

Annual Basic Needs Impact



End of Year Report

2019-2020

Authored by:

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Dina Ghanim, Undergraduate Student Lead
Jesus Suarez, Undergraduate Student Lead
Ruben Canedo, Chair of Basic Needs Committee





Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank all of the student and staff volunteers, interns, ambassadors, and coordinators for the food pantry, CalFresh clinic, food recovery, cooking demo, community engagement, fundraising, and housing programs. It is because of the wonderful community support led by our student and staff members that our work is possible. We would like to express our gratitude to our donors and supporting partners. This report and UC Berkeley's Basic Needs' continual growth is a testament to their investment in our collective vision and efforts.

Grants

- Basic Needs Referendum
- CACSSF
- California State Budget
- Global Food Initiative
- SB85: Hunger Free Campus
- Student Technology Fund
- University Public Private Partnerships
- Wellness Referendum



Organizations

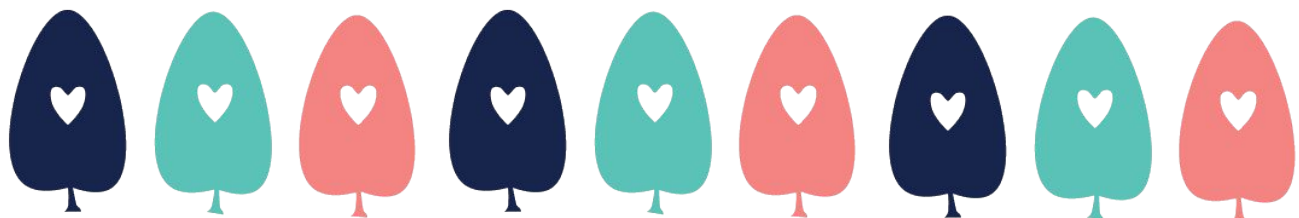
- Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC)
- Berkeley Food Institute (BFI)
- Division of Equity and Inclusion
- Division of Student Affairs
- Graduate Assembly (GA)
- Nutrition Policy Institute (NPI)
- UC System Basic Needs Committee
- University of California Office of the President (UCOP)
- University Development and Alumni Relations (UDAR)

*Special thank you to **Anne Wong** for being the graphic designer for this project. The work you contributed to support this project is greatly appreciated!*



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Ryan Farquhar *(He/Him/His)*

M.P.H. Public Health Nutrition | 2021

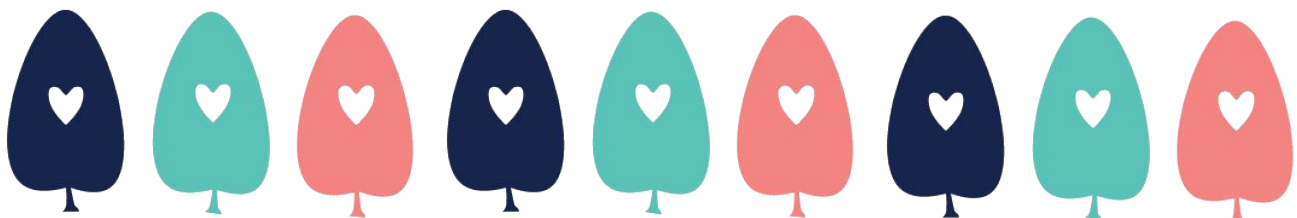
Coming from Modesto, California, Ryan has seen the impacts of food insecurity from a young age as a foster youth. Since moving to Berkeley, Ryan worked to give back to his Berkeley community through the creation of Food for Thought. This program combined life skills (Computer, Emotion, Narrative, Nutrition) to help students learn strategies to address basic needs insecurity. As well, Ryan worked to address stigma around houselessness as a Class Director in the Suitcase Clinic. Ryan now works to learn more about nutrition policy and advocacy in his MPH in Public Health Nutrition (while also working towards his RD credentials and Food System Certificate). He also is an intern at the San Francisco Department of Public Health: Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch where he worked on virtual implementation and program evaluation of the Intentional Walk Program.



Dina Ghanim *(She/Her/Hers)*

B.A. Public Health | 2021

Dina Ghanim serves an undergraduate fellow for the annual basic needs report and as the Food Pantry Lead for the Basic Needs Center. She is a fourth year studying Public Health and pursuing a medical degree, hoping to support the wellness of her various communities through a holistic understanding of the health experience of individuals, including basic needs, mental health, and medicine. Her commitment to basic needs and health care starts with her student community at UC Berkeley and continues to Palestine, where she hopes she can inspire change by providing public health education as well as medical intervention in refugee camps and other war-stricken and impoverished communities. She begins this journey through her work with the Basic Needs Center, CalFresh, Food Pantry, and the Muslim Mental Health Initiative and hopes to be steadfast in her pursuits until she has made a difference in the health of every place that she had the pleasure of calling "home".





Jesus Suarez *(He/Him/His)*

B.A. Sociology | 2021

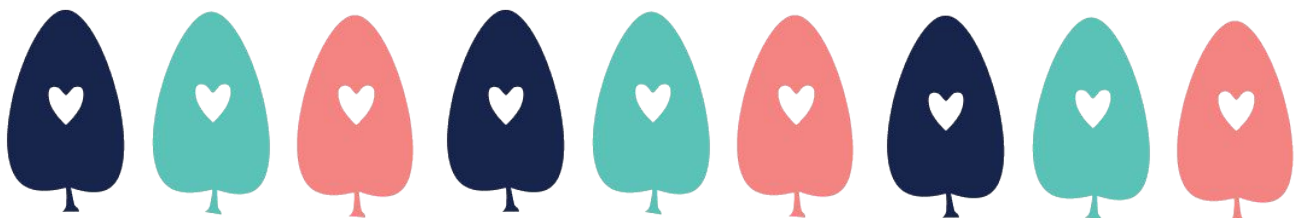
Jesus Suarez is currently a fourth-year pursuing a degree in sociology with the hopes of one day obtaining a Ph.D. in sociology, a law degree, or both. His interest in sociology arose from his most sincere passion for the study of social movements and false consciousness, engaging in social justice work, and working towards the betterment of his community. He further pursues these passions through his work with various organizations on campus such as the Queer Alliance Resource Center, the Berkeley Center for Comparative Anti-Discrimination and Equality Law, the ASUC Student Legal Clinic, the Student Advocate's Office, and Cal ACLU. Jesus hopes to one day utilize everything he has learned during his undergraduate career to start up a non-profit dedicated to giving back to his community through civic engagement, basic needs support, and education. Ultimately, Jesus' most fervent wish is to leave this world a little better than he found it.



Ruben Canedo *(He/Him/His, They/Them)*

Chair of UC Berkeley Basic Needs

Ruben is both Chair of UC Berkeley's Basic Needs Committee (est. Fall 2013) and Co-Chair of the UC Systemwide Basic Needs Committee (est. 2014). Ruben is a founding member of the leadership circle that facilitates the California Higher Education Basic Needs Partnership (est. 2016) between California's Community College System, California State University System, University of California System, California's Anti-Hunger Coalition, and the California Homeless Youth Project. Beyond California, Ruben works closely with national leaders dedicated to student economic, food, housing, and intersectional justice within and outside institutions of higher education. Prior to dedicating his time to student basic needs, Ruben convened the first UC System EOP Summit, co-founded the UC Berkeley's Work Study Fair, and co-founded UC Berkeley's Undocumented Student Program. These community efforts were instrumental for the realization and growth of basic needs efforts.





Welcome Message

The End of Year Report is compiled every year in an effort to highlight the operations as well as intentions, challenges, and accomplishments of the Basic Needs Committee in its mission to promote basic needs security for the UC Berkeley community.

This analysis of the various efforts of the basic needs “village”—composed of the various working groups committed to addressing and alleviating basic needs insecurity for the campus community—serves to remind us and inform others where we have been and where we intend to go. By reflecting on yearly milestones, we also evaluate how we can grow to better serve our community and set intentions, some nearsighted and some ambitious, to advance our mission.

With these efforts in mind, this report aims to advance the growing field of research as well as guide us in our advocacy for actionable outcomes. In the realm of our village, we will learn and transform our own operations to grow with the constantly evolving needs of our community. Beyond our realm, we will use our insights to inform university policies, which can generate institutional level changes for our community’s wellness.

In this way, this report is a learning experience and growing experience. We ultimately hope to spark necessary conversations and nourish the seeds of the village effort to bloom a vision of UC Berkeley with basic needs secured for all.

We look forward to sharing this journey of knowledge and growth with you all.

The Research/Evaluation/Reporting Team



Ryan Farquhar

Master of Public Health: Nutrition / 2021

Dina Ghanim

B.A. Public Health / 2021

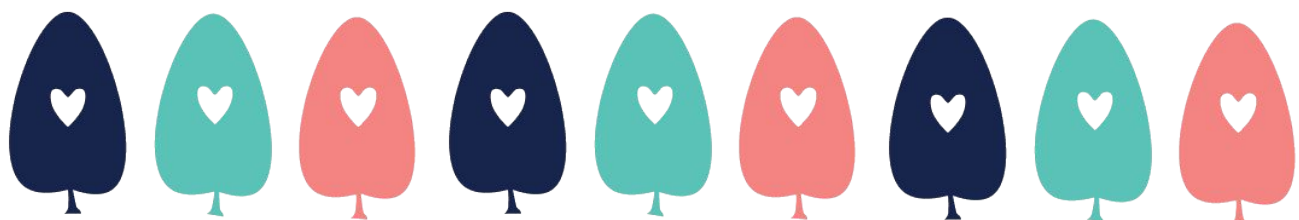
Jesus Suarez

B.A. Sociology / 2021

Anne Wong

B.A. Public Health / 2022

Ruben Canedo



Introduction to our Why



The Basic Needs as defined in the latest research of Dr. Suzanna Martinez at UCSF



Vision, Mission, and Core Values

During the Basic Needs Leadership Retreat in 2019, the team co-created the vision, mission, and core values of our inaugural UC Berkeley Basic Needs Center.

Vision, what is our aspirational direction?

Sustainable and transformative food, housing, and economic justice for the entire UC Berkeley community.

Mission, what do we need to do in order to realize our aspiration?

We provide accessible and equitable resources today; we research and advocate for systemic change tomorrow.

Values, how will we treat ourselves and each other through our journey?

Belonging, that is centered in dignity and healing.

Justice, that is centered in generative engagement, resilience, and transformation.

The **vision** sets an inspirational yet reachable destination for our team and campus by centering three important factors: sustainability, transformation, and inclusion. Sustainability affirms and guides us in a multigenerational and ever-growing effort that will adjust and adapt to match the needs and possibilities of our community. Our dedication to transformative justice means that we are committed to providing immediate relief and uprooting harm and injustices that cause basic needs challenges. Inclusion calls us to name and commit to serving the entire UC Berkeley community, which since 2018 has grown to support undergraduate students, graduate students, post-doc, visiting scholars, and staff in need.

Our **mission** is our strategy and responsibilities to our campus community that include both downstream and upstream interventions. We will address immediate basic needs relief by providing accessible and inclusive resources; while advocating for lasting change in our community through research and policy change.

The team discussed at length our **values** to identify two core values that will guide the BNC in its efforts and pursuits. After multiple rounds of individual, dyad, and small group discussion we arrived at: belonging, dignity, healing, justice, generative, resilience, and transformation. We knew that was too large of a list and reaffirmed our goal to identify two core values. We then began a connection and association round to group our values. Belonging held dignity and healing. Justice held generative, resilience, and transformation. Belonging and Justice as our core values will guide us in how we treat ourselves and each other through the journey of mobilizing our mission towards the realization of our vision.



Values and Intentions in Our Data

With Data Collection, our team wants to highlight the importance of data collection with intentionality. Our goal with collecting data is to continue to improve our operations and programming for the community. We know that the data we collect is meant to amplify the voices of the community and bring strength to shared and unique experiences.

Justice:

We want to track how many students and which students are experiencing basic needs challenges across our eco-system of basic needs

Equity:

We want to ensure that we are serving the students with higher rates of basic needs challenges (equity)

Belonging:

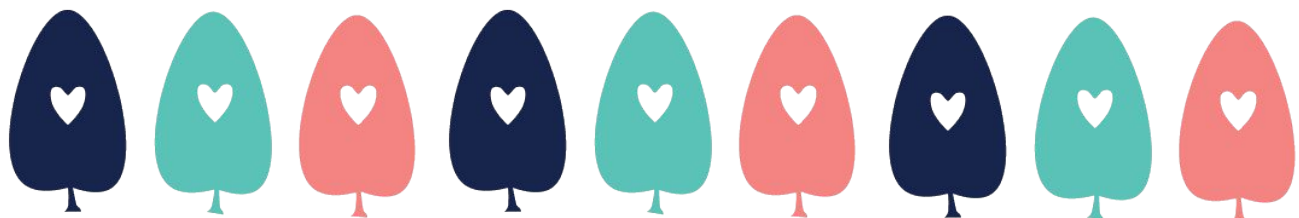
We want to learn from the students how our efforts are impacting their basic needs, what is helpful, what we need to improve, and what ideas/suggestions they have in order to co-create the journey with our community

Research & Academic Engagement:

Beyond direct service improvements, we want to amplify the impact of our data by partnering with the research/faculty community to inform better understandings of college student basic needs, interventions, evaluation, reporting, and strategies and tools for institutional change/transformation

Community Learning:

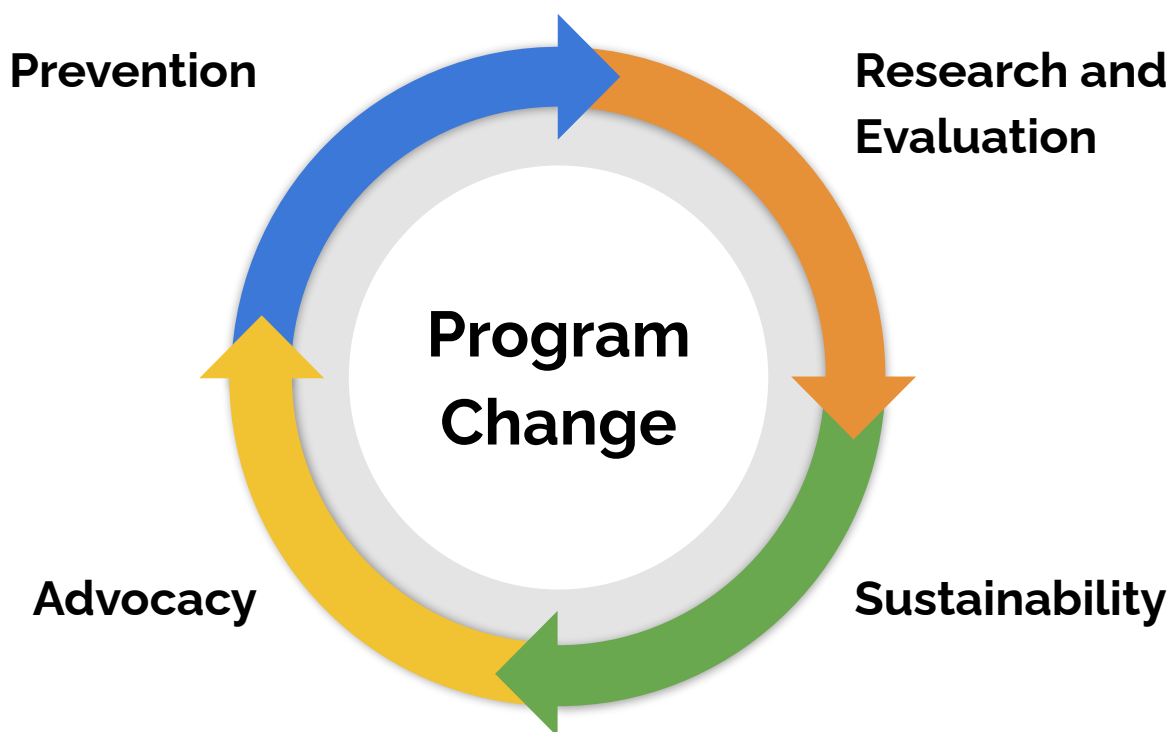
We want to share our data and materials in equitable ways via internal and public reporting tools (ex: data dashboard, infographics, progress reports, annual reports, trainings, etc.) to sustain our generative accountability, amplify lessons, and improve/shape our journey towards realizing a university experience of belonging & justice where all students have their basic needs met.



Theory of Change:

In response to data and feedback on community needs, the UC Berkeley Basic Needs Committee set out to address basic needs insecurity from both an upstream and downstream approach. The upstream approach encompasses reducing the number of campus community members who experience crises and require resources, and the downstream approach invests in providing intervention, resources, and crisis resolution for those in need in the meantime and through unexpected life events. From this philosophy, the committee developed The Theory of Change to holistically address basic needs insecurity from four directions: (1) Prevention, (2) Research and Evaluation, (3) Advocacy, (4) Sustainability.

- (1) **Prevention:** Engaging in the larger, structural effort to reduce the number of individuals who identify as basic needs insecure.
- (2) **Research and Evaluation:** Actively seek out and evaluate data on community needs and resource utilization to reflect on program impacts and how to improve.
- (3) **Advocacy:** Elevating voices to advocate locally, on our campus, state-wide, and nationally for change and policies that will benefit the community and serve our mission.
- (4) **Sustainability:** Ensuring our programs and services are longstanding and environmentally-friendly.



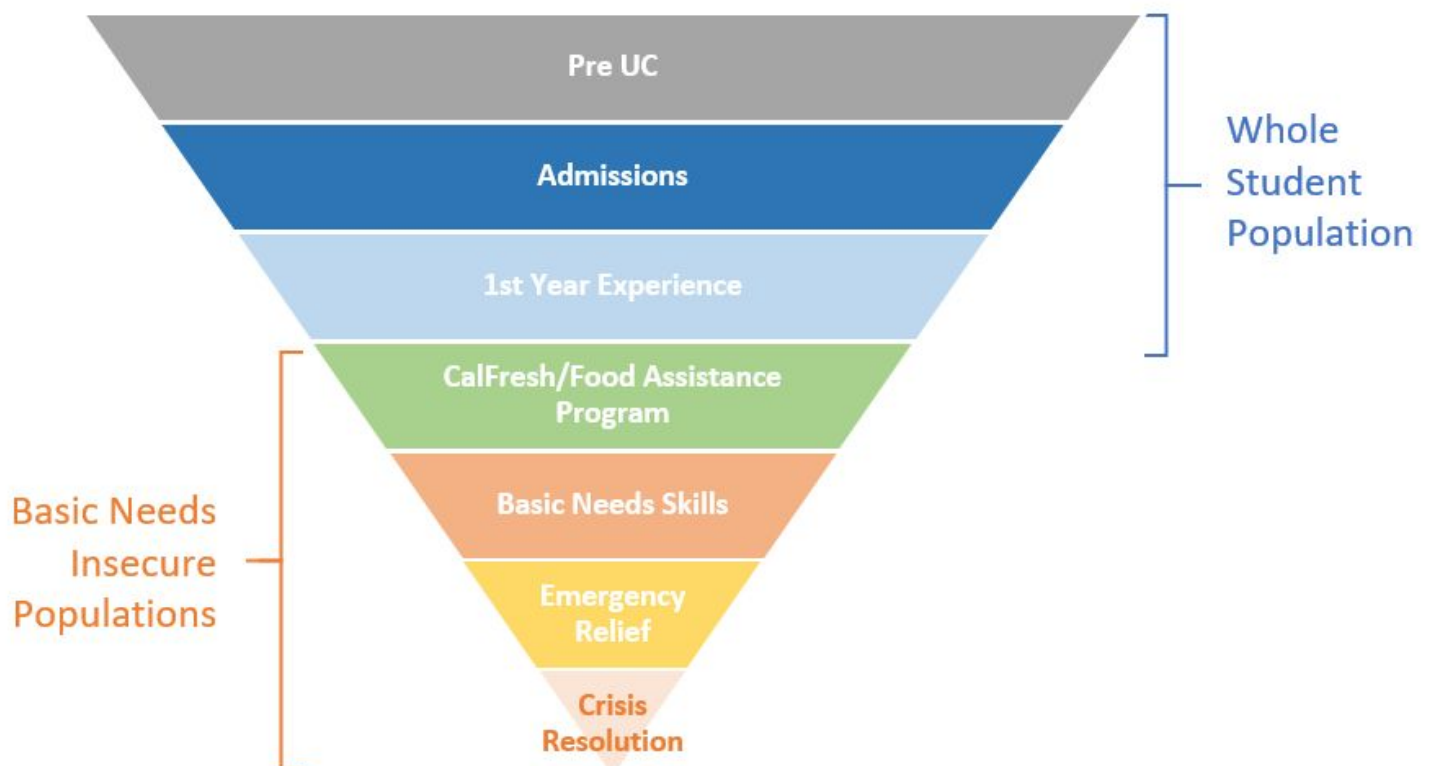


Inverse Pyramid Model:

To most effectively address this Theory of Change, the Basic Needs Inverted Pyramid Prevention Model outlines the various stages we identify as critical to reduce basic needs insecurity for the student community. Underlining this model, our goal is to support students before they arrive at UC Berkeley, as they transition into student life, and during their first-year experience to ultimately reduce the number of students who face basic needs insecurity during their full campus experience. However, student life can be variable, and unforeseen circumstances can have a severe impact on student needs. Emergency resources and crisis resolution continue to be offered throughout the student experience to support individuals through unpredicted circumstances.

The Inverse Pyramid Model expands to highlight the dynamic and collaborative effort of the Basic Needs Committee, which has various programs, initiatives, research centers, and that address basic needs insecurity from preventative and interventional frameworks. Different working parts within the committee address populations that already identify as basic needs insecure as well as the general student population to facilitate the transition into a healthy student experience.

Uniquely, the model also operates within the larger context of the university and offers the opportunity for awareness—and importantly, progress—at the institutional level.



Our Terminology

Basics needs have historically been conceptualized by many as only housing and food security; however, it encapsulates far more than that. Research presented in [Redefining Student Basic Needs for Higher Education A Study to Understand and Map University of California Student Basic Needs](#), highlights the need for an expansive, student-centered definition of basic needs. Building on the foundational elements of financial, housing, and food security, this research report highlights the crucial role transportation, stability (physical and mental health), hygiene, and sleep play in a collegian's web of basic needs. Furthermore, the following definitions draw from this research and its findings.

Financial Security:

Financial security includes a multitude of different components, but in the context of most collegians involves the ability to financially afford their basic needs and their tuition and fees. However, for many collegians, being able to afford the cost of their education while meeting their basic needs is an uphill battle. Furthermore, an essential aspect of financial security to understand for collegians is the role of financial aid and or the lack thereof, which becomes a barrier when having to navigate the myriad of growing fees, such as registration fees, medical fees, and loan fees. As a result of these ever-increasing financial barriers, some collegians are forced to balance multiple jobs on top of their studies, which is likely to impact other basic needs areas such as their physical and mental health.



Food Security:

Food security refers to having adequate, routine access to nutritious and healthy food. However, for many collegians, securing their next meal is an ever-present barrier in their daily life. As a result of financial obstacles, many collegians are forced to skip meals to afford other basic needs, such as housing. Moreover, food insecurity can also result in additional adverse outcomes, such as collegians feeling isolated from participating in social meals with friends due to constrictive food budgets and commuting further to access health food due to food deserts and swamps. Other potential impact areas include collegians' health and academics.





Housing Security

Housing security refers to a collegian's ability to secure housing that includes all of the following criteria: offering safe-living conditions, resides within a safe area, offers a space for regular sleeping, and whose cost will not be a negative burden on the collegian. Housing security is a foundational aspect for many collegians' basic needs due to its interconnectedness with all other basic needs. To expand, countless collegians are continually navigating a balancing act of deciding what they're willing to sacrifice to obtain shelter, which can include skipping meals, moving further from campus, and living in less safe environments. As a result of this continual balancing act, some collegians may also experience negative impacts on their health due to the anxiety associated with housing insecurity and, at its most severe, homelessness.



Hygiene:



Hygiene includes routine access to showers, laundry, and personal hygiene products. In addition, hygiene also consists of the minimal hygienic standard their other basic needs should be in, such as housing. Collegians navigating housing or financial insecurity may face barriers securing routine access to showers and places to do their laundry and hygienic supplies, such as shampoo, deodorant, and menstrual supplies. Lastly, the inability to maintain one's hygiene may negatively impact their physical and mental health.

Mental Health:

As a component of basic needs, mental health highlights a collegian's need for mental stability, which some may refer to as peace of mind. Moreover, many collegians who are facing basic needs insecurity may experience adverse mental health outcomes such as stress, anxiety, and depression. One example of negative mental health outcomes can be seen when collegians are experiencing higher stress levels due to having to continually worry about securing their next meal or afford their rent this month. Financial insecurity may compound negative mental health outcomes due to the inability to access mental health support resources, e.g., a counselor.





Physical Health:



Physical health encompasses a holistic general bodily wellness, which may be impacted by various things, such as chronic or severe illnesses. Furthermore, a collegian's physical health may be affected by other components of basic needs such as sleep, hygiene, food, and financial security. In particular, collegians facing financial insecurity may experience more severe impacts on their physical health due to their inability to afford routine access to health services. Lastly, collegians navigating issues with their physical health may also experience negative impacts on their academics.

Sleep:

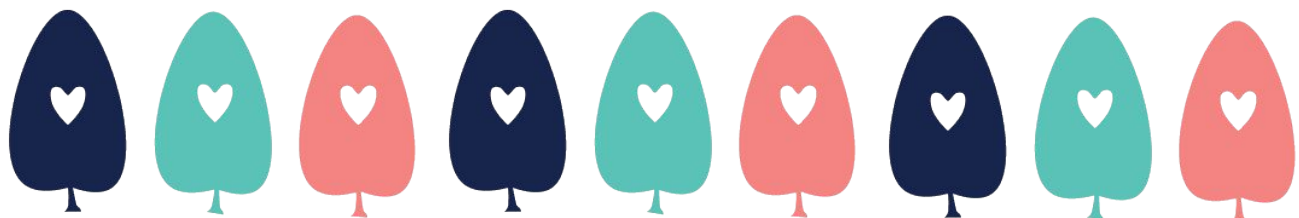
Sleep involves a collegian's ability to secure a safe, routine, and appropriately-suited place to sleep uninterrupted. Furthermore, collegians navigating housing insecurity may experience a barrier to sleep due to being unable to find a suitable place to sleep, which fills the criteria above. In addition, collegians unable to acquire a routine uninterrupted sleep are likely to experience negative consequences on their academics and overall wellness.



Transportation:



Transportation encompasses a collegian's relationship with the distance between themselves and other critical areas, such as their university and a place to get groceries. Moreover, for some collegians, transportation may become a barrier if the commute from their residence to their university or grocery store takes out a significant chunk of their day. Extended commutes may result in collegians being unable to purchase nutritious food within their budget or become truly immersed within campus life.





Live Data Dashboard:

(<https://tinyurl.com/bnc-dash>)

As a step to practice emergent strategies, the RER team led by Ryan created a live updating data dashboard that syncs with our Point of Contact data collection sheets. This live updating dashboard allows for us to see a mix of historical trends and current occurrences. Our goal with this dashboard is to allow data to better inform our real time decisions. While our current model of End of Year reports provided a beginning avenue of information, a lag time between publication and meetings existed.

This dashboard is now acting as a path to expedite our reporting process through the new creation of Quarterly Reports based on our timeline below. With these Quarterly Reports, our End of Year Report process shall be expedited in unison. These reports will be able to better inform our decisions moving forward and can be used as tools for advocacy. The data dashboard will continue to be updated and will house all future reports. More information on how the dashboard was created can be found in the Appendix section as well as through email to the RER team (current contact information on the dashboard).



A screenshot from our live updating dashboard, housed in Google Sites and running off the Google Suite Software.

Total Community Interactions
AY 2020-2021
13301

Unique Individuals Served
AY 2020-2021
2787

Food Pantry

Month	Total Visits	Unique Visitors
Sep '18	6714	4374
Dec '18	8431	5172
Mar '19	10973	6204
May '19	9003	4508
Sep '19	9878	4545
Dec '19	13242	6211
Mar '20	10512	5211
May '20	9405	5013
Sep '20	7046	2164
Dec '20	5466	1999
Mar '20		
May '20		

Basic Needs Committee



Outreach Interns holding a Pop-Up Pantry accessible for undergraduates, graduate students, and staff.

Basic Needs Committee Structure:

Basic Needs Center

- Awards
 - Food Assistance Program
 - Basic Needs Food Scholarship
 - Rental Assistance Program
 - Crisis Fund
 - Safety Deposit Fund
- Basic Needs Outreach
 - Internship
 - Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
- CalFresh
- Case Management
- Drop-In Services
- Food for Thought Seminars
- Food Pantry
- Food Recovery and Gleaning

Financial Aid and Scholarships Office

- Basic Needs Equity Grant
- Emergency Housing
- Financial Aid Awards
- Safety Deposit Scholarship

Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology

- NST 20: Personal Food Security and Wellness

Residential and Student Service Programs

- HADSA Programs and Gardens

University Health Services

- Food Demos
- Health Opportunity Fund
- Dietitians
- Drop-In Consultations
- Nutrition Outreach Workers

Division of Student Affairs

- Center for Educational Partnerships
- Golden Bear Orientation
- New Graduate Student Orientation
- Office of Equity & Inclusion
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Office of Student Affairs
- Office for Graduate Diversity
- UVA Community Food Pantry

Other Partners

- Basic Needs Referendum
- Bears for Financial Success
- Berkeley Student Food Collective
- *bridges*
- Student Advocate's Office























Food Pantry



Description

The UC Berkeley Food Pantry was founded in 2014 as an emergency food relief source with the intent that students struggling with food insecurity do not go hungry while exploring long term and sustainable food assistance. In 2018, the Food Pantry expanded to serve staff, postdocs, and faculty and began operating on a self-assessed need basis. It operates on the philosophy that individuals can come in as much as they need and take as much as they need while keeping in mind that it is a shared and highly utilized resource.

Located on campus and open seven days a week, Food Pantry is stocked with items that range from dry and frozen non perishables to fresh produce and bread and repackaged prepared meals. Food Pantry sources its food variety from quality wholesale distributors, daily donations, and recovery from local gardens/bakeries as well as campus partners. The Food Pantry seeks to stock food items for the diversity of nutritional and dietary needs as assessed by nutritionists at the Tang center. The Food Pantry is staffed by student and community volunteers as well as committee interns and leads who attend weekly shifts. It has the most weekly operational hours of any campus pantry in the United States.

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Restock</i>	<i>Sample Inventory</i>	
Monday	10:00 am - 7:30 pm	  	Pastas & Sauces	Milk & alternatives
Tuesday	11:30 am - 7:30 pm	  	Cereals/Oats	Spices & bouillon
Wednesday	10:00 am - 7:30 pm	  	Honey	Rice
Thursday	10:00 am - 7:30 pm	 	Nut butters	Oils
Friday	11:30 am - 7:30 pm	  	Flour	Eggs
Saturday	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	 	Canned soups	Frozen fruits
Sunday	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	 	Canned fruits	Frozen vegetables
			Canned vegetables	Prepared meals
			Canned beans	Fresh produce
			Canned tuna & chicken	Fresh bread
			Frozen meats & tofu	Fresh pastries



Program's +/-Δ from the year:

+

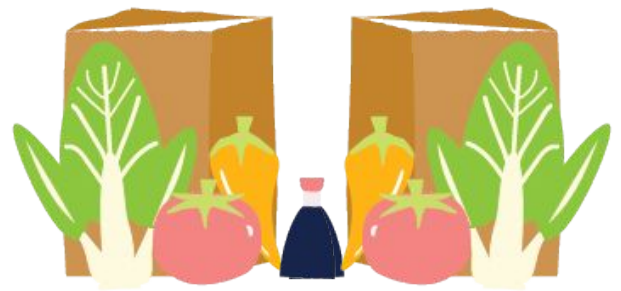
- Stayed open through the majority of the full academic year
- Had more total and unique visits and reached more need-identified individuals than historically before
- Reestablished a purchasing connection with the Alameda County Community Food Bank
- Established partnership with Berkeley Food Network
- Expanded food diversity and quantity
- Launched the live inventory app to improve the visitor experience
- Redesigned overstock space for more stringent food safety
- Improved restock efficiency by recruiting a restock lead
- Supported Berkeley Hope Scholars (foster youth) with food orders
- Presented to staff supervisors about staff needs
- Moved toward inventory that offers more nutritional value and long term sustenance

Goals for the Next Year:

- Increase efforts to destigmatize staff basic needs through data, workshops, social media engagement, and signage
- Create a relationship with a food distributor that supplies halal and kosher meat
- Recruit more graduate student volunteers and designate "Grad Hours"; tailor certain Pop-up Pantry days to graduate students
- Find an equitable restock strategy to keep high-demand food items in stock

Δ

- Identified a need to improve outreach and accessibility for graduate students
- Struggled to destigmatize staff visits to students and staff administrators
- Struggled to source religiously-sensitive foods
- Difficulty supplying enough eggs, milk, rice, and proteins to meet need past restock days



Student coordinators Dina Ghanim (left) and Emma Jiang (right) attending Berkeley Food Network Ribbon Cutting Ceremony after the forming of an official partnering.

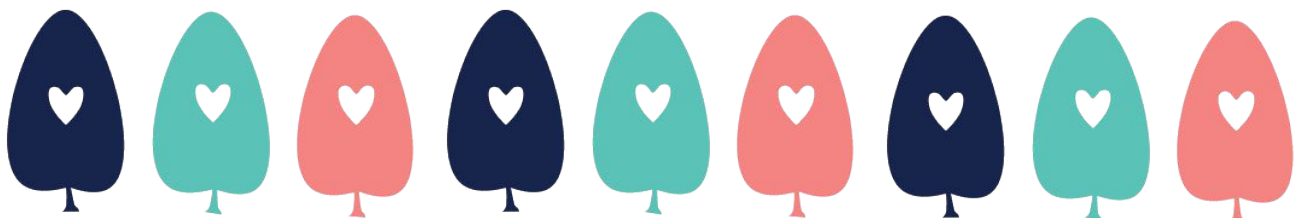
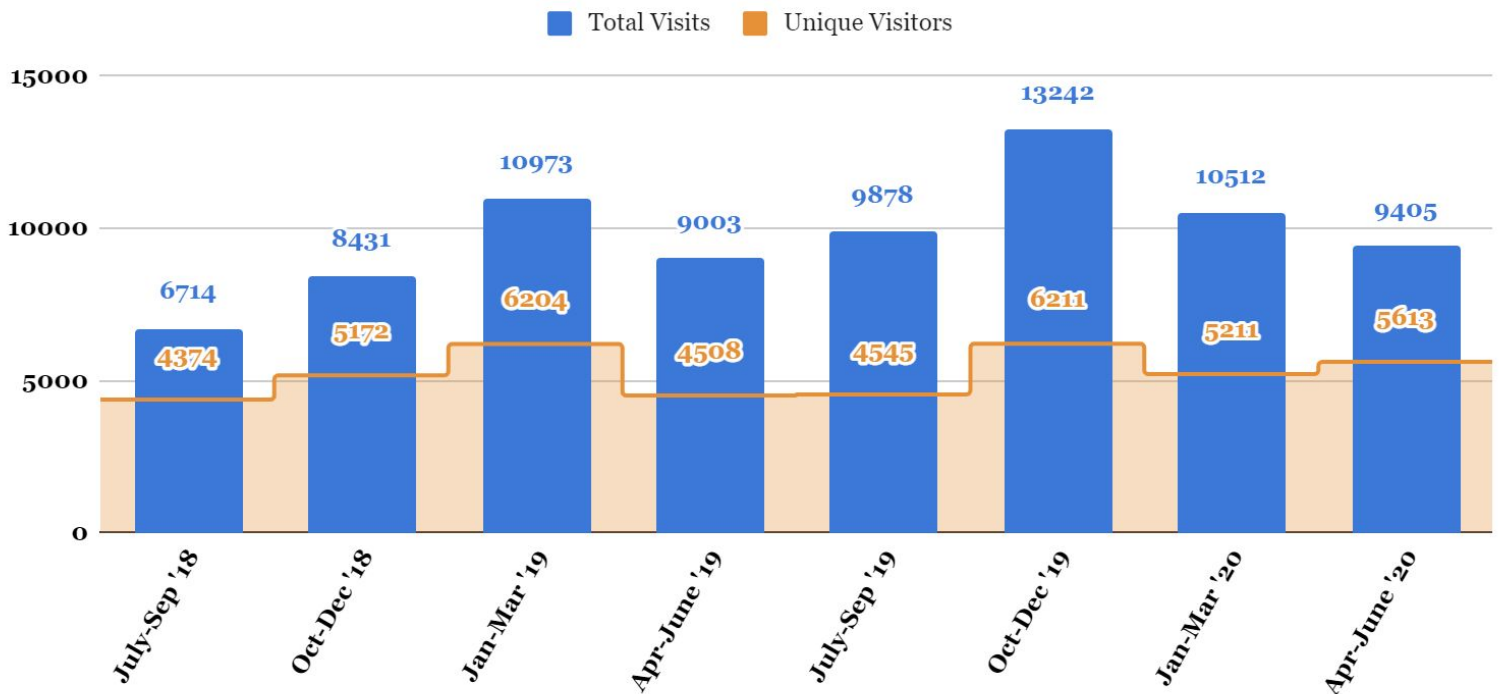


Impact Data AY 19-20

	Fall 2019	Spring 2020*	Summer 2020*
Total visits: 42,400+	19,317	19,726	3,403
Unique visits: 11,600+	5,088	5,782	771
% Change from 18-19 year	↑22%	↑10%	↓39%
Hours of operation per week	51.5	52.5	20

* = semesters impacted by COVID-19

Trend Data from Dashboard





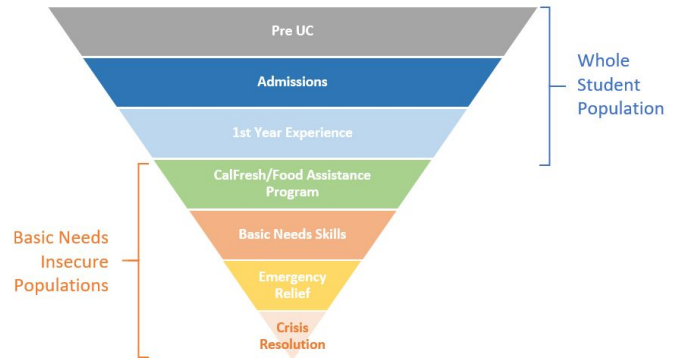
Shifts in the Pantry:

This past academic year saw amazing growth and challenges in the world of basic needs. Through reflection and evaluation, we find the areas we still need to grow to best be there for our community. As such, we will take the time to expand on topics and themes that we found in our data.

Increase Use of the Food Pantry:

Trend data show that the Food Pantry has experienced an upward trend of visits, particularly in pre-COVID semesters. While this trend could indicate that need-identified students are utilizing resources to aid with their food insecurity, Food Pantry is a downstream and emergency solution that offers only short term relief. This data underscore the need for the Basic Needs Center to grow towards more effectively reaching students with sustainable food assistance programs such as CalFresh so that food insecure individuals do not have to rely on band aid solutions. The misconception of Food Pantry as a free grocery store or a sustainable food relief option rather than emergency food relief may also play a part in the trend data. Ways that the Basic Needs Center can address this trend include investing more into CalFresh programming and outreach, addressing the “free grocery store” misconception via outreach, stressing the existence of the Food Pantry as a resource for temporary and emergency relief, and researching how effective Food Pantry has been in reaching need-based populations and how reliant visitors are on the resource by looking at visit trends per individual over a stretch of time.

Prevention Model: Inverse Pyramid



Food Pantry Data Breakdown

AY 19-20	Total		Unique		Visits/ Unique Visitor
UG	25170	74.38%	5520	78.96%	4.56
G	4284	12.66%	969	13.86%	4.42
Staff	4384	12.96%	502	7.18%	8.73
Total	33838	100.00%	6991	100.00%	4.84

Increase Staff Use of the Food Pantry:

Food Pantry is also experiencing a high number of unique visits from UC Berkeley staff. Contributing factors may include more dependents, non-livable wages, and lower enrollment in CalFresh or other food assistance programs. To address these discrepancies, the Staff Basic Needs Working Group (SBNWG) will continue to work towards securing basic needs for vulnerable staff populations by providing targeted outreach and services and researching for systemic change.

Food Recovery & Gleaning



Description

The Food Recovery and Gleaning Program is a sustainability effort to recover entirely safe and underutilized food from the Berkeley community to redistribute it to where it is needed. Recovered food is taken to the Food Pantry as part of the effort to address food insecurity. Through the overarching goals of sustainability, decreasing food waste, and increasing food availability for food insecure populations, this program seeks to transform local food systems.

The majority of donations for the Food Pantry are received through a partnership with the Bay Area nonprofit Daily Bread. The Food Recovery and Gleaning team also oversees gleaning of produce from local gardens, trees, and farms as well as recovery of prepared food from CalDining and campus organizations. Other sources include local grocery stores, farmers markets, bakeries, and restaurants.

Food Recovery interns collaborate with RePlate, a local organization with the same mission of receiving surplus food from caterers, restaurants, and grocery stores and repackaging them in keeping with food safety practices to donate to the Food Pantry. Gleaning interns attend harvest days at local farms and gardens to glean produce. These efforts combined allow the Food Pantry to be stocked with fresh produce, bread, and prepared meals week-to-week while reducing food waste in other spheres.



Recovered produce and bread at the Food Pantry (left) and recovered prepared meals from Cal Dining repackaged by Food Recovery interns (below). Food donations from Cal Dining are done in collaboration with RePlate.





Impact Data AY 19-20

	Fall 2019	Spring 2020*
Produce	2,332	925
Bread/Pastries	3,587	2,526
Prepared Foods	1953	2663
Other	760	185
% Change from 18-19 year	↓12.23%	↓56%

* = semesters impacted by COVID-19



Basic Needs Interns at Gill Tract Harvest (left and bottom right). Repackaged meals (top right).





Interns and community members volunteering at a harvest and work day at Gill Tract Farms.



Program's +/Δ from the year:

+

- Strengthened partnership with Daily Bread and Cal Dining
- Established regular food recovery schedule, with multiple recoveries per week
- Invited to present at Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) National Conference
- Food Recovery interns helped staff with Weigh Your Waste nights at Cal Dining

Δ

- More recovery is possible with a larger kitchen, more interns, more supplies, and longer shifts
- Not all donations get weighed, so recovery data are an underestimation
- Could improve communication and messaging
- More training and preparation is possible

Goals for the next year:

- Improve data tracking by weighing different types of food separately, recording all the different types of foods donated, and collecting data on how much of each food group is recovered and distributed
- Increase signage in dining halls about food waste and food recovery
- Better communicate to Food Pantry visitors when prepared food is available
- Provide better labelling and nutritional information on recovered prepared food
- Increase preparation for disasters and emergencies by providing more consistent food safety training, clearer guidelines, and higher standards for cleanliness and food safety





Cal Fresh

[CalFresh](#), also known as [the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) or Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), is a federally-funded food assistance program. Through CalFresh, eligible students may have their budget for groceries expanded by up to \$194 per month.

Although students must meet certain criteria to be eligible, there are many programs on campus that may qualify students for CalFresh, such as [the Educational Opportunity Program \(EOP\)](#), and [the Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#). In addition, students who are receiving Cal Grants or work-study may also qualify. Through UC Berkeley's CalFresh Clinics*, undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff who are seeking to undergo the process to receive CalFresh may receive assistance with filling out the application. Applicants seeking assistance will either be aided by a certified CalFresh ambassador or a staff member from [the Alameda County Community Food Bank](#).



*Due to unforeseen circumstances outside of the control of the Basic Needs Center, segments of CalFresh data are unavailable to us at the time of this report's publication. Although we are unsure at this moment if this data will ever be recovered, we will strive to update our Data Dashboard if the data becomes available. Thank you for your understanding.





Program's +/-Δ from the year:

+

- **Accessibility** - Creation of Zoom application assistance in order to continue serving the campus community during the pandemic
- **Partnerships** - Development of collaborations with campus partners, which has enabled outreach to [Educational Opportunity Program \(EOP\)](#) students
- **Restructuring** - Creation of an administrative-focused and an outreach-centered leadership roles
- **Increased Support** - Began expanding their application assistance services to also include [Eligibility Status Report \(SAR7\)](#) support and answering eligibility questions
- **Checklist** - Started sending out eligibility checklists so applicants can assess their situation prior to their appointment

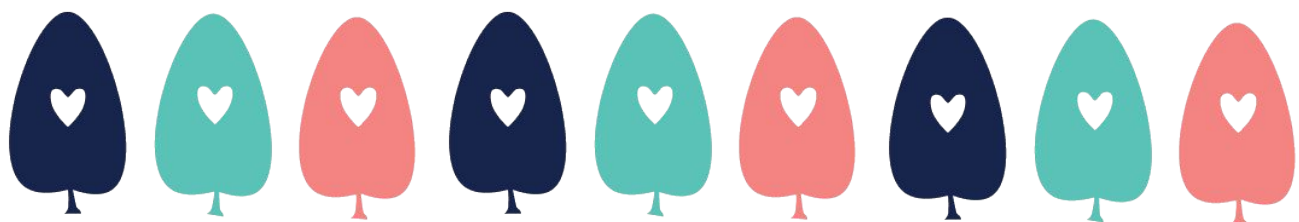
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- **Reminder System** - Implementation of an appointment reminder system to help alleviate the noted increase in students not showing to their scheduled appointments
- **Staff Diversity** - Recognizing a need for increased diversity and representation amongst ambassadors so they can more easily connect to communities such as graduate students and student parents
- **Programming** - Starting to assign roles in order to streamline the event planning process



Goals for the next year:

- **Trainings** - Expand the trainings ambassadors undergo to include special situations, such as divorce, student parents, and students living at home during the pandemic.
- **Food Pantry** - Work with the Food Pantry so that visiting community members know about more long-term food assistance resources
- **Zoom Fatigue** - Learn to reach and address students who are navigating being on Zoom during extended periods of time and hopefully connect with students on a larger platform



Food for Thought



Description

This program began in Fall 2017 with the idea to combine life skill classes with resources. Starting with only one food seminar course, the program has grown to offer more courses. Additionally, they offer all their students and interns the chance to gain teaching experience for units and pay in a fellowship opportunity. If a student has taken 3 or more Food for Thought classes, they will qualify for the yearly Food for Thought Scholarship to support their basic needs. The program also works to coordinate with DeCals that address basic needs skill development and provide them funding. The program's goal is to help other students gain life skills that they can take beyond the classroom setting.

Core Seminars (Letter Graded, 2 units): Resources Offered:

- **Computer Seminar**
 - Underrepresented Students and Technology Access
 - **Emotion Seminar**
 - Underrepresented Students and Emotional Wellbeing
 - **Narrative Seminar**
 - Underrepresented Students and Narrative Expression
 - **Nutrition Seminar**
 - Underrepresented Students and Food Security
- Meals and Snacks
 - Textbook Rentals
 - Computer Rentals
 - GRE/LSAT/MCAT Prep Books
 - Wellness Supplies
 - DeCal Support
 - Free bCourse Site with Trainings

Other Opportunities:

Community Seminars (P/NP, 1 unit):

- **Cooking**
 - Learn to cook through volunteer work for those facing houselessness
 - **Outdoors**
 - Learn about gardening and environmental justice
- Leadership Program
 - \$1,500 per semester
 - Internship Program
 - 2 units per semester
 - Scholarship
 - \$500
 - DeCal Sponsorship

Sponsored DeCals (Varies):

- Intro to Cooking





Program's +/-Δ from the year:

+

- Created better infrastructure
- Developed Community Seminar concepts and classes
- Drafted foundations surveys and impact measurement methods
- Collaborated with campus partners to establish workshops that expand on key skills
- Built a stronger online presence and skill set as a team
-

Δ

- Low class resource usage by students
- Want to improve on reaching out to CE3 students
- Needed more institutionalized program knowledge

Goals for the next year:

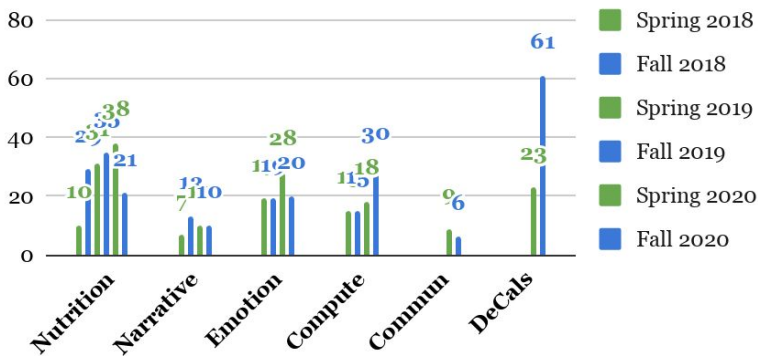
- Increase outreach and efforts to reach CE3 populations
- Improve curriculum to build up the programs roots as Ethnic Studies seminars
- Develop new curriculum to meet the needs of the expanding definitions of basic needs (ex: developing a Finance Seminar)
- Create a minor for students to gain accreditation for the time invested into learning about basic needs skills and community advocacy

Impact Data AY 19-20	Fall 2019	Spring 2020
Enrollment	82	126
Previous Year Comparison	↑283%	↑175%

Trend Data from Dashboard

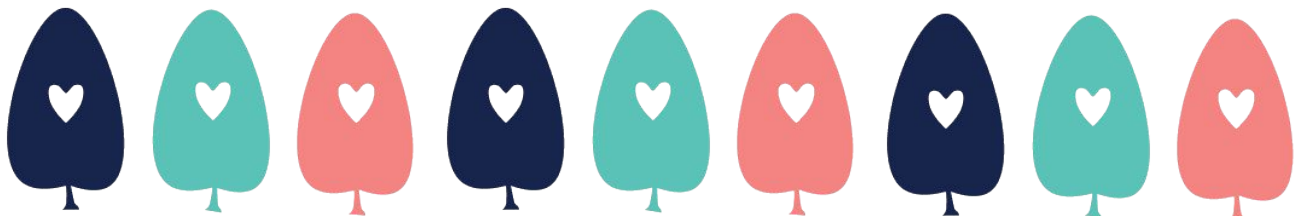
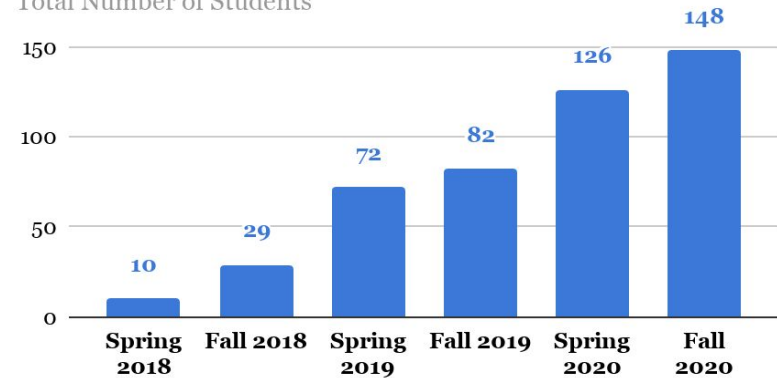
Food for Thought Seminars

Total Number of Students by Class



Food for Thought Seminars

Total Number of Students





Student Awards

Description

The UC Berkeley Basic Needs Center houses and supports a variety of student awards aimed at ensuring students are able to continue with their studies despite financial hardships. Moreover, some of the awards housed within the Basic Needs Center include but are not limited to the Food Assistance Program, the Housing Security Deposit Award Program, and the Rental Assistance Program. In addition, the Basic Needs Center also supports the Cal-Pays Copay Program, Basic Needs Equity Grants and the Health Opportunity Fund.



Furthermore, as of Summer 2020, the *Food Assistance Program*, the Housing Security Deposit Award Program, and the Rental Assistance Program have been centralized under the [Basic Needs Center Holistic Fund application](#). All enrolled students at UC Berkeley, which includes undergraduates, graduates, international, and undocumented students, are eligible to apply.

Impact Data 19/20	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Disbursements:	\$39,300	\$2,330	\$84,200	*	\$442,170

*Data from Q4 is currently unavailable due to the unprecedented nature of COVID-19 pandemic.

Student Awards Breakdown:



→ Undergraduate, graduate, international, and undocumented students are eligible to apply.

Basic Needs Equity Grants | The Basic Needs Equity Grants aim to provide basic needs support to students, such as students within the [Undocumented Student Program](#), who may typically be eligible for other forms of support, such as Calfresh.

Basic Needs Food Scholarship | Housed within the Financial Aid office, the Basic Needs Food Scholarship aims to support students navigating food insecurity.

Cal-Pays Copay Program | The Cal-Pays Copay Program is designed to financially assist students facing out-of-pocket healthcare costs. This program is geared towards students with disabilities, those who are living with chronic conditions, and also students who may be experiencing unexpected, emergency-based medical situations.

Crisis Fund | The Crisis Fund is an internal fund utilized to provide financial assistance to students through our caseworking service.



Food Assistance Program | The Food Assistance Program provides students with short-term financial assistance to cover food needs that are not met by the food pantry. In order to be eligible, students must be in the process of applying for and or be ineligible for CalFresh.

- **[Health Opportunity Fund](#)** | The Health Opportunity Fund (HOF) is housed with University Health Services and may be used at the Tang Center. Eligible students may have up to \$175 awarded to them in order to cover costs and prescriptions at the Tang Center.



[Housing Security Deposit Award Program](#) | The Housing Security Deposit Award program is designed to assist students who need support in paying their security deposits for either on-campus or off-campus housing through partial or full financial assistance.



[Rental Assistance Program](#) | The Rental Assistance program provides students facing housing needs such as eviction, inability to pay rent, or displacement with a one-time aid. Students who have met the annual borrowing amount for students of their year also meet the criteria to apply.





Nutritional Science and Toxicology 20: Personal Food Security and Wellness

Description

NST 20 is a course that aims to improve nutrition-related behaviors and support students in need of improving their food security status. Students who have limited cooking and food preparation experience will acquire foundational nutrition knowledge and basic cooking skills to be able to prepare healthful and affordable meals in consideration of existing factors, such as: food availability; food budgeting; and time management.

Structure

The course system has remained unchanged from previous years due to proven effective from both course demand and research results. NST 20 uses the current model of having 3 labs each semester with a max of 18 students per lab. The course lecture will be taught by the instructor and all 6 labs will be taught by a GSI. In junction, the Nutrition Outreach Workers from the University Health Services offer support to the labs..

Challenges

The course labs operate out of the teaching kitchen in Morgan Hall, room 144. Due to space and budget constraints, labs are capped at 18 each. Thus, more labs would need to be created to increase enrollment going forward unless the kitchen is expanded.

Additionally, the course targets primarily undergraduate students that can take low division units. Graduate students or students with unit caps are unable to participate in the class for these reasons. Therefore, an upper division or graduate level course would be needed.



Enrollment Data AY 19-20	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Total
Total Students	53	55	108

University Health Services: Nutrition Services



Description

The University Health Services of UC Berkeley has a specific sub-division that works on nutrition for the broader campus community. The team is composed of registered dietitians that have been trained in clinical nutrition and nutrition education. Undergraduate students are hired as Nutrition Outreach Workers (NOWs) to support the dietitians (such as at cooking demonstrations or with NST 20).

Services

Cooking Demos:

The UHS team works to provide cooking demonstrations at many basic needs events in order to meet students where they are at. These demonstrations are meant to highlight quick and healthy recipes that students can make with limited kitchen equipment. Additionally, the food demonstrations utilize food pantry items to help maximize student use of items taken from the food pantry.

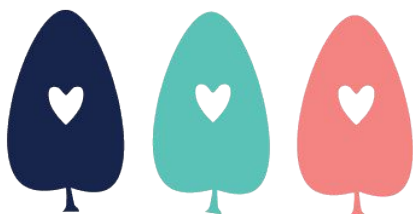
Cooking Demos:

Recipe cards are provided both in person and online for free. These recipes are meant to be simple healthy recipes to help build basic cooking understanding. Some of the recipes include:

- Hummus
- Vegan chowders and chilis
- Quick snacks and smoothies

Drop-In Services:

Dietitians from the team host weekly drop in meetings at the Basic Needs Center. The meetings are done in a private, one-on-one settings and are completely free. No student information is collected as these drop ins are completely anonymous.



UHS Tang Center Nutrition Outreach staff at the weekly Friday demonstration displaying and sampling a recipe made with Food pantry ingredients..



Residential Student Services Program



Description

Residential and Student Service Programs (RSSP) provides housing, dining, and residential student development services, as well as conference services, early childhood education programs, and the Cal 1 Card program. RSSP's mission is to provide the highest quality services and programs that ease a student's transitions through the university and in the greater community, and to provide all our customers—students, faculty, staff, and guests—with a quality customer experience.

Services

HADSA Programs:

RSSP hosts rounds of cooking demos and events to bring awareness and address student food insecurity. One part of these is the grocery bag donation program where students can donate extra meal points to other students.

HADSA Gardens

The team regularly harvests and donates fresh produce to the UC Berkeley Food Pantry, which is offered for pantry users and also used for events on campus such as Food Pantry outreach and Nutrition outreach demonstrations. HADSA also hosts educational skill-sharing workshops to provide students with experience growing, harvesting, and cooking food.

RePlate Donations

RSSP is also reducing their food waste produced through partnering with the non-profit replate. All excess food produced by the campus dining units packed and given to the Basic Needs Center. Once delivered, the food is repurposed to new meals given to students in need.





Other Partners

Student Advocate's Office

The Student Advocate's Office (SAO) is the campus public defender, which conducts individual casework and policy recommendations in four divisions: financial aid, conduct, academic, and grievance. The office is staffed by over fifty students in a wide range of disciplines and majors but are all dedicated to making the University a secure space for students.



Berkeley Student Food Collective

The Berkeley Student Food Collective works to provide healthy, sustainable, and affordable food for the East Bay community. The Food Collective is a student-run hub for both leadership development and food-related education for its members and patrons. Through inclusive, democratic decision-making, they operate a cooperative grocery market that promotes community-building and environmental stewardship.



Bears for Financial Success

Bears for Financial Success is a peer-to-peer financial wellness program that gives students the tools and resources to make informed financial decisions now and in the future. The program offers one-on-one appointments and workshops available to all UC Berkeley students that address the following money management topics: budgeting, credit, credit cards, managing debt, savings and banking, and identity theft prevention.



Impacts of COVID-19



Pop-up food pantry in the first floor of MLK Building

COVID-19 Impact:

Basic Needs Center COVID-19 LIVING GUIDE

In response to the impact of COVID-19 on campus operations in March 2020, the Basic Needs Center published the *UC Berkeley Basic Needs Center Guide to COVID-19*, which consolidated a lot of critical information for students at Cal during this moment of crisis. This guide provided essential updates regarding Basic Needs Center's services such as changes to the Food Pantry program, the new virtual drop-in services, and the debut of the new one-stop student emergency financial support application, the Basic Needs Holistic Support Application. This resource guide also spotlighted other crucial campus resources such as financial aid & scholarships, mental health resources, and technological resources.



UC Berkeley Basic Needs Center COVID-19 LIVING GUIDE Campus COVID-19 Website

UPDATED [3/19/20 @ 4:15PM]

We want to hear from you & learn with you fam:
[Share Stories/Requests/Suggestions Here](#)



WELCOME & AFFIRMATION

- ★ Greetings from your Basic Needs Center fam, we look forward to learning with you & supporting you through this journey with COVID-19.
- ★ As your campus Basic Needs Center team, we want to affirm that we are open and committed to campus community members in need.
- ★ We also want to acknowledge that COVID-19 may have an impact on students' basic needs.
- ★ With the Alameda County Shelter in Place mandate, our priority is to ensure that services will continue remotely. We will still provide services, whether they are remote or accessible in different ways. Our goal is to support all campus community members and ensure that everyone can get the help that they need.
- ★ **The Basic Needs Center has moved operations due to the Alameda County "Shelter in Place" order. Our satellite location is now 103 Sprout Hall. Please review this document in detail to find out how to access and guide our community to basic needs resources.**

UC Berkeley MARCH 2020 Basic Needs Center



LIVING GUIDE

We launched a UCB Basic Needs Center living guide:

tinyurl.com/UCB-BNC-C19

The guide is visited daily, has been hyperlinked in campus websites + Cal Messages, and served as a model for similar living documents on campus and across UC system.

FOOD RELIEF

We redesigned our food relief efforts on a weekly basis to honor public health guidelines AND the needs of our community.

+2,000 visits to our pop-up pantry, grocery bag distributions, DSP satellite pantry, and University Village.	\$1,400 were awarded to 8 students in severe circumstances by our Case Management team. Average award \$200 per student.
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RENTAL ASSISTANCE

26 students reached out or were referred to our case management team. The students were awarded a total of:

\$30,000

The average award provided to students was \$1,146.

BASIC NEEDS STUDENT SUPPORT

UCB Basic Needs Center Case Managers supported

41

students in severe circumstances across basic needs areas.

You can support our efforts at: tinyurl.com/love4ucbbnc

We are partnering with campus leaders to centralize and coordinate the next phase of our campus COVID-19 efforts.



Basic Needs Center Programming

The impact of COVID-19 resulted in some changes to the regular programming of Basic Needs Center Services. The Basic Needs Awards shifted to offer a centralized application for holistic short-term financial support across rental assistance, food assistance, and housing security deposits to simplify the search and application process for students during such a dire time of need. Undocumented and international students as well as both undergraduate and graduate students were eligible to apply. The CalFresh team alongside representatives at the Alameda County Community Food Bank moved towards remote application assistance and services to enroll students via phone calls and video conferencing. CalFresh ambassadors also screened unenrolled students for eligibility at the Pop-Up Pantry. Food For Thought shifted to offer remote instruction and offered remote workshops and an online site to house tools for basic needs skills. Drop-In Services held by and at the Basic Needs Center became remote as well. The Hunger and Homelessness Awareness campaign transitioned to video conferencing to hold workshops, and participating students engaged in various activities from their place of residence.

We recognize that COVID-19 has displaced a large proportion of the UC Berkeley community and the access and utilization of our services may be impacted as such. The Basic Needs Center team had to adjust to campus changes as they presented themselves, resulting in changes to many familiar programs and services. We presume that this adjustment period with a remote population may have influenced the data.

UC Berkeley APRIL 2020 Basic Needs Center



	COVID-19 RELIEF	RENTAL ASSISTANCE	FOOD ASSISTANCE
Total Funds Awarded:	\$154,769	\$46,352	\$5,400
Unique Undergrads:	30	19	24
Unique Grad/Prof:	89	22	5

*Preliminary data, final data will be published in the 2019-2020 annual report.

GROCERIES

Campus	University Village:
1,770 bags 530 Undergrads 397 Grad Students 550 Staff	1,638 family members 158 Undergrads 317 Grad Students

Deliveries to

Disabled Students Program	Immunocompromised Students:
350 students	75 bags

Testimonials

"Thank you so much. This really helps in this time of fear and unknown with COVID-19!"

"I just want to thank you and everyone involved in making this resource available to us. You are really saving lives out here, we appreciate it more than you know. Thanks again!"

CRISIS RESOLUTION

Basic Needs Center team transitioned

40 students out of crisis.

3 students without housing were provided emergency housing.



You can support our efforts at: tinyurl.com/love4ucbbnc

UC Berkeley MAY 2020 Basic Needs Center



	COVID-19 RELIEF	RENTAL ASSISTANCE	GRAD E-LOAN RELIEF <small>NEW!</small>
Total Funds Awarded:	\$284,850	\$110,374.55	\$34,807
Unique Undergrads:	120	N/A	N/A
Unique Grad/Prof:	120	30	33

*Preliminary data, final data will be published in the 2019-2020 annual report.

GROCERIES

Campus	University Village:
474 bags 138 Undergrads 74 Grad Students 254 Staff	1,644 family members 154 Undergrads 331 Grad Students

Grocery Cards

Disabled Students Program	Immunocompromised Students:
1,473 cards 152 Undergrads 221 Grad Students 1,100 Staff	293 students

CRISIS RESOLUTION

Basic Needs Center team transitioned

55 students out of crisis.

10 students were provided emergency food awards.

4 students without housing were provided emergency housing.



You can support our efforts at: tinyurl.com/love4ucbbnc

THANK YOU
to our village:
ACCFB
Berkeley Food Network
Berkeley Student Food Collective
Basic Needs Fee
Oversight Committee
Berkeley International Office
Cal Dining
CE3
Dig Deep Farms
Disabled Students Program
EOP
Financial Aid & Scholarships Office
Graduate Assembly
Graduate Division
Office of Undergraduate Admission
Staff Basic Needs Working Group
Student Advocates Office
Undocumented Student Program

Food Pantry during COVID-19

To accommodate for food safety and social distancing during COVID-19, Food Pantry services shifted to offer a hybrid of a Pop-up Pantry model as well as grocery bag deliveries to members of the UC Berkeley community who are isolating, immunocompromised, or facing health or physical barriers to accessing groceries.

The Pop-up Pantry model at MLK Jr. Student Union offered made-to-order grocery bags assembled by volunteers who pass symptom screeners weekly. Physically able individuals could arrive with no prior sign-up and request their items as they moved down an assembly line. This process minimized contact of people with food as well as between individuals. Precautions were taken to socially distance visitors and sanitize exposed surfaces.

The grocery bag delivery model allowed students and staff who could not visit the Pop-up Pantry to fill out a google form with their food needs and delivery information. The grocery bags were assembled by volunteers on site, and volunteers with vehicles delivered the bags to their recipients.

Some adaptations were necessary for the Food Recovery and Gleaning team to make recovery of bread, produce, and prepared meals possible. The existing partnership with CalDining made food distribution possible when MLK Jr. Student Union was closed due to shelter-in-place orders. Crossroads Dining Hall was used as an off campus home base for deliveries, storage, and distribution. The team also strategize packaging for recovered food to accomodate more stringent food safety practices

This improvised food distribution could have a dramatic impact on Food Pantry visit data and trends, considering remote instruction relocated a substantial population of students. Food Recovery and Gleaning could also see an impact on the amount of food recovery possible with less campus activity. We suggest that more research should go into how a remote semester has an impact on resource utilization.

These operations would not have been possible without the help of a dedicated team of staff and volunteers.



Appendix and Additional Info



Basic Needs Center Organization Chart:

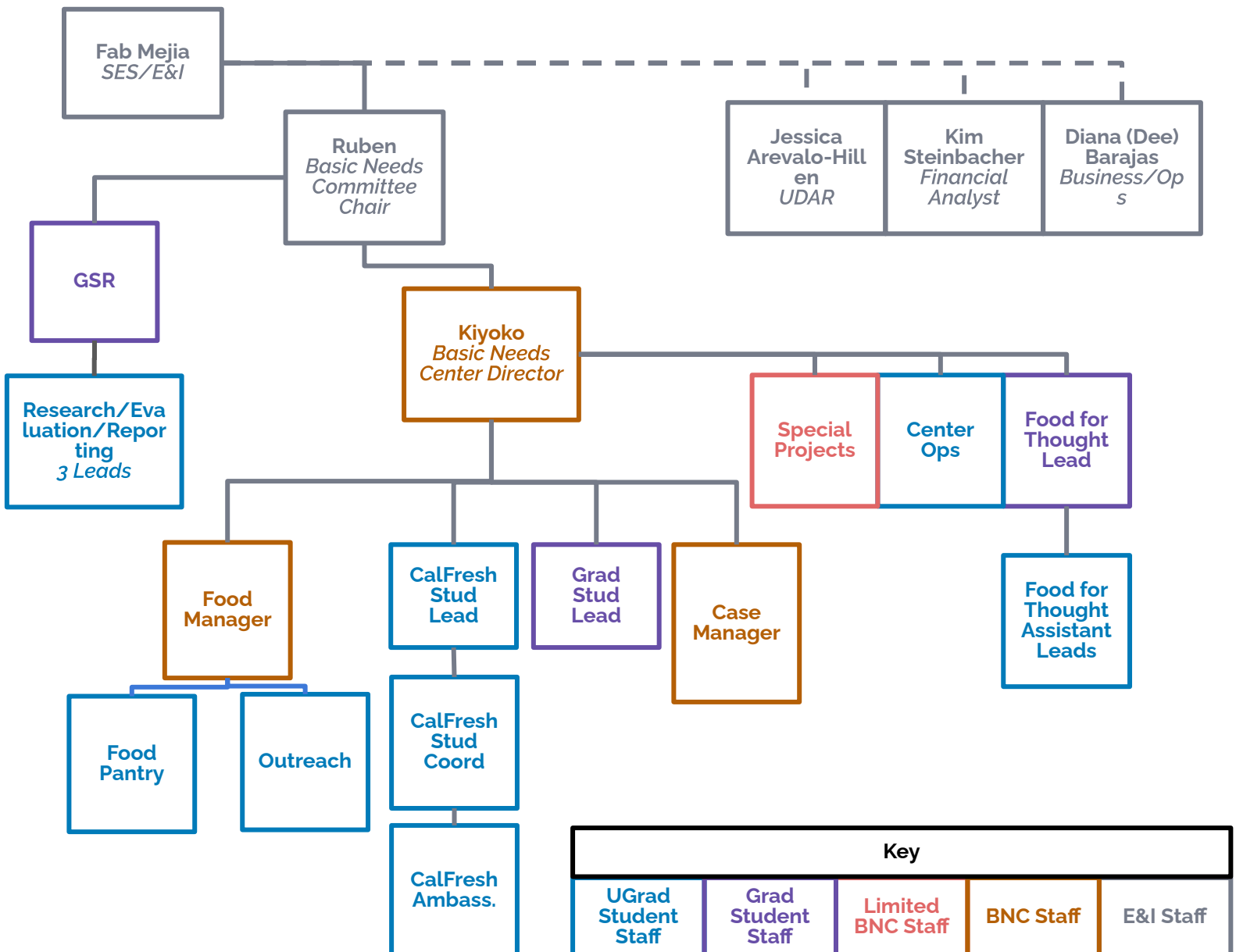
Description

Our R/E/R team is a member of the larger UC Berkeley Basic Needs Committee. A major component of our committee is the Basic Needs Center, founded in the Spring 2019 semester.

Mission Statement:

We support with all the essential resources needed to not only survive, but thrive here at UC Berkeley. Whether you're a graduate student, undergraduate student, staff, or faculty, our mission is to support you and work together towards justice and belonging for all.

More information can be found on their website: <https://basicneeds.berkeley.edu/>



UCB Live Dashboard and Report Process:

Description

We created the live data dashboard as a way for our team to better inform the work we do at a rate more frequently than an annual basis. Our dashboard runs off the free Google suite and works through automatic data pulling. This method allows our team to always have access to the current impact and trends of the Basic Needs Center. This tool now allows us to provide faster feedback for basic needs programming.

The R/E/R team now plans to provide reports on a Quarterly basis: to be published on our dashboard, which can be found at tinyurl.com/bnc-dash.

- Quarter 1: October
- Quarter 2: January
- Quarter 3: April
- Quarter 4: July

