

Facts about California’s New Investment in Reducing Homelessness Among College Students. (Assembly Bill 74)

In July 2019, California allocated new funding—the first of its kind—to address homelessness among college students. The legislature expanded the investment at community colleges in July 2022. Provided below is an explanation of the pertinent provisions of the 2019-20 State Budget bill (AB 74), which appropriated these funds.

HOW MUCH FUNDING WAS ALLOCATED?

The state originally allocated \$19 million annually to the state's three public post-secondary institutions. This was expanded in 2022. The University of California (UC) receives an annual \$3.5 million allocation, the California State University (CSU) receives an annual \$6.5 million allocation, and as of the 2022/2023 fiscal year the California Community College (CCC) system receives an annual \$19 million allocation.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE FUNDING?

The funding must be used to support rapid rehousing efforts that assist homeless and housing insecure college students. Campuses shall establish partnerships with community-based housing providers to provide wrap-around services and rental subsidies for eligible students. It is anticipated that foster youth will benefit significantly from these funds as foster youth face homelessness at rates double those of other students, with a staggering 43% experiencing homelessness at community colleges.

Funds may also be used to:

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

HOW WILL SYSTEMS DETERMINE WHICH CAMPUSES RECEIVE FUNDING?

Each system will determine a mechanism for allocating funds to campuses. The funding mechanisms must be based on demonstrated need.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES?

“Homeless” and “housing insecure” students are defined as those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes students who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or,
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

By July 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, the UC, CSU, and the CCC systems shall each submit a report to the Director of Finance and to the Legislature regarding the use of these funds, including:

- The number of coordinators hired;
- The number of students served by campus;
- The distribution of funds by campus;
- A description of the types of programs funded;
- The number of students who were able to secure permanent housing;
- Whether students receiving support remained enrolled at the institution or graduated; and,
- Other relevant outcomes.