Navigating College Affordability:
Public Benefit Finder for CA Students & Affordable Student Housing Projects
Welcome & Introductions

• Introduce yourself to someone near you
  • Name
  • Role
  • Where you are coming from today
  • What you are hoping to learn in this session
Today’s Agenda

- Public Benefit Finder for California Students
- Affordable Student Housing
- Panel Discussion
- Q & A
Higher education is both a vaccine and an antidote against economic stagnation and social stratification—for individual Californians, our communities, and the state’s economy.
Our Policy Priorities

- College Access & Success for Adult Learners
- Effective & Accessible Online Education
- Higher Education & Workforce Alignment
- Coordinated Policy Setting & Implementation
California Competes’s online tool helps you learn about public benefits you may qualify for as a student in California. The tool shows benefits you may qualify for including the link to apply and steps to take. Use the filters to change the results, print, and share. California Competes’s research team has included in the description of each program, the official government website links for each program and how to apply to the program. These links are safe to explore.

### What kind of benefit are you looking for?

| All |

### Are you single or married?

| Single |

### How many children do you have?

| 0 |

### What is your income level each year?

- Do you have a disability?
- Are you pregnant?
- Are you a current or former foster youth?

### Download Fact

### Download PDF

#### Table of Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Maximum Benefit Up to (Yearly)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cal Grant (UC)</td>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
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<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
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<td>Cal Grant (CSU)</td>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
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<td>CalFresh</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$3,421</td>
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<tr>
<td>CalWORKs</td>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$3,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pandemic Stimulus Checks</td>
<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC)</td>
<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Cal Grant (Community Colleges)</td>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
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<td>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</td>
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<td>California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC)</td>
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<td>Child Tax Credit (CTC)</td>
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<td>California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC)</td>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered California</td>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>You receive health insurance coverage. Use this calculator to find out how much you could qualify for.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[https://californiacompetes.org/resources/public-benefit-finder-for-california-student](https://californiacompetes.org/resources/public-benefit-finder-for-california-student)
34 Programs in the Finder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Financial Aid</th>
<th>Cash Aid</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Child Care</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>🎓</td>
<td>💰</td>
<td>🍽️</td>
<td>👨‍👩‍👧‍👦</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing / Rent</td>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>Work</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CalFresh  California Department of Social Services

This program gives money each month to low-income students to buy food. You can shop at most grocery stores (even online orders) and farmers markets.

How Do I Apply
1. Submit an application. 2. Complete a phone interview. 3. Submit required documents within 30 days.

When Do I Apply
Apply anytime.

Eligible Citizenship Status
US Citizen, Permanent Resident, Qualified Immigrants (see program website)

Official Benefits Calculator
https://www.snapscreener.com/screener?state=CA

Number of Steps
3

Average Time to Receive Benefit
If approved, you’ll get money within 30 days of applying.

Application Website
https://benefitsca.com/

Program Website
https://www.cdss.ca.gov/calfresh

Resources
https://www.mycampuscalfresh.org/
What kind of benefit are you looking for?

- All
- Cash
- Food
- Financial Aid
- Health care
- Child Care
- Housing or Rent
- Food, Housing, Supportive Services
- Work

How many children do you have?

1

What is your income level each year?

10000

- Do you have a disability?
- Are you pregnant?
- Are you a current or former foster youth?

Are you single or married?

- Single
- Married
- Single
Student A

- First year at UC-Davis
- Has a disability
- Earns $3,700
- Is single (but dating)
- Does not have children

https://californiacompetes.org/resources/public-benefit-finder-for-california-students/
Student B
• Attends Cosumnes River College
• Earns $10,200 annually
• Is single
• Has children (a toddler)

Student C
• Attends Cal State Sacramento
• Earns $17,500 annually
• Is single
• Is a former foster youth
• Does not have children

https://californiacompetes.org/resources/public-benefit-finder-for-california-students/
Discuss what you are finding

1. What do you notice as you use the filters?

2. What public benefits seem to most benefit you?

3. What would you do next or first with the information you’ve found?

https://californiakenises.org/resources/public-benefit-finder-for-california-students/
Today’s Presenters

Dr. Lizette Navarette
President, Woodland Community College

Ronnie Slimp
Director of Student Housing, California Community College Chancellor’s Office

Jetaun Stevens
Senior Staff Attorney, Public Advocates

AJ Johnson
Policy Director, California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy
Analysis of the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program (HESHG)

Key Findings:
• Affordable beds: 11,200
• Dedicated units for student parents: 195
• Intersegmental projects: 4
• Move in dates: 2024-2027

Recommendations:
• Ensure state investments meet the needs of current and future students
• Drive efficient implementation of student housing investments
• Make a plan to address unmet housing needs
California Competes’s Analysis of the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program

Students consistently name the cost of college as a main barrier to enrollment and completion. To enable current students, along with a critical mass of the Californians with no college degree to attend college (1.9 million of whom have children), the state must help them with their greatest college cost—housing. Housing accounts for 43% of UC, 57% of CSU and 68% of CCC students’ anticipated cost of attendance. Investments in affordable student housing must be designed for current and potential students who step out or forgo higher education because they lack housing that meets their needs, such as apartment-style units over shared dormitories. Further, building affordable housing allows campuses to better control student’s out-of-pocket costs and better integrate campus-based services to help them succeed.

California Competes analyzed the 35 approved project applications in the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program (HESHG) to assess how they will help meet the needs of current and prospective students. Once occupied, the projects will provide affordable student housing to more than 11,300 low-income students each year, including at least 115 student parents and their families. Based on our analysis and findings, we encourage action to ensure these historic investments propel student enrollment and success:

Right Now: Ensure state investments meet the design needs of current and future students, many of whom have families and may attend more than one college on their degree journey.

Ongoing Operation: Drive efficient implementation of all student housing investments, such as by providing technical assistance to colleges in developing and operating college housing and analyzing the offerings and impact of new housing investments.

Looking to the Future: Review annual legislative housing reports and make a plan to address unmet housing needs that leverages campus, local, state, federal, and philanthropic resources.

Learn more at: https://californiabudget.com/HESG

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PROTECT AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING

Napa Valley College Profile:
Affordable housing empowers Napa students to pursue and complete college

"Housing is a basic need, and giving access to this basic need is pivotal for a better quality of life."
- Vanna Hoang,
Student Senator for the Associate Senate at University of California, San Diego

This project was funded through the housing program authorizing legislation, Senate Bill 805 (2015). Recognizing the need for new affordable student housing, the governor and legislature established the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program (HESHG) to provide colleges with grants to build new affordable housing for low-income students.

Learn more at: www.californiacompetes.org/HESHG

ABOUT NAPA’S PROJECT:

- # of Units: 538
- # of Family Units: 90
- Type/Style: Apartment buildings; dormitory style
- Monthly Rent per Student: $400–$850
- Napa Fair Market Rent (for comparison): $1,860 (studio)
- Project Status: Fall 2024 applications open. Apply here.

MAKE COLLEGE DREAMS A REALITY WITH AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING

1. APPROVE a state public bond solution to maintain and expand the HESHG program.
2. FUND viable project proposals to increase access to affordable student housing.

CASH Coalition Affordable Student Housing Spotlights

Learn more at:

https://californiacompetes.org/HESHG

CALIFORNIA COMPETES
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A STRONG ECONOMY
CCC Affordable Student Housing

Ronnie Slimp, Director of Student Housing

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Topics

• Program Background
• Program Funding and FAQ
• Updates Rounds 1-3
• Professional Development
• Questions
Program Background
Chancellor’s Office
Student Housing Unit

Ronnie Slimp
Director of Student Housing

Laura Murphy
Student Housing Program Assistant

Wrenna Finche
Vice Chancellor
College Finance and Facilities Planning

Andrea Cruz
Student Housing Analyst
CCC Focus on Affordable Student Housing

• Investment made by the Governor and Legislature in affordable student housing allows CCC to center equity and affordability in our housing efforts.

• Guiding principle of CCC student housing efforts: Ensuring affordable housing is a means to support equitable student success.
**Background & Need**

| **2019 survey found 19% were homeless, 60% experienced housing insecurities** |
| **California Community Colleges serve nearly 70% of the State’s higher education students** |
| **Historically, only 12 of 116 colleges offered student housing** |
| **November 2021, Board of Governors established an Affordable Student Housing Taskforce** |
Taskforce Report & Recommendations

- Mission
- Affordability
- Integrated Support Services
- Partnerships & Advocacy
- Data
- Total Cost of Lifetime Ownership
- Regulations
## Scoring Considerations

### Data Considerations in Education Code

- State funding per bed for low-income students.
- Rental fees for low-income students that is lower than the rental computation provided in Education Code §17201(f)(2)(A).
- Prepared to begin construction by December 31 in the year the grant is awarded, or earliest possible date thereafter in the subsequent calendar year.

### Geographic location

- Unmet demand for housing as determined by number of students waitlisted for student housing.
- Unmet demand for housing as determined by county rental vacancy rates.

### CCC Specific Considerations

- Has indicated that the project will be implemented in partnership with another California public postsecondary institution.
- Augments the cost of construction and student housing program through partnership(s) or securing additional funding.
- Ancillary services will be included in the scope of the housing project.
- Located in a Region of High Need (Same as Capital Outlay Program)
- Cost of Living as determined regional rents
Program Funding
State Funding Solution

• Issues created by SB 117
  • Transitioned funding from state grants to local lease revenue bond
• Resolution through SB 104 and SB 142
  • SB 104: Provides ongoing rental subsidies
  • SB 142: Identify statewide lease revenue bond or other statewide financing or fiscal approach by January 2024
• Governor’s Budget Proposal – Jan. 2024
FAQ
State Funding for Affordable Student Housing
Updates on Rounds 1-3
Affordable Student Housing Rounds 1 and 2

- 19 new affordable student housing facilities built across the state
  - 12 Round 1 – Approved in 2022-23
  - 7 Round 2 – Approved in 2023-24
- 4 groundbreakings: Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe CC, Riverside City College/UC Riverside, Sierra College
- 1 moved in: Santa Rosa Junior College
Round 3 Application Process

• Received 30 applications
• $1.6B requested state funding
• $1.9B total project costs
• Proposes more than 6,700 low-income student beds
• $81.3M potential available, but CA budget conditions may change
Professional Development Opportunities
Professional Development Opportunities

• Virtual Housing Forums

• Student Housing Symposium

• Vision Resource Center
  Student Housing Community
Basic Needs: A Human Right, A Collective Responsibility

What Can Advocates do to Address Student Housing Insecurity?

Jetaun Stevens, Senior Staff Attorney
Public Advocates Inc
California Affordable Student Housing Coalition

• **Who**: The California Affordable Student Housing (CASH) Coalition brings together civil rights, advocacy and student-led organizations to advocate for solutions to student housing insecurity and homelessness.

• **Research** student housing policy gaps & solutions

• **Advocate** for affordable student housing policy and budget investments

• **Build** power with students to ensure their voice is heard.
Join CASH Co in Protecting & Expanding Affordable Student Housing!

Let your CA representatives hear from you!

• Approve a state revenue lease bond to protect and expand affordable student housing.
• Fund viable affordable student housing projects
• Prioritize affordability in future housing funding.


Sign-on to our letter!
Contact Us!

Contact Information:

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Jetaun Stevens
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Ronnie Slimp
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Explore the Public Benefit Finder:

https://californiacompetes.org/resources/public-benefit-finder-for-california-students/
QUESTIONS?