



UC Berkeley

# BASIC NEEDS SECURITY REPORT

2016-2017





## Welcome Message

Thank you for your interest in our UC Berkeley Basic Needs village efforts. It has been an honor to have undergraduate, graduate students, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni, and community members join to serve our students in need.

Financial, food, and housing (basic needs) insecurity is a systemic issue. Students find themselves amidst an economy that is increasing both income and wealth inequality, stagnant federal funding for public higher education despite increase in students and lack of adjustments for dollar inflation, inequitable state funding for public higher education comparing per prisoner versus per college student spending, and the city of Berkeley being an expensive college city due to skyrocketing housing prices.

*Financial, food, and housing (basic needs) insecurity is a systemic issue.*



Amidst this landscape, our UC Berkeley Basic Needs Committee continues to learn and improve efforts since 2010. UC Berkeley, has the lowest debt by graduation for undergraduate students across the UC system, has the longest standing institutional Basic Needs Committee in the country, and had a record setting 2016-2017 academic year surpassing 14,000 service visits by our basic needs efforts.

A future where students are Basic Needs secure is possible. This requires local, state, and federal systems and leaders to prioritize and fund public higher education. The more we learn and improve our efforts, the better we understand that we need to shift from a crisis response model to a prevention model of basic needs insecurity. Additionally, we must be proactive in making our efforts sustainable in order to serve the generations to come. We are fully committed to making UC Berkeley a national model for a basic needs secure undergraduate and graduate experience.

We look forward to your experience learning about our campus data, efforts, and vision for the future.





UC Berkeley

2016-2017

# BASIC NEEDS SECURITY REPORT

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# Executive Summary

## BASIC NEEDS SECURITY

Basic Needs Security (BNS) refers to food, housing, and financial security. These basic needs have a direct impact on students' mental, emotional, and physical health, as well as their overall wellness, academic performance, professional development, and holistic success.

Food insecurity is the uncertain or limited ability to obtain adequate food in socially acceptable ways due to lack of financial resources or access.<sup>1</sup> The 2016 UC Food Access & Security Study found that 48% of undergraduates and 25% of graduate students across the UC System were food insecure (comprising both levels of food insecurity).<sup>2</sup>

Homelessness is defined as “a person is without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, an automobile, an abandoned building or outside,” and housing insecurity as “a broader set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently.” The Wisconsin HOPE Lab found that 50% of community college students experienced housing insecurity, and 14% of students experienced homelessness.<sup>3</sup>

Financial insecurity, as it relates to college students, refers to the inability for students to access two unique and related items: (i) educational materials to understand what resources are available and where to get additional support, and (ii) financial resources to be a successful student.

## UC BERKELEY'S RESPONSE TO BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

In response to a growing awareness of basic needs insecurity affecting students, the UC Berkeley community has come together to provide support to its students. The major partners for this effort include: ASUC Housing Commission, ASUC Student Advocate's Office, Basic Needs Security Committee, Berkeley Food Institute, Berkeley Student Cooperative, Berkeley Student Food Collective, CalDining, Career Center, Department of Nutritional Science and Toxicology, Farms and Gardens efforts, Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, Graduate Assembly Basic Needs Committee, Homeless Student Union, Safe Time Host, Student Affairs Case Management, Student Basic Needs Coalition, Student Legal Services, Student Parent Association for Recruitment and Retention, UC Office of the President Global Food Initiative, and University Health Services / Tang Center. A detailed description of these efforts is provided in this report.

The goal of these efforts is to systematically address food, housing, and financial insecurity before they become major issues, such that emergency services become a final resort that only a subset of students need, to ensure that all students are offered ample opportunity to thrive at UC Berkeley.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july16/e1attach.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://wihopelab.com/publications/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>







# Introduction

## WHERE WE STARTED IN 2016

The UC Berkeley Food Security Committee released their inaugural *Food Security Report* in Spring 2016, detailing the data and programming related to food security support on campus. Fall 2016 welcomed a revisioned Committee with a broader mission to include not only food security, but also housing and financial security. In the 2016-17 academic year, the basic needs campus-wide effort grew laterally, reaching new spaces on campus and to other UCs; and vertically, integrating every level of campus leadership from student to chancellor.

## LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

Accomplishments in the past year include building key relationships and collaborations (e.g. creating a Farms and Gardens Coordinator to unite food production campus wide), creating successful new programs (e.g. the newly funded Emergency Housing Program to provide immediate housing financial services), and refining and adapting our longstanding programs to match new challenges and demands (e.g. re-locating the Food Pantry on campus to increase access and use). Challenges include limited funding and staff capacity, increasing demand, and student turnover. United by the coordinated efforts of the Basic Needs Committee, the campus-wide fight for basic needs security can work resourcefully to meet students needs.

## GOALS FOR 2017

Nationwide, attention to ameliorating basic needs insecurity in higher education has increased in the past year. The partnerships, programs, and services offered on the UC Berkeley campus to support our basic needs insecure students continues to grow in a resourceful, innovative, and sustainable manner in order to secure long-term solutions.

## VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Moving forward, the Basic Needs Committee will continue to adapt existing programs and build out new programs to create a sustainable network of resources to support students - from the day of admission to the day of graduation. A campus-wide solution will take just that: all of campus. Students, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni, community members, donors, foundations, businesses, and government leaders are all being called upon to help build a campus community that is well-fed, housed, and financially secure. All students - no matter their family history, race, cultural background, sexuality, or socioeconomic position - should be given an opportunity to thrive on this world-renowned campus.

# PART 1:

## Understanding Basic Needs Security

### BASIC NEEDS SECURITY

Basic Needs Security (BNS) refers to the food, housing, and financial security of our community. These basic needs have a direct impact on students' mental, emotional, and physical health, as well as their overall wellness, academic performance, professional development, and holistic success. Students' quality of life has a major impact on their sense of belonging, persistence, graduation, and overall experience; therefore, UC Berkeley refuses to accept hunger, malnourishment, and homelessness as part of the university.

### FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity is the uncertain or limited ability to obtain adequate food in socially acceptable ways due to lack of financial resources or access. It is separated into two categories of severity: low food security is defined as reduced quality, variety, or desirability of the diet, with minimal to no reduced food intake; very low food security, the more severe category, is defined by disrupted eating patterns with reduced quantity of food intake.<sup>4</sup>

In the United States in 2015, an estimated 12.7% of households were considered food insecure, including 5% who were considered to have very low food security.<sup>5</sup> The 2016 UC Food Access & Security Study found that 48% of undergraduates and 25% of graduate students across the UC System were food insecure (comprising both levels of food insecurity).<sup>6</sup> The UC system committed to continuing to study

student food insecurity. The most up to date research includes data summarized in the first UC System Basic Needs Report published in December, 2017 by the UC Institutional Research & Academic Planning Unit. This report shows similar findings to the 2016 Food Access Study, with 44% undergraduate and 26% graduate students reporting having experienced food insecurity, with the largest response sample of UC students surveyed yet: 63,115 undergraduate and 6,764 graduate students. Additionally, using a multiple regression analysis, this study determined that food insecurity is disproportionately experienced by students who report as one or more of the following: transfer, former foster care youth, low socioeconomic status, independent, LGBTQ and/or self-identified underrepresented minority. Among

graduate students, those studying in the humanities and completing a masters degree experience food insecurity at a higher rate.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=79760>

<sup>6</sup> <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july16/e1attach.pdf>



*In the United States in 2015, an estimated 12.7% of households were considered food insecure, including 5% who were considered to have very low food security.*

## HOUSING INSECURITY

The only national study on college student housing insecurity and homelessness was published by the Wisconsin Hope Lab. They define homelessness as “a person is without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, an automobile, an abandoned building or outside,” and housing insecurity as “a broader set of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently.” The study included a sample of 33,000 community college students from 24 states across the country. They found that 50% of students experienced housing insecurity, and 14% of students experienced homelessness.<sup>7</sup> The aforementioned 2017 UC System Basic Needs Report found that five percent of undergraduate students and five percent of graduate students have experienced homelessness at some point during their UC enrollment. Additionally, using a multiple regression analysis, this study determined that homelessness is disproportionately experienced by undergraduate students who report as one or more of the following: international, underrepresented minority, transfer, low socioeconomic status, LGBTQ, and/or former foster care youth. Homelessness is experienced by graduate students who report as one or more of the following: international, LGBTQ, Masters, and/or studying in the humanities.

## FINANCIAL INSECURITY

Financial insecurity, as it relates to college students, refers to the inability for students to access two unique and related items: (i) educational materials to understand what resources are available and where to get additional support, and (ii) financial resources to be a successful student. Not having the education and sufficient financial resources may impact students’ abilities to access adequate food, housing, school supplies, etc. Students can receive aid in a variety of ways, through:

- ▶ Grants
- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Prizes/honors
- ▶ Loans (federal and private)
- ▶ Work-study
- ▶ Innovative Berkeley Aid Programs:
  - » Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, which provides additional support to qualifying low-income California residents
  - » Middle Class Access Plan, which is an innovative program to support middle-income students
  - » Parent Grants, to support undergraduate student parents with dependent children under the age of 18
  - » Undergraduate California DREAM Aid, which provides grants and scholarships to students who qualify for an AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption

## UC UNDERGRADUATE COST OF ATTENDANCE

In the spring 2016, nearly 14,000 University of California undergraduates participated in the sixth Cost of Attendance (COA) Survey. A total of 1,642 students at UC Berkeley completed the survey, for a response rate of 48%. Compared to the last COA survey conducted in 2013, at UC Berkeley, monthly off-campus rent increased by 4%. For more information, see the full UC COA Report.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <http://wihopelab.com/publications/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/mar17/a1attach.pdf>



# PART 2:

## UC Berkeley's Response to Student Basic Needs Insecurity - Campus Partners and Services

The following is a list as well as a brief description of the primary efforts that exist on UC Berkeley's campus to address students' basic needs. The majority of campus partners and services offered to students are included in this list. However, these descriptions are not meant to be exhaustive; rather, they provide a brief snapshot, as well as some data when it exists, about the various efforts that exist to support students' basic needs, including financial, food, and housing security.

### Partners

- ▶ ASUC Housing Commission
  - » Winter Break Housing Program
- ▶ ASUC Student Advocate's Office
- ▶ Basic Needs Security Committee
  - » Food Pantry
  - » CalFresh Clinics
  - » Wellness Screening Project
- ▶ Berkeley Food Institute
  - » Foodscape Map
- ▶ Berkeley Student Cooperative
- ▶ Berkeley Student Food Collective
  - » Produce Bags for the Food Pantry
- ▶ CalDining
  - » Meal Point Donation Program
  - » Copia and Restaurant Donations
- ▶ Career Center
  - » Handshake
- ▶ Department of Nutritional Science and Toxicology
  - » NST 10: Introduction to Nutrition
  - » NST 20: Person Food Security and Wellness
- ▶ Farms and Gardens
  - » Student Organic Gardening Association
  - » UC Gill Tract Community Farm
  - » Clark Kerr Dining Hall Garden
  - » Sustainable Campus Landscape Decal
- » Berkeley Student Cooperative Gardens
- » Golden Garden Food Forest
- » Clark Kerr Fruit Orchard
- » Multicultural Community Center Garden
- » Harvest Days
- » College of Environmental Design EmBARC bike trailer project
- ▶ Financial Aid and Scholarships Office
  - » Bears for Financial Success
  - » Food Assistance Program
- ▶ Graduate Assembly Basic Needs
  - » Graduate Housing Guide
- ▶ Homeless Student Union
  - » Emergency Housing Program
- ▶ Safe Time Host
- ▶ Student Affairs Case Management
  - » CARE Report
- ▶ Student Basic Needs Coalition
- ▶ Student Legal Services
- ▶ Student Parent Association for Recruitment and Retention
  - » UC Village Restaurant Donation Program
- ▶ UC Office of the President
  - » Global Food Initiative
- ▶ University Health Services / Tang Center

# General Basic Needs

## ASUC STUDENT ADVOCATE'S OFFICE



The ASUC Student Advocate's Office (SAO) is a nonpartisan executive office of the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) that offers free, confidential casework services to students who are dealing with University-related problems. Our trained student caseworkers assist their peers with Financial Aid, Grievance, Academic, and Conduct issues. The Financial Aid Division assisted 129 students with issues ranging from financial aid appeals, Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) waivers, billing and payments issues, residency appeals, and more. Caseworkers on in the Financial Aid Division would often refer clients to many of the Basic Needs resources, such as the Food Pantry, Homeless Student Union, and the Food Assistance Program, to name a few. Additionally, the office pursues policy reforms as informed by their experiences working one-on-one with students to identify gaps in resources. In Spring 2017, SAO secured a \$55,000 grant to provide financial support to students with emergency housing needs for up to 30 days while connecting them to resources in order to help students obtain sustainable housing. Additionally, we hope some of these funds will be able to pilot an Emergency Housing Program within RSSP that will launch in Fall 2017.

## GRADUATE ASSEMBLY BASIC NEEDS WORKGROUP



The Graduate Assembly (GA) Basic Needs Workgroup was established in Fall of 2016 by the GA to expand upon the work of the 2015-2016 workgroup for Housing Advocacy. The charge of the Basic Needs Workgroup is to help graduate students be secure with regards to housing, food, and childcare costs through resource creation and campus- and city-level advocacy. In the last two years, the GA workgroups have shared best-practices for departments to help their students with housing, issued a survey for assessing costs of basic needs, and published an online housing guide. Through collaborations, the workgroup helped build a facebook community for graduate student housing, Food Pantry hours specifically for graduate students, and short-term leases in campus housing to support new students moving to Berkeley.

### Workgroup impact:

- ▶ Over eight departments representing hundreds of graduate students have surveyed their students regarding cost of living and basic needs
- ▶ Over 10 emails have been sent to campus-wide graduate student listservs advertising food resources on campus
- ▶ 500+ members on the graduate student housing Facebook group
- ▶ The housing guide can be found here: <http://ga.berkeley.edu/resources/housing-guide/>

## STUDENT BASIC NEEDS COALITION

The Student Basic Needs Coalition is a space for student leaders working towards basic needs security to come together, coordinate, collaborate, support and strategize with one another. The Coalition unifies the undergraduate and graduate student voice in basic needs security dialogues and initiatives, representing over



*"The Basic Needs Coalition has given me the opportunity to use my own experience in homelessness/food insecurity in order to organize with countless other passionate students. I've been able to see remarkable minds work together and focus on the most effective ways to support our students, truly an enjoyable experience. I look forward to the continued efforts of our coalition and am excited to see where our power can take UC Berkeley"*

*- Juniperangelica Cordova-Goff*



*“Harvest Days have been an extraordinary opportunity to build partnerships across diverse interests. I’ve had the honor of hosting the Cal Veterans, the Multicultural Center, sororities, and business organizations, and many other groups. Harvest Days provide a space away from the hustle and bustle of campus where students and community members can relax and give back simultaneously. We need more Harvest Days to feed our student population! If it were up to me, we would have one per week.”*

*-Sophie Loeb,  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
Major; Campus and  
Community Partnerships  
Fellow, UC Gill Tract  
Community Farm*

15 different student organizations and offices. It acts in parallel to the staff and admin counterpart (the Basic Needs Committee) and they act to complement one another, therefore including all stakeholders in the conversation about basic needs security for campus. Over the course of the 2016-17 academic year, 10 meetings took place, totalling over 100 hours of contact time for student leaders.

## UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES/TANG CENTER

University Health Services, known to students as the Tang Center, provides general support for basic needs insecurity prevention, outreach, and activities specifically addressing food and nutrition. In the 2016-17 academic year, their accomplishments related to basic needs include:

- ▶ Hired a dietitian to provide individual nutritional counselling. Since January 2017, this dietitian has provided 54 clinical nutrition visits and 13 free-drop-in nutrition education sessions.
- ▶ Created a basic needs security “awareness” slideshow, suitable for many audiences with the goal to educate both people who might have low basic needs security as well as other who might help (e.g., faculty, staff, other students).
- ▶ Incorporated basic needs security information in Cal’s freshmen and transfer student orientation, Golden Bear Orientation.
- ▶ Distributed more than 50 snack packs, bags full of snack for students, along with a flyer about healthy snacking.
  - » Added basic needs security question to their mental health initial questionnaires
  - » Developed a web resource page on MediCal linked to the Student Health Insurance Office website.

It was noted that being restricted to a year-by-year funding cycle makes it difficult to retain staff and creates inefficiencies with frequent turnover, hiring, and training. Due to their programs’ success, the scope of their work has begun to outpace their external funding and resources. In a time of severe campus budget cutbacks, it will be even more difficult for partner units to provide in-kind support.

## WELLNESS SCREENING PROJECT - BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE

The Wellness Screening Project is developing a tool to assess incoming undergraduate, graduate, and transfer students’ basic needs statuses. The goal of this effort is to connect students experiencing, or have a high risk of experiencing, basic needs insecurity on campus with resources as soon as they arrive. The tool itself will look very much like a survey offered on CalCentral, every student’s web portal for academic, financial, and campus information, upon new student registration. This year, the Wellness Screening Project was granted two years of guaranteed funding from the Wellness Referendum. The project is scheduled to be trialed during the incoming class of Fall 2018.



## Finance

### BEARS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS - FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS OFFICE



Bears for Financial Success (BFS) is a peer-to-peer financial wellness program housed in the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office. BFS offers workshops and advising to give all Berkeley students the tools and resources that will empower them to make informed financial decisions now and in the future. During the 2016-17 academic year,

BFS saw 56 students for peer-advising (almost three times the amount from the previous academic year) and facilitated 43 workshops and events. Of the peer-advising appointments, 93% of students said that it is very likely that they would follow through with the next steps discussed in the appointment. One of BFS's workshops focused on spending plans and as a result, 79% of the students that attended said they were more likely to create a spending plan. One of the challenges facing BFS is visibility and one way they are tackling that is by partnering with existing student organizations.



*"I found it helpful that the workshop was conducted by students who have been in our situation, so it was more relatable"*

- Student

### FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS OFFICE

The Food Assistance Program, housed in the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, was established in 2013 with the goal of providing eligible students with short-term funding to access food through numerous campus dining facilities, restaurants, and local merchants.

- ▶ A total of 93 applications were received in Fall 2016 and 87 of those were awarded. The average award was worth \$250 of food credit.
- ▶ A total of 62 applications were received in Spring 2017 and 62 of those were awarded. The average award was worth \$201 of food credit
- ▶ A challenge faced by the Program was increasing its visibility to eligible and needy students.

### HANDSHAKE - CAREER CENTER



The Career Center provides comprehensive services to UC Berkeley undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni. The Career Center's mission includes providing customized service to our constituencies through individual advising, programs and online

resources. One such resource is Handshake, an exclusive career management system. Handshake uses cutting edge technology to help students (and recent alumni) more easily connect with employers and source both part-time and full time jobs and internships, event information, and On-Campus Recruiting (OCR).

# Food

## BERKELEY STUDENT FOOD COLLECTIVE



The Berkeley Student Food Collective (BSFC) is a student-run nonprofit that strives to create a more just food system through its volunteer-run grocery store and student-directed educational activities. Their unique business model allows students to center traditionally overlooked issues like food security, democratic participation, and anti-oppression work in a retail storefront selling affordable, sustainable, and healthy foods. The Food Pantry purchases fresh produce from the BSFC and during the 2016-17 academic year, over 2,000 bags were delivered. Over 100 volunteer members sustain this grocery store weekly, amounting to over 6,000 volunteer hours over the past academic year. Looking forward, the BSFC is planning to raise money for capital improvements for the storefront as well as expand their community kitchen work.

*"I didn't have CalFresh in the Fall. I could actually eat once I got on CalFresh. I was finally able to have three meals. My energy was better, my health was better. My quality of sleep improved, I wake up excited to eat the meals that I had prepped, and I am able to focus on my classes"*

- Esteban Vasquez

## CALFRESH CLINICS



Federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), SNAP was rebranded in California as CalFresh. The purpose of CalFresh is to promote the health and well being of qualified people by providing means to meet their nutritional needs. Benefits are distributed to a discrete EBT card that can be used like a debit card at many of the major chain grocery stores including Costco, Trader Joe's, and the Berkeley Student Food Collective. Partnering with the Alameda County Community Food Bank CalFresh Outreach Team, CalFresh Clinics are offered multiple times per month, helping students become aware of their rights and the process to attain benefits as well as assisting eligible students complete CalFresh applications.

Our CalFresh Clinic efforts drastically increased since our first clinic in 2015. Below is the data offered from the ACCFB CalFresh Outreach Team for the calendar year efforts:

**Table 1. CalFresh Clinic Applications and Approvals**

	Calendar Year 2015	Calendar Year 2016	Spring Semester 2017
Applications Submitted	41	111	144
Approved	26	75	98

At the end of the Spring 2017 semester, a survey was sent out to all students who attended a CalFresh Clinic. Of 199 surveys sent out, 48 were completed for a 24% response rate. Of those students who submitted an application, 85% were approved to receive CalFresh benefits. Wait times between attending the Clinic and being approved to

receive benefits ranged from one week to over one month. Students received on average \$196 per month, and the majority responded that receiving these benefits had a "tremendous impact" on their ability to eat sufficient food.

We look forward to drastically increasing our CalFresh efforts the next academic year. CalFresh information will be prioritized in presentations, a message will be sent by our Financial Aid team to all potentially eligible students, and the CalFresh Clinic team will be expanded to better serve the critical mass of students that both AB 1930 and AB 214 have helped clarify may be potentially eligible.



## COPIA AND RESTAURANT DONATIONS - CAL DINING



Since October 2016, Cal Dining has partnered with Copia, an independent food redistributor, to recover excess food from campus' dining halls and get it to those in need. The collaboration has led to over 25,000 lbs of food to local non-profits. Cal Dining hosted a "Late Night at the Pantry" where the donations were given to students. Due to the late time of pickup, it has been a challenge to get the food to students. In the future, Cal Dining, Copia and the Food Pantry will work together to identify more opportunities to support students in need.

## FARMS AND GARDENS

There are five active farms and gardens currently on campus, most of which send harvest to the food pantry.

1. Student Organic Gardening Association (SOGA) - this quarter acre farm lives a couple of blocks away from campus and focuses on gardening skill training. SOGA hosts the largest student-led course on campus, teaching over 200 students every year.
2. UC Gill Tract Community Farm (UCGTCF) - this 1.4 acre farm in Albany focuses on production, education, community engagement, and training.
3. Clark Kerr Dining Hall Garden - A collaboration between Cal Dining and Clark Kerr Grounds, this garden produces herbs and produce for the Food Pantry and provides an open space for residents of Clark Kerr dorms.
4. Sustainable Landscape Campus DeCal - This student-led course oversees four to five gardens on campus while teaching students principles of agroecology and permaculture.
5. Berkeley Student Cooperative Gardens - Almost all cooperatives in the Berkeley Student Cooperative (roughly 20 houses and apartment complexes) have their own garden contributing to their houses food supply.

The research fields at the Oxford Tract are also sending their fall 2017 harvest to the Food Pantry. These fields are used for agroecology courses and research. There are three additional food producing gardens currently in development:

1. Golden Garden Food Forest: This 130 fruit tree food forest has recently been implemented on a hillside on the backside of Clark Kerr and will be in full production in several years.
2. Clark Kerr Fruit Orchards: A couple of additional fruit orchards are being installed at the Clark Kerr campus, with the intention for the fruit to be harvested for the food pantry.
3. Multicultural Community Center Garden: The MCC Garden Committee is planning a balcony garden outside of their space.

SOGA, UCGTCF, Clark Kerr Dining Hall Garden, and the Sustainable Campus Landscape Campus DeCal each donate produce directly to the UC Berkeley Food Pantry. All gardens offer or will offer opportunities for student involvement through offering workshops, open hours, skills trainings, opportunities for research, and even paid internships.

As of February 2017, our campus has a dedicated coordinator for all efforts related to gardens. This position is tasked with synchronizing Basic Needs and farming efforts on this campus in order to create a sustainable model for food security.

*"The farm is a wonderful place to relax and unwind. But even more than that, the farm is a locus of change. As food insecurity affects so many Berkeley students, the farm is an important place to ensure that we are meeting the needs of students at a deeper level. Students cannot be expected to excel in school if they are hungry, and the farm is a good place to start to address food insecurity at its roots."*

*- UC Gill Tract  
Community Farm  
volunteer*







*"I was amazed at the huge turnout of our first late night at the pantry event. There were many students that brought their own tupperware and eager to get food. I learned that a lot of people, including myself, were not aware of the existence and how Cal Food Pantry operates."*

*- Volunteer,  
Late Night at the Pantry*

*"As a single mom of 3, including a 2 month old baby, and a full-time student, the hot food donation has been extremely helpful to me and my family. We always look forward to Friday nights and enjoy the extra quality time together we have by skipping out on cooking and cleaning. It also helps to save on food expenses, which is great!"*

*- Martha Gil,  
sociology major*

#### **FARMS AND GARDENS IMPACTS:**

- ▶ 7,000 lbs of produce harvested, 2,000 of which donated directly to the Food Pantry
- ▶ 13 paid student internships
- ▶ 300 undergraduate students enrolled in a student-led course
- ▶ 1,100 visitors
- ▶ 10-15 course and professor collaborations
- ▶ 2 student run organizations
- ▶ 50 community events

**HARVEST DAYS:** As part of the UC Berkeley Farms and Gardens initiative, Harvest Days were launched in October 2014. The main goals of these days are to:

1. Form a direct and fresh produce distribution network between UC Berkeley campus gardens to the Food Pantry and UC Village Bear Pantry.
2. Create collaborative opportunities for campus gardens and other food-related organizations to come together over a shared interest in increasing student food security
3. Teach hands on gardening skills as well as concepts from environmental justice and sustainable urban food production

This program is a collaboration between UC Gill Tract Community Farm, the Berkeley Student Food Collective, the Berkeley Food Institute, and students. Since 2014, there have been 14 Harvest Days, averaging every month. During the 2016-17 academic year, 131 participants harvested 119 pounds of produce for student facing low food security.

This all-encompassing collaborative effort has helped destigmatize food insecurity and provide a "full-circle" learning opportunity for student between food production, distribution, and consumption within a context of a high-cost urban environment.

**BIKE TRAILERS:** During Summer 2017, the College of Environmental Design's summer program, EmBARC, dedicated an entire course to the design and build of four bike trailers specifically for food security purposes. These trailers will be used to transport produce from campus farms and gardens to the food pantry as well as host mobile pop-up pantries and cooking workshops.

**FARMS AND GARDENS STRATEGIC PLAN:** The Campus Gardens Coordinator is conducting a participatory strategic plan for campus gardens to understand the current challenges and barriers to gardens, to consider the feasibility of production at scale to meet the need of very low food insecure students served by the food pantry and nutrition and cooking skills development program, and to vision a collective, comprehensive strategy for campus gardens and collaborative decision making of campus land use planning.

Some challenges shared by our farms and gardens include accessibility (e.g., transit, time, ADA), data tracking, food distributing, funding, land security, infrastructure, inter-garden coordination, continuity of maintenance, volunteer retention and commitment. Paid internships and various collaborations have been invaluable in the institutional sustainability of these gardens. Our farms and gardens have also received feedback that they should work on being more inclusive. Over the next year and beyond, the farms and garden community will center its work and education on equity and inclusion within the campus environment as well as global food system.



Kitchen and farm stand bike trailers by EmbARC. (PC: Avi Salem)



(PC: Avi Salem)



(PC: Avi Salem)

*"It helped me understand how I could feed my family, without going into greater student debt. It also helped me gain acceptance of the aid offered to me and made me realize that there's no shame in accepting help. I learned how to effectively communicate with my CalFresh worker and advocate for my family needs."*

- Student

*"At the end of a hard and stressful week, knowing that my family and I have a warm cooked meal to look forward to is very comforting. Not only is it the food that serves to feed my family but also the relationship we have and build with the rest of the community. We have come to look forward to the food, but it is the food that brings us together to speak and enjoy the company of other village members even if it's for half an hour."*

- John and Flor Marshall



## FOOD PANTRY - BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE



The Food Pantry is our most used emergency resources, because of that we have included a comprehensive review of its impact for the 2016-17 academic year. At its core, the Food Pantry provides nourishment to students experiencing critical food insecurity. Undergraduate and graduate students who lack access to affordable, nutritious food are welcome to use the pantry; all that is required is a current Cal ID. The Food Pantry purchases non perishables, refrigerator and freezer items from United Natural Foods, Inc. via CalDining's wholesale contract. Additional selected foods are purchased from the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Fresh produce and bread comes from the Berkeley Student Food Collective, Clark Kerr Campus Garden, UC Gill Tract, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Acme Bread, and Noah's Bagels.

The Food Pantry relocated during November 2016, which greatly increased its visibility on campus. Visits increased from a couple hundred per month in Spring 2016 to over 1,400 visits in February 2017. As a result, one of the biggest challenges facing the Pantry was keeping it fully stocked. The Pantry will be focusing on fundraising during the next school year to ensure its long-term success.

During the 2016-17 academic year there were **8,873** visits to the UC Berkeley Food Pantry, totalling **2,303** unique students. Students visiting the Food Pantry **differed greatly from the general student population**, as they were **more often** students from groups **facing greater financial stress**.



**Table 1. UC Berkeley Food Pantry usage as it compares to undergraduate student population during Spring 2017**

ESTIMATED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION	PANTRY USERS	PERCENTAGE	CAMPUS POPULATION	CAMPUS PANTRY USAGE PERCENTAGE
<b>Non-zero</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>27,299</b>	<b>6%</b>
Zero	423	21%	485	87%
Total	1,984		27,784	7%



Of the 38,294 students enrolled at UC Berkeley in Spring 2017, **7% of students used the Food Pantry** during that term.

1. **Transfer students** had the highest usage at 13%
2. Doctoral and Masters students had the lowest usage at 1%

Food Pantry usage in Spring 2017 varied widely between affinity groups among undergraduate students.

1. Race/ethnicity<sup>9</sup>: from around 5% at the low end (South Asian, 3%; White, 4%; East Asian<sup>10</sup>, 5%) to around 15% at the high end (**Chicano/Latino, 17%; African American, 14%**).
2. Gender: **women** were the highest users at 9% compared to men at 5%.
3. Parental education: **first generation college students** were the highest users at 15%.

Affinity groups with the highest Food Pantry usage in Spring 2017 were those most correlated with higher financial need and lower financial security.

1. Dependents: **almost half (47%) of students with dependents** were pantry users.
2. Estimated family contribution: **over six out of seven (87%)** students with an **estimated family contribution of zero** were pantry users. (see Table 1)

*“It has revolutionized my life ... honestly, I wish i had known about it earlier. Not only do I struggle with food insecurity and money issues ... but I tend to cut my nutritional needs in order to save money. I am now able to access a variety of healthy, organic foods. I don’t have to stress as much about feeding myself, and coming 2x a month has really made me feel like I am cared for ... Having resources and a family here in Berkeley ... that sense of community and belonging ... are key to happiness along with the basic need of food. I’ve also become a volunteer/intern at the Food Pantry - and it has opened up a new world for me of learning, growth, and activism.”*

- Student

<sup>9</sup> Race/ethnicity reported here does not take citizenship into account, so international and undocumented students are included rather than being reported separately.

<sup>10</sup> East Asian derived category composed of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean students.



## FOODSCAPE MAP - BERKELEY FOOD INSTITUTE



The Berkeley Food Institute (BFI) supports Basic Needs efforts by serving as a campus hub for information and resource sharing among those involved in food-related education, research, activism, and student services. Their biggest project related to basic needs is the UC Berkeley Foodscape Map, a democratically-produced, dynamic map that aims to both reveal barriers to the full participation of historically marginalized community members in food-related learning and practice, and highlight opportunities and successes in overcoming such obstacles. The website includes a multi-layered map of the campus, as well as multiple infographics, audio interviews, and historical timelines.

The Foodscape Map can be found here: <https://food.berkeley.edu/foodscape/map/>

In 2017-18, BFI will continue the Foodscape Map project through further data collection and visualization, and also develop recommendations to campus leadership—ranging from student governments to upper campus administration—on how to implement changes toward a more equitable and inclusive food landscape at UC Berkeley.

## FOOD SECURITY IN THE CLASSROOM - DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE AND TOXICOLOGY

The Department of Nutritional Science and Toxicology (NST) teaches two different courses related to food security:

**NST 10: Introduction to Nutrition** This longstanding course has been augmented to include the topic of food security to each week's discussion section. Over the 2016-17 academic year, approximately 1,500 students participated in this course.

**NST 20: Personal Food Security and Wellness** This course is designed to improve students' nutrition behavior by addressing skills, knowledge, attitudes and barriers related to food security. The course provides students with the foundation of nutrition knowledge and cooking skills to be able to prepare healthful meals in consideration of limitations such as food availability, budget, and others. Instruction addresses food security, basic nutritional science concepts such as macronutrients and MyPlate, goal setting and behavior change, budgeting, food safety, calculating nutrient needs, and more. Students go on a field trip to the campus garden, complete readings, assignments and an end-of-semester cooking on a budget project. NST 20 is held in Morgan Hall Teaching Kitchen, where two to three recipes are prepared each class period.

Over the course of the 2016-17, NST 20 reached 70 students and provided over 3,000 contact hours. Almost half of all students enrolled reported experiencing low food security and during the Fall 2016 semester, students reported a 27% increased confidence in their ability to cook a nutritious meal with spending a lot of money.

Looking towards the future, the NST teaching team will be focusing their attention on improving marketing to students with low food security as well as accommodating their robust waitlist.

In addition to semester-long courses, NST offered six nutrition and cooking seminars, open to all Berkeley students. This seminars garnered 136 contact hours and exposed students to very similar concepts as in NST 20.

*"Edible landscaping is able to provide all of the same functional benefits which the rest of the landscapes around campus hope to achieve, while at the same time also providing various forms of produce as an added bonus for all of the watering, pruning and care which has gone into to helping keep healthy beautiful plants grow around us."*

*- James Sanner,  
Orchard Manager with  
Sports and Rec*



## GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE - UC OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



The University of California Global Food Initiative (GFI), launched in July 2014, works to “address how to sustainably and nutritiously feed a world population expected to reach eight billion by 2025. The initiative aligns the university’s research, outreach and operations in a sustained effort to develop, demonstrate and export solutions — throughout California, the United States, and the world — for food security, health and sustainability.”<sup>11</sup> One arm of GFI works to address food access and security in the UC system; as such, in 2014 the GFI Food Access and Security Committee was established to facilitate conversation and collaboration among campuses. Made up of representatives from nine UC campuses, this committee meets biannually to share best practices and challenges around campus food security efforts, and work together to strategically plan for system-wide food security work. This Committee spearheaded the 2016 Student Food Access and Security Study, a culmination of survey data gathered from almost 9,000 students across the UC system regarding student food security.



*“I have enjoyed every minute of this 3 hour class. I appreciate the lectures that help one adapt to not only eat nutritiously but to be able to make and impress a meal that is super cost effective.”*

*- Student*

## MEAL POINT DONATION PROGRAM - CAL DINING

Also called the “I Love the Pantry” Program, the meal point donation program is a means for students to donate their excess meal points to purchase groceries for the UC Berkeley Food Pantry at the end of each semester. During the 2016-17 academic school year, over 3,000 transactions supported the donation program. This amounted to \$51,530 in funds towards groceries for students with low food security. During the upcoming year, the program will focus on marketing to ensure all students are aware of the program.

## SPARR DONATION PROGRAM - CAL DINING

Beginning in 2015, Cal Dining and the Student Parent Association for Recruitment and Retention (SPARR) have partnered to recover excess foods from campus restaurants and concessions. Volunteers from SPARR pick up leftover salads, sandwiches, and hot food from the Golden Bear Cafe and football games and typically distribute leftovers at the UC Village. In that 2016-17 academic year, 1,100 pounds of food was donated from football games and 20,000 pounds was donated from campus restaurants.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/>



## Housing



### ASUC HOUSING COMMISSION

The Housing Commission is a unit of the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) tasked with lobbying, advocating, and organizing around students' need for safe, affordable, and quality housing located near campus. The Commission represents student interests at multiple levels of governance, from campus and university to local and state. In addition to political advocacy, the Commission, in collaboration with Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, led the Winter Break Housing Program from the 2016-17 academic year, a program that provided housing and food to students who would otherwise risk facing homelessness or unsafe living conditions over winter break when campus dorms are closed. In the past academic year, 14 students were provided housing and a full meal plan over the winter break.

*"When I was admitted as a transfer I knew I was not going to live in the dorms, as they were far too expensive. I wasn't too stressed about finding alternative housing, but I was psyched when I happened upon the BSC's table at Cal Day in 2015. Now that I've been living in the co-ops for two years, I love this housing situation because of the people I've met, the experiences I've had, and the growth I've shown as a human. The co-ops are important as a whole because it's SO IMPORTANT that viable and affordable housing options exist for students who need it; namely, low income students like myself who can't afford to live anywhere else!"*

*-Aaqilah Brown,  
Class of 2018*

### BERKELEY STUDENT COOPERATIVE



The Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, student-let housing provider founded in 1933. Their mission is to provide a quality, low-cost, cooperative housing community to university students, thereby providing an educational opportunity for students who might not otherwise be able to afford a university education. In addition to providing affordable housing, the BSC includes full food service for their members. At any one time, the BSC serves around 1,300 students in all of their 20 housing units (houses and apartments) near the UC Berkeley campus. Looking forward, the BSC is focusing on expanding their resources for low-income students by offering more scholarships (currently, over \$110,000 is awarded annually), increasing capacity, and providing supportive programming.

### HOMELESS STUDENT UNION

The Homeless Student Union (HSU) is a student organization whose goal is to raise awareness and attempt to tackle intersecting issues such as student homelessness, the house crisis, mental health, food insecurity, to name a few. HSU has curated and centralized a number of resource that are vital to assisting student with immediate housing needs. Accomplishments of HSU include:

1. Created a network of emergency housing spaces
2. Acquired funding to provide emergency housing assistance
3. Created a pilot website aimed to match participating Berkeley residents with extra rooms with students in need
4. Provided direct advocacy and education for students at risk or experiencing low housing security
5. Create a paid staff position to centralize resources and work with students on a case-by-case basis

Over the course of the 2016-17 academic year (HSU's first year as an organization), 24 students were housed through HSU's emergency housing network. During the 2017-18 school year, HSU will be forging collaborations with on and off campus entities in order to create a sustainable support network for students facing low housing and food security.







## SAFE TIME HOME SHARING

Safe Time Home Sharing is a local nonprofit that recruits volunteer hosts to temporary shelter low income individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis. In addition to local families, this program has served UC Berkeley students facing housing insecurity.

## STUDENT AFFAIRS CASE MANAGEMENT

Student Affairs Case Management (SACM) addresses prevention and intervention for harm and violence on campus and provides support to students experiencing or causing distress in the campus community. SACM becomes aware of concerns about students when campus staff, faculty, or graduate student instructors report information using the online CARE Report form. Response by a case manager may include direct outreach to the student or work with the reporter to provide resources. For students who are experiencing distress regarding housing and/or food insecurity, SACM works to connect them with campus and community resources to address the immediate basic needs as well as additional underlying issues that may be impacting their well-being and academic success.

In the 2016-17 academic year, SACM received 44 reports about students where “homeless/food insecurity” was listed as a concern. CARE Report data also show that housing and food insecurity occur in conjunction with other significant stresses in students’ lives - additional areas of concern for students experiencing housing or food insecurity included: academic stress; family issues; financial stress; medical concerns; mental health concerns; potential threat to self; involvement in conduct or legal proceedings; and sexual violence/sexual harassment. Moving forward, SACM will continue to invest in outreach and education within the campus community regarding students in distress, as well as invest in relationships with community partners in order to expand the network of support for students.

## STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Student Legal Services (SLS) advises students regarding their legal questions, rights, and obligations pertaining, but not limited, to landlord-tenant disputes, Small Claims Court action filing, credit card debt, and family law. In the 2016-17 academic year, SLS provided more than 1,000 legal consultations, approximately 35% of which were related to landlord-tenant housing issues. The SLS recognizes that as the housing market become tighter each year, it is more crucial for student to have support and advocacy so that they are aware of their rights and options.

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*“Without the help of my SLS advisor to navigate the situation, or even making me aware that our landlord was bullying me, it is likely I would have been without a home.”*

*- Student*

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*“My second Safe Time guest was a UC Berkeley student who would not have been able to afford to attend the college orientation – his housing contract was not available until afterwards. He stayed with me for two weeks and was quiet, respectful and so very appreciative. He left early each morning and returned after dinner, so I hardly even got a chance to know him, but it felt so good to be able to help!”*

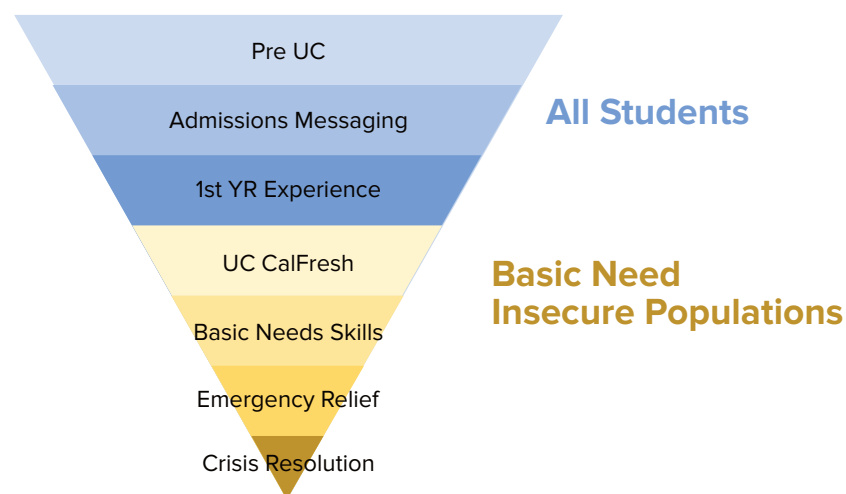
*- Safe Time Volunteer  
from El Cerrito*

# PART 3:

## Theory of Change

A number of efforts to address student basic needs security exist at UC Berkeley. In order to guide these efforts to bring about the most positive change, the following hierarchy of services was developed with the goal of addressing food, housing, and financial insecurity before they become major issues, such that emergency services become a final resort that only a subset of students need. The model has three key stages: Pre-UC, Transition into UC, and Through UC. Starting before a student even arrives at UC Berkeley, basic needs security messaging and support will be offered to members of the UC Berkeley community, providing them with the resources they need to prevent these insecurities from developing. Of course, we cannot prevent basic needs insecurity from affecting all students; therefore, emergency resources will still exist to support those in need. The goal is to consistently decrease the number of students in need of emergency basic needs security resources. We believe this model honors the challenge presented by the UC Regents to minimize food insecurity - and more broadly, basic needs insecurity - by 2020.

**Figure 1. UC Systemwide Basic Needs Student Experience & Prevention Model**



As a guiding structure to UC Berkeley's basic needs security efforts, this logic model follows the structure of the inverted pyramid, detailing the programs, partners, resources, expected outcomes, and long-term impact for the pre-UC, admissions messaging, 1st year experience, CalFresh, skills development, emergency relief, and crisis resolution efforts. There are certainly additional programs, partners, and resources in the field; however, this logic model provides a snapshot of how the BNS team expects to achieve the long-term impact of food, housing, and financial security for a happy and healthy UC Berkeley community.

Figure 2. UC Berkeley Basic Needs Security Logic Model/Theory of Change

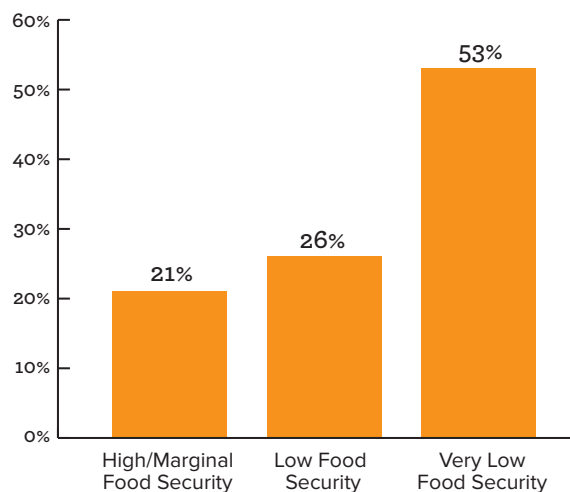


# PART 4:

## 2016-2017 End of Year Evaluation

At the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, a pilot survey was designed by Graduate Fellow Emily Altman. The purpose of the survey was to have deepened our understanding of basic needs resource users, have them evaluate our efforts, and invite them to share suggestions for the future. The survey was sent out to students who received support from any food, housing, or financial service. The creation and vetting of the survey by Basic Needs Committee members was completed at the end of the academic year. We disbursed the survey via email after the academic year ended in June 2017. Upwards of 2000 surveys were sent out, and 230 students responded for a 11.5% response rate. This response rate was anticipated because the survey was sent out during summer, following the end of the academic year when data from campus partners was pulled. Next year, the survey will be sent before the end of the academic year with the goal of a higher response rate.

**Figure 3. Student food security levels based on 2016-2017 UCB survey**

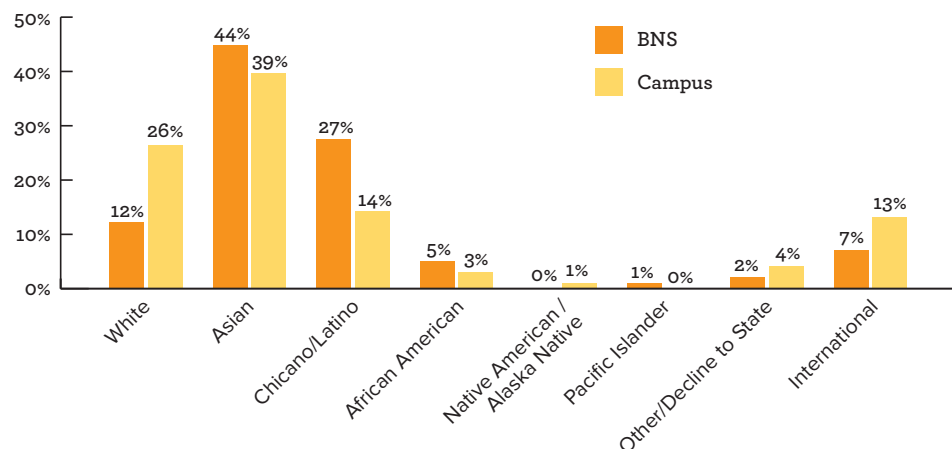


low food security qualify as “food insecure”).

Due to the low number of graduate student respondents, the remaining summary of findings is limited to the undergraduate respondents.

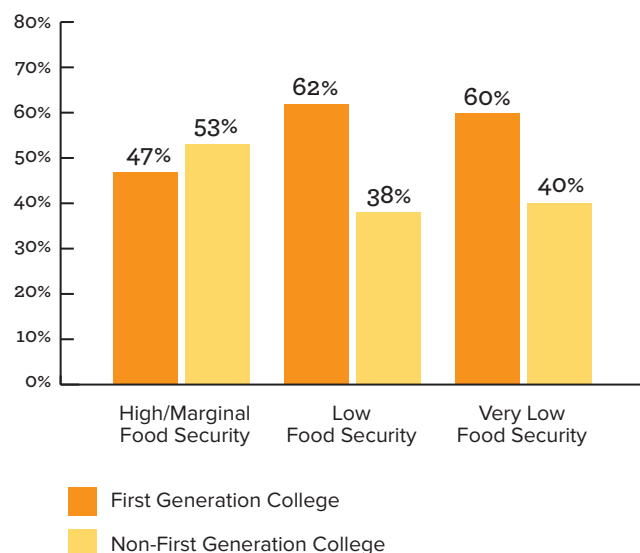


**Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of BNS survey respondents and the full campus**



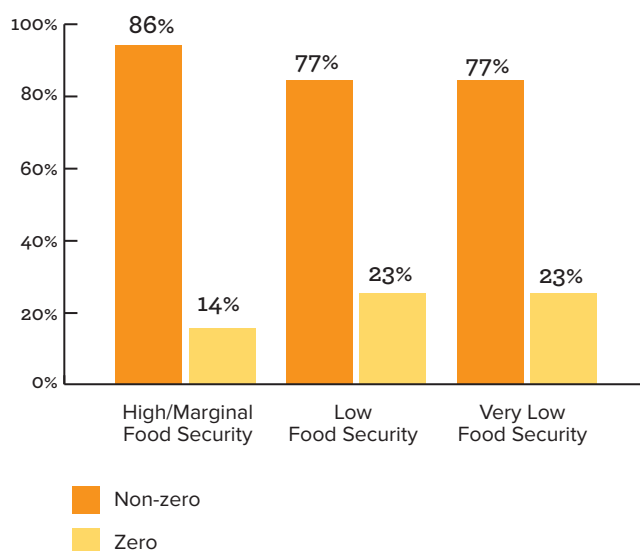
Most BNS survey respondents are classified as Asian or Chicano/Latino. Compared with the distribution of race/ethnicity of the campus as a whole, Asian and Chicano/Latino students disproportionately utilize campus BNS services, compared with disproportionately fewer white and international students.

**Figure 5. First generation college students, separated by food security status**



Many students who used BNS resources on campus were first generation college students. When broken up by food security status, it is clear that students who are considered food insecure are more likely to be first generation students.

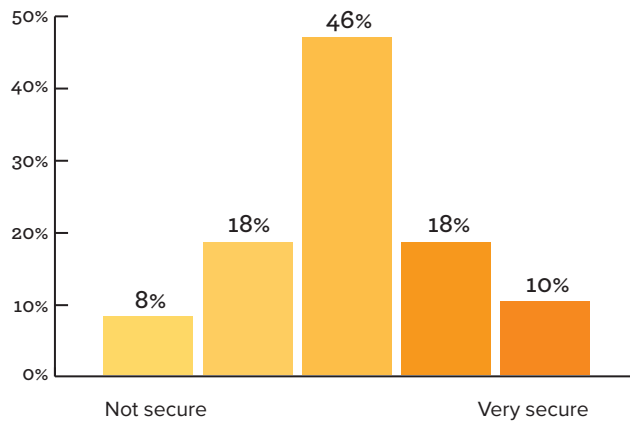
**Figure 6. Estimated family contribution, separated by food security status**



The majority of respondents have families that contribute some amount of financial support to their school tuition and other fees. However, among food insecure students, there is a marginally higher proportion of students who receive zero financial support from their families.

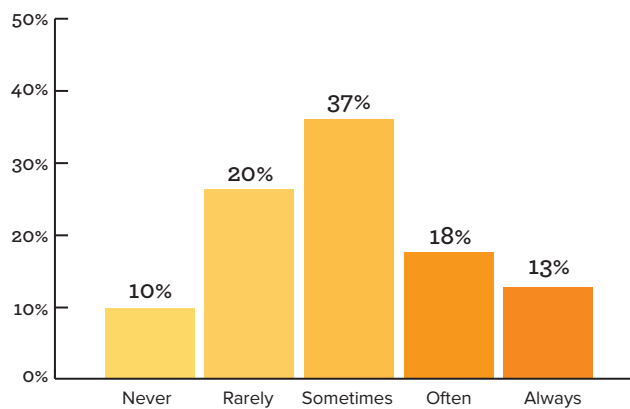
Most students who participated in the survey reported living in campus housing, in a rented or owned home (with roommates, alone, or with family), temporarily with someone else, or in a student co-op.

**Figure 7. Self-reported financial security status (2016-2017 Academic Year)**



When asked how financially-secure they considered themselves, most students reported feeling moderately financially secure, with small percentages feeling not secure or very secure.

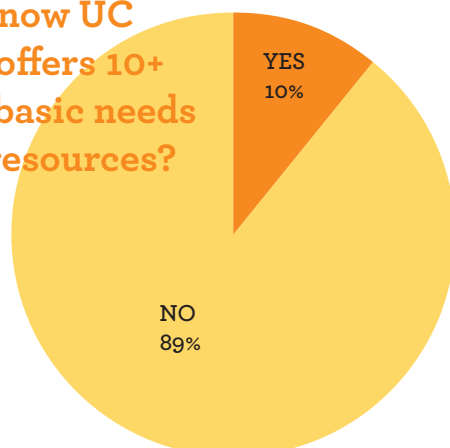
**Figure 8. Frequency that students share money with loved ones/family/others**



Many students reported sharing money with loved ones/family/others in their lives. We know from unofficial, qualitative conversations with students that oftentimes students will send money home to their family, leaving them with insufficient funds to pay for food and/or housing at school. Indeed, 68% of survey respondents reported sharing money sometimes, often, or always.

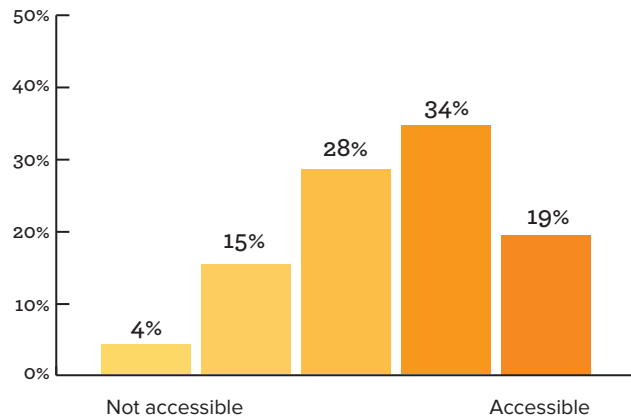
**Figure 9. Percentage of respondents who were aware of all BNS resources**

**Did you know UC Berkeley offers 10+ different basic needs security resources?**



Despite the lack of knowledge of the variety of resources, the majority of students (81%) reported that the campus BNS resources that they utilized were accessible.

Figure 10. Accessibility of BNS resources on campus



In a three-level analysis of food insecurity by race/ethnicity, first generation college, and gender, it became clear that students who were underrepresented minority (Chicano/Latino, African American, Native American/Alaska Native), first generation college student, and women, were often food insecure, compared with students of other race/ethnicity, first generation college, and gender classifications.

When asked about whether or not they knew that UC Berkeley offers over ten different basic needs security resources, the majority (89%) of respondents reported that they were not aware of the wide array of resources. Cost of housing in Berkeley was a key issue for many students. Respondents reported spending all their disposable income on rent, leaving little money for food or other expenses. Additionally, a number of students reported feeling unsupported by the university in terms of housing needs.

*"Please provide more affordable housing, to be honest. I had to work 20 hours per week in addition to be a student just so I can pay off rent. 90% of my... monthly earnings went to paying rent."*

*"Cost of living is so high here."*

*"My own basic needs were very supported, but feel that I had a lot of friends who had housing issues that the university could not support."*

While some students reported that the campus did not do enough to help them meet their basic needs, particularly when it came to housing support, many students said that the food, housing, and financial resources they utilized this year helped them survive.

*"I knew I could always rely on the Food Pantry."*

*"Although I would benefit from more experiences, I'm really satisfied with the basic needs services. The food pantry meals but mainly the free bread, vegetables and drinks really helped with keeping my family and I well fed."*

*"Without the Food Pantry, I feel like I would be more in debt than I am and I would be in a such a depressive mental state thinking about the time and money that are necessary to keep my housing while also trying to get enough money for food. That is why I volunteer there, the message is great and it helps those who really need it and I don't mind helping out and spreading the word when I know there are so many people out there who need this program."*

# PART 5:

## UC Berkeley BNS Accomplishments

### 2010-2013

University Health Services  
Student Hunger White  
Paper released

Harry Le Grande (Vice  
Chancellor of Student Affairs)  
established Task Force

Sadia Saifuddin (Associated  
Students of University of  
California - ASUC Senator)  
worked to establish a Food  
Pantry with financial support  
from CACSSF (Chancellor's  
Advisory Committee on  
Student Services and Fees

Ruben E. Canedo (Centers  
for Educational Equity and  
Excellence) facilitated first  
generation college, Pell/  
Dream Aid, community  
college transfer, former  
foster youth, re-entry, student  
parent, undocumented,  
and veteran student needs  
assessment

Berkeley Food Institute  
(BFI) founded, which aims  
to catalyze transformative  
changes in food systems to  
ensure that all people have  
access to healthy, affordable  
food that is produced  
sustainably and equitably.  
BFI provides thought  
leadership and practical  
connections to campus food  
security efforts

### 2013-2014

Food Assistance Program  
launched during Fall 2013

UC Berkeley Food Security  
Committee established:  
students, staff, faculty,  
administrators, and  
community leaders

Food Pantry launched  
April 14, 2014

Second wave of CACSSF:  
Food Pantry received  
ongoing \$43k for rent,  
work study positions, and  
non-perishable inventory

### 2014-2015

Harvest Days at UC Gill Tract  
Community Farm established  
to educate students on  
food movements, teach  
them about farming, and  
harvest fresh produce  
for the Food Pantry

Global Food Initiative (GFI)  
established July 2014

- Ruben E. Canedo  
named Food Access  
& Security Co-Chair
- GFI Food Security  
Fellow selected on  
an annual basis

Food Pantry progression

- Survey to understand  
student experiences
- "Donate a Grocery Bag  
to the Food Pantry"  
to allow students to  
purchase grocery bags  
of nonperishable items  
for the food pantry.
- Facebook page to create  
an online community  
and keep the community  
informed about food  
security efforts
- Food Pantry website to  
centralize information  
and provide resources  
to the community

CalFresh Clinics established  
to support students applying  
for the Supplemental  
Nutrition Assistance Program  
(SNAP or CalFresh)





## 2015-2016

President Napolitano awarded \$75,000 to expand Food Assistance Program access, launch the Nutrition Model, and provide essential resources for campus food security efforts.

Food Assistance Program expanded to provide access to non-financial aid recipients and graduate students

Food Pantry partnered with the Berkeley Student Food Collective to offer regular fresh produce

Nutrition Model established

- NST 198: Cooking Healthy on a Budget/Personal Food Security and Wellness launched Spring 2016
- Community Workshops launched Spring 2016
- Community Drop-In Hours launched Spring 2016

English 165/Special Topics on Arts of Writing: Grant Writing, Food Writing class established

Alternative Breaks: Food Justice Course launched

Introductory conversations began with institutional leaders about institutional response to support housing insecure student populations

Formal conversations began to raise food security efforts to a Chancellor's Task Force institutional level

UC system-wide coordination and strategic planning submitted 2016-2018 food security funding proposal to President Napolitano via GFI

UC Student Food Access and Security Study released. According to the survey, 19% of UC students indicated they had "very low" food security, and an additional 23% were characterized as having "low" food security.

UC President Janet Napolitano approved \$3.3 million in new funding over two years for UC food security efforts, to help students regularly access nutritious food.

## 2016-2017

Ethnic Studies Department partners with Basic Needs Committee to award Field Study units to students working with our Basic Needs Coordinators

Basic Needs Coalition launched in full in August 2016, to involve students in BNS leadership activities

PBS Newshour UC Berkeley Basic Needs Story is featured nationally

First annual basic needs resource fair was held, to provide centralized resources to participating students

Food Pantry moved into the MLK Student Union Basement, as part of the temporary Stiles Hall move

Farms and Gardens Coordinator hired to coordinate all farms and gardens efforts related to basic needs

Student Advocate's Office is awarded both Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Services & Fees and Wellness funds to start their Emergency Housing Grant

Basic Needs Committee awarded Wellness funds to hire a Graduate Student Research to project manage the creation of an enrollment point Basic Needs Screening tool

New Basic Needs website is launched: [www.basicneeds.berkeley.edu](http://www.basicneeds.berkeley.edu)

NST 10 curriculum was updated to include Food Security in every discussion section; this is the most popular/largely taken course by undergraduates

AB 214 passed, Post Secondary Education: Student Hunger

AB 453 passed, Post Secondary Education: Hunger Free Campus



# PART 6:

## Next Steps

- ▶ CalFresh Expansion: we will operationalize the passage of bills in support of college student access to CalFresh by identifying potentially eligible student counts and grow application support efforts to increase enrollment.
- ▶ Community Partnerships: we must increase our local and state partnership in order to maximize resources in support for financial, food, and housing needs.
- ▶ Data: we will better integrate data collection, sharing, evaluation, and reporting. It is essential that our efforts are data informed in order to evaluate our impact and guide our decision making for the future.
- ▶ Homeless Student Protocol: we will create a multiyear homeless student protocol strategy to ensure we scale toward total need informed by the UC System Basic Needs Report.
- ▶ Infrastructure, specifically facilities and staffing:
  - » Facilities: we do not have a centralized location for Basic Needs work, programs, services, and strategy meetings. We will work with campus leadership to create a plan with phases leading to an ideal Basic Needs Center.
  - » In addition to facilities, we will work towards identifying the necessary career staff and graduate student positions. At the moment, we've only identified the undergraduate positions.
- ▶ Sustainable Funding: in the way we have identified ongoing funding for our undergraduate leaders and the rent of the food pantry space, we must do so for the robust Basic Needs model.

## Conclusion Message

UC Berkeley's efforts to address student basic needs security will continue to evolve as we gather feedback and data from students, staff, administrators, and researchers. There have been considerable improvements to our food, housing, and financial security models from their inception in 2010 through today, from a focus on sustainable funding and partnerships, to advocating for state policies to support basic needs security efforts. Undoubtedly, these efforts will continue to evolve to serve our students, and to help us position ourselves as a leader in the basic needs security movement nationwide. Moving forward, it is critical that students, staff, faculty, administrators, community members, donors, foundations, businesses, and government leaders continue to collaborate in order to build a UC Berkeley community free of hunger, malnourishment, housing insecurity, and homelessness where students are also financially secure. We aspire to work across departments and populations to ensure that all students are offered ample opportunity to thrive at UC Berkeley.



Image 6: Berkeley Student Food Collective Members dropping off fresh produce bags to the food pantry (PC: Ruben Canedo)

## Acknowledgements

This report and all of UC Berkeley's basic needs security work from 2010 through today would not be possible without the dedication of our partners previously mentioned, as well as the following groups and all their affiliated members:

### UC BERKELEY

- ▶ ASUC and Graduate Assembly
- ▶ Basic Needs Committee
- ▶ Berkeley Food Institute
- ▶ Division of Student Affairs
- ▶ Division of Equity and Inclusion
- ▶ Graduate Division
- ▶ Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society
- ▶ Office of Planning and Analysis
- ▶ University Development & Alumni Relations

### UC OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- ▶ Global Food Initiative
- ▶ GFI Food/Basic Needs Committee
- ▶ UC Diversity and Engagement
- ▶ UC Institutional Research & Academic Planning
- ▶ UC Nutrition Policy Institute, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ▶ UC Student Affairs

