



LEADMN CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS Food Insecurity on Minnesota College Campuses



HUNGER FREE CAMPUS

Over the last decade, students at community colleges are increasingly facing issues of food and housing insecurity. These issues that can have a negative impact on a student's academic success.

The Hope Center for College Community and Justice surveyed almost 10,000 students from 25 two-year and three four-year colleges in Minnesota. The results indicate:



37% OF RESPONDENTS
were food insecure in the prior 30 days



48% OF RESPONDENTS
were housing insecure in the previous year



18% OF RESPONDENTS
were homeless in the previous year

LeadMN students began an advocacy effort in 2018 to raise awareness of basic needs issues and work with policymakers to help students get the support they need. After two years, students are seeing real institutional change.



During the 2019 Minnesota legislative session, students championed ***The Hunger Free Campus Act*** into state law. This law recognizes colleges in Minnesota that are actively working to reduce food insecurity.



A HUNGER FREE CAMPUS MUST:

Have an established on-campus food pantry or partnership with a local food bank to provide regular, on-campus food distributions

Provide information to students on SNAP, MFIP, and other programs that reduce food insecurity

Hold or participate in one hunger awareness event per academic year

Have an established emergency assistance grant that is available to students

Establish a hunger task force that meets a minimum of three times per academic year. The task force must include at least two students currently enrolled at the college

Since the act was passed in 2019, 16 Minnesota State Colleges have earned the title of a Hunger Free Campus.

1. **Anoka Technical College**
2. **Central Lakes College**
3. **Inver Hills Community College**
4. **South Central college**
5. **Dakota County Technical College**
6. **Hennepin Technical College**
7. **Itasca Community College**
8. **Lake Superior College**
9. **Mesabi Range College**
10. **Minnesota State Community and Technical College**
11. **Minneapolis Community and Technical College**
12. **Minnesota State College Southeast – Winona**
13. **Normandale Community College**
14. **Pine Technical & Community College**
15. **Rainy River Community College**
16. **Rochester Community and Technical College**

COMBINED THE 16 COLLEGES HAVE:



Served over 6,596 students through the campus pantries



Awarded emergency assistance funding to 260 students



Recorded over 24,138 visits to their pantries



Provided SNAP outreach and education to over 381 students



Distributed over 61,600 pounds of food to students



Identified 15 community partnerships formed to meet student basic needs

*These numbers are per academic year and all information is strictly from self-reported campus data. Not every campus collects data or reports on each indicator above.



INSTITUTIONALIZING COMMITMENT TO FOOD INSECURITY

- Incorporation of campus food pantry tours into new student orientation and first year courses to ensure every student is introduced to the pantry (CLC) (RCTC)
- Syllabi statement for all faculty to promote the pantry (Inver Hills)
- All campus taskforces involve staff and multiple include membership from top leadership/administrators on campus
- College staff receiving training and education on basic needs. Multiple campuses reported dedicating staff development days to learn about these issues and how they can support students (RCTC, Normandale)
- All college employees at RCTC receive information on student basic needs through Employee Development Days and how to support the Yellowjacket Student Emergency Support (YES) Fund which supports basic need initiatives on campus

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Sixty-five percent of students say that the Campus Cupboard helps them stay enrolled at Normandale. For instance, a student noted that “The Campus Cupboard was a necessary part of my college studies that allowed me to study better.” The Campus Cupboard has positive health benefits for students, including reducing the psychological stress tied to obtaining more food. One student noted that the Campus Cupboard, “helped me not worry about food! A kind and friendly smile saying it’s ok...we are there for you!”

- NORMANDALE COLLEGE

HOLISTIC STUDENT SUPPORT

- Including counselors and social workers in student engagement and outreach to increase referrals to public resources to address basic needs (Inver Hills, Mstate)

ABE (Adult Basic Education) staff are available 5 days per week and serve as navigators for applications to SNAP and health benefits, housing and transportation, as well as education support. ABE staff utilizes the Bridge to Benefits program to assist students and community members. The ABE Team is also invited to share their available services during our New Student Orientation days. When possible, ABE staff are embedded as support in our Developmental Learning Communities. As a college we had a successful model of intrusive advising; often this model leads to developing meaningful relationships with our students where they are willing to share difficulties such as food insecurities, homelessness, and lack of basic needs being met. By linking students to direct support available on campus, we can close the link between unmet needs and resources.

- ITASCA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students are provided information on SNAP, MFIP, and WIC through a number of campus offices and services including Student Health Services, College Counseling, Academic Advising, the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Equity and Inclusion Resource Center, and through our partnership to provide campus based mental health services with Zumbro Valley Health Center.

- ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DID YOU KNOW...YOU MAY BE
ELIGIBLE FOR

SNAP BENEFITS

SNAP PROVIDES NUTRITION
BENEFITS TO SUPPLEMENT THE
FOOD BUDGET OF SO THEY CAN
PURCHASE HEALTHY FOOD



Email student.life@hennepintech.edu for more information

RESULTS OF HUNGER FREE CAMPUS TASKFORCES

With the efforts of the PTCC Hunger Free Campus Task force we now have a mobile food pantry that comes to our campus, we have held four food insecurity awareness events, plus we have food for students during Welcome Week and De-Stress Fest, we have snack bowls and Keurigs around campus for students, and we are currently doing a food drive during the month of March to replenish the food pantry. We have had a total of 37 students use the mobile food pantry during the two times they have been to campus. During our SNAPO for groceries events we average 125 students and have given away 35 bags of groceries.

-PINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The Food Security Coalition is a leadership body that supports initiatives with the intent to enhance the abundance and access of necessary food resources which improve student's wellbeing at Minneapolis College. The core purpose of the Coalition is to ensure the continuity and success of food security programs on campus as follows:
BSU - Free Breakfast Program, SAHH - Amy's Food Pantry, Green Team - Sustainability Programs, Student Organization Events.

- MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE

NEED HELP?

The Student Support Center is partnering with Hennepin County to provide a wide range of resources and assistance to Minneapolis College students!

Hennepin County Case Manager
Smail Sail will assist with:

Food Support

SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Healthcare

MNSure, medical assistance, discount healthcare

Childcare

Childcare benefits, MFP

Housing

Public housing, Section 8, shelter; Minneapolis & metro area options

Immigration

Legal aid, citizenship, I-130 assistance, assistance for undocumented students

Emergency Assistance

For rent & utilities

Child Support

Divorce
and more

THURSDAYS

10:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

T.2300

For more information, stop
by the Student Support
Center in T.2300 or contact
us at 612-659-6709.



THE MOBILE PANTRY

At DCTC

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

12 NOON - 1:30 PM

LOCATED IN THE WEST PARKING LOT

Need food support?

Free, healthy and fresh food.

NO appointment necessary!



Questions? Visit Student Life Center

Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer. To receive this information in an alternative format, call 651-423-8469 (Voice) or via the Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

AnswerLine
CONTACT A HOUSEHOLD EXPERT
TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT:

- Safely cooking, canning and freezing foods
- Cleaning stains and mildew from homes and clothes
- Floods and other household issues

Call: 1-800-854-1678
9 AM-12 PM AND 1-4 PM, MONDAY-FRIDAY
OR EMAIL ANSWER@IASTATE.EDU

15+ unique partnerships

with community organization to reduce food insecurity on campus including: Second Harvest Heartland, Bridge to Benefits, Good in the Hood, Ruby's Pantry, Family Pathways, Channel 1 food bank, Open Door, Community Action Duluth, Groveland Food Shelf, VEAP, Hope for the Community, St. Vincent's Food Pantry, University of Minnesota Extension, and MNSU Campus Kitchen, and various county offices.

We partner with the University of MN Extension Brainerd Office to provide SNAP resources and eligibility assistance. Snap Educators are invited on campus to table several times a year, and the information is also sent to all students via email. We also work with Crow Wing County to provide WIC information to our students, and they receive WIC information from our META5 program, which provides services for displaced homemakers. The Snap-Educators also teach a cooking class each semester to train students on how to prepare and cook healthy foods. The course also includes a grocery shopping on a budget tutorial in a local grocery store. By completing the course, the students are able to receive free cookware for their own use.

- CENTRAL LAKES COLLEGE

Lake Superior College and SNAP through Community Action Duluth have teamed up to provide SNAP services on our campus. As such, Community Action Duluth's SNAP representative participates in meetings with Sarah Lyons, the Hunger Task Force and the LSC Student Senate. In addition, SNAP participates in tabling activities on our campus, informing students about the program and signing up those who are interested and qualify. In addition, LSC will participate on a northern Minnesota college and university task force (scheduled to be held on our campus on March 30th but now postponed) with SNAP representatives from the region. The goal of this task force is to share best practices, identify strong community partners and find ways that we can all work together to combat hunger.

- LAKE SUPERIOR COLLEGE

ELIMINATING BARRIERS

- Day and nighttime food distribution hours to meet the schedules of all students (ATC)
- Removing intrusive intake processes to increase accessibility and access to pantry (Inver Hills)
- Providing emergency funds to students who are not eligible for federal aid or other public assistance funds (Inver Hills)
- Offering to deliver food to students so students don't have to worry about stigma or carrying food from class to class (Inver Hills, DCTC)
- Campus faculty and staff also donate time (driving students to and from SNAP application appointments and Ruby's Pantry), money and food to the pantry (Rainy River)

NEXT STEPS

The impact of COVID-19 has created an even greater urgency to address student basic needs on campus. The system office should develop a basic needs policy across all state colleges and universities to ensure that student get the support they need to be successful in school.



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