia Scholars Program

- Coaching and the student-coach relationship are essential to student success
- Need to focus on a broad array of issues that affect students beyond academics
- Institutional support is critical to program success and sustainability
- Program participants may be less academically prepared for college and need more support than their peers
- Participants want to be treated like their peers



Center for Equitable Higher Education
Studying and promoting economic, food, and housing justice

California State University (CSU) 3 Phase Study

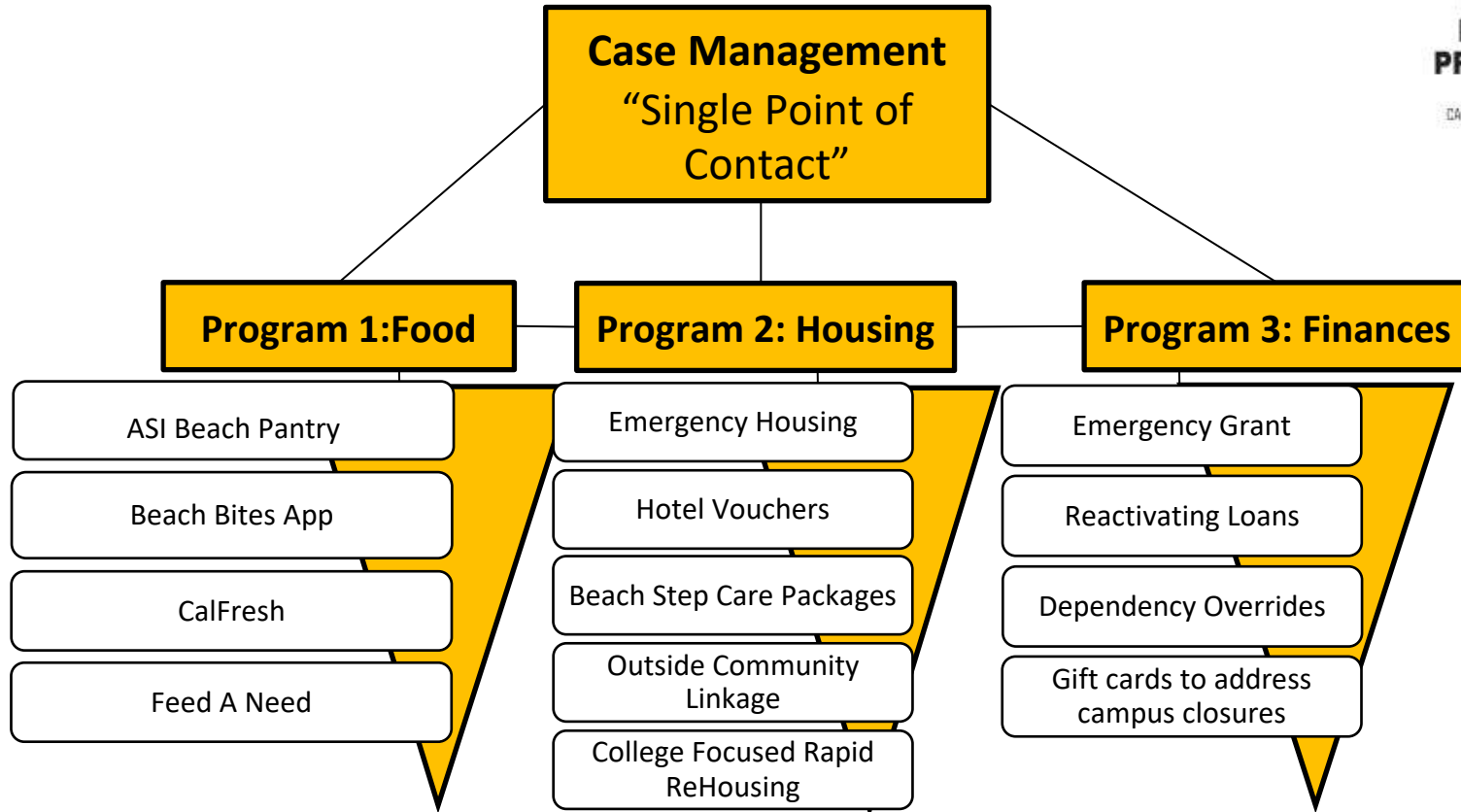
- Prevalence study of 23 CSU campuses to assess food, housing, and financial security

Assessing and Evaluating Practice

- Research with 6 CSU basic needs programs
Cal Poly Humboldt, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Long Beach, CSU Monterey Bay, San Francisco State University
- Evaluation of College Focused Rapid ReHousing
10 campuses (8 CSUs and 2 California Community Colleges)
- Exploring campus-based basic needs responses during COVID-19 with 4 CSU campuses

In response to the infusion of California state funding, recommendations based on findings observed across multiple CSU basic needs security studies were developed:

Transforming and Institutionalizing Basic Needs Supports in California Higher Education:
Recommendations for the California Higher Education Basic Needs Community





Students who access campus basic needs supports

- **Experience less stress** and have more time for sleep and exercise
- **Work fewer hours** and have more time for unpaid internships and volunteer work that supports career path development
- **Have more money** to pay for bills like rent, food and utilities
- Are able to **purchase more and healthier foods**
- Can **enroll in more classes** and graduate sooner
- Have **more time to study**, for class prep, and visiting with professors during office hours
- Are able to **attend more of their classes**, go on field trips, and do field work

Research Found that Support is Needed in Six Key Areas



Research Shows that Campus Based Support with Liaisons and Rich Support is Effective

State based:

- Fostering Success - Michigan
- California Pathways to Success
- Passport to College – Washington
- Positive Pathways – Florida

Campus based:

- Guardian Scholars/Next Up – California
- REACH Programs – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Ohio

FINANCIAL AID

1. Provide accessible information on college websites about the financial aid process (HEASHFY)
2. Create an 'ombudsman' to intervene in determination process (HEASHFY)
3. Prioritize homeless and foster youth in Federal Work-Study (HEASHFY)
4. Require professional development and guidance to financial aid administrators (HEASHFY)
5. Provide homeless and foster youth in-state tuition rates (HEASHFY)

Research Highlights



- Prioritize homeless and foster youth in federal Work-Study positions
 - Our research indicates that students who experience homeless are likely to be working more than one job, and are almost constantly looking for additional employment.
- Require federal professional development and guidance for financial aid personnel
 - Resources available (76%) and identification and outreach (72%) were the two most requested topics for professional development

Research Shows There is Need for Leveraging and Braiding Funding

Federal and State Grants
Federal and State Agencies
Philanthropic Gifts
Private Foundations

Fundraising Events and Campaigns
Institutional Funds
Equity Funds

BRAIDED FUNDING



ACCESS/ TRANSITION

1. Facilitate the recruitment, participation, and retention of homeless and foster youth in the TRIO and GEAR UP college access programs (HEASHFY)
2. 25% of FSHEA state grants will be used to establish intensive, statewide transition initiatives to increase college enrollment by foster and homeless youth (FSHEA)



*Using Research to
Improve
Postsecondary
Education Outcomes
of Community
College Students in
Foster Care*



Analyzed National
Student Clearing House
data linked to child
welfare administrative
data



Interviewed 24 students
and 5 college
administrators



Reviewed policies and
programs related to
postsecondary education for
youth in foster care



*Using Research to
Improve Postsecondary
Education Outcomes of
Community
College Students in
Foster Care*

- Community college students had struggled in high school, felt unprepared for college, and transitioned to college with little professional guidance.
- Nearly all were required to complete remedial coursework.
- Students had a limited understanding of financial aid.
- Students want community colleges to provide supports that address their needs.



DATA COLLECTION

Include homeless and foster youth in the data collected by college access programs.

Data are Essential

Admissions

- Prevalence
- Service support preparation and delivery
- Outreach, Identification, and referral



Student Success

- Meeting appropriate needs
- Determining process barriers and facilitators
- Adjusting capacity



Evaluation

- Accountability
- Moving be monitoring
- Assessing, transformation, and growth



The ASK:



Please ask your U.S. Representative and your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor:

- The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth (HEASHFY)
- The Fostering Success in Higher Education Act

The more co-sponsors, the more likely the bill is to be incorporated into other legislation that is moving.

Go to <https://schoolhouse-connection.rallycongress.com/ctas/support-higher-education-access-homeless-foster> to contact your Members of Congress and show support

QUESTIONS

Resources

- Support Higher Education Access for Homeless and Foster Youth
 - <https://schoolhouse-connection.rallycongress.com/ctas/support-higher-education-access-homeless-foster>
- Congressional Briefing | Supporting Higher Education Success for Youth With Experience in Foster Care and Homelessness
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZZ--X2S4ZM&feature=youtu.be>
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ftO7-CKTc-V9Up_UvP-5PyfhKhDBv5uPkRpHtTqDg1l/edit#

Contact Information

- **Debbie Raucher** - debbie@jbay.org
- **Jenny Pokempner** - jpokempner@ylc.org
- **Barbara Duffield** - barbara@schoolhouseconnection.org
- **Rashida Crutchfield** - rashida.crutchfield@csulb.edu
- **Amy Dworsky** - adworsky@chapinhall.org
- **Mary Haskett** - mary_haskett@ncsu.edu
- **Angelique Day** - dayangel@uw.edu