Identifying College Students Experiencing Homelessness

Wednesday, October 23 \ 12:30-1:45 pm ET
HAVE A QUESTION?
This webinar is for you. Enter your questions in the questions pane and click ‘Send’.

RECORDING & HANDOUTS
An archive of this webinar and all materials will be posted here.

If you’ve signed up for this webinar, you will receive a link to the recording in an email after the webinar is over.
HELLO!

I am Jillian Sitjar
Program Manager, Higher Education
jillian@schoolhouseconnection.org
SchoolHouse Connection works to **overcome homelessness through education**. We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- **Website**
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Three Bold Goals:

- Young children will participate in quality early childhood programs at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.
- High school students will reach a 90 percent graduation rate by 2030.
- Postsecondary students will reach a 60 percent postsecondary attainment rate by 2034.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Hear from 3 institutions around the country about their processes for identifying students experiencing homelessness
2. Discover on-campus partnerships necessary to build a system of referrals to identify students experiencing homelessness
3. Learn 2-3 implementation strategies for identifying students experiencing homelessness
WHY HIGHER EDUCATION

**Jobs**
Over 95% of jobs created since 2010 have gone to college-educated workers.

**Beyond High School**
By 2020, 65% of all jobs will require education beyond high school.

**Afford Housing**
Postsecondary education is necessary for a job that pays enough to afford housing and avoid homelessness.

**Cost**
The cost of attending college has skyrocketed over the last several decades with federal pell grants not keeping pace.

**Health & Well-Being**
High school and college graduation are linked to other important indicators of health and well-being.
14% university students
18% community college students

14% of four-year students and 18% of two-year college students respondents replied they experienced homelessness within the last year (Hope Center)
Poll: How are you identifying students experiencing homelessness on your campus?

- Students self-disclose
- Referrals from faculty, staff, students
- Question asked on application
- No systems set
Human Services Resource Center

Oregon State University

Corvalis, Oregon
About OSU

- Largest university in Oregon. Public research university. 1 of 2 land, sea, space and sun grant
- Enrollment Fall 19
  - All campuses 31,565
  - Corvallis campus 23,453

Demographics (F 18), PWI

- US minority: 25.4% (international, 11%, not included)
- Oregon Residents 55.6%
- First Generation 22.9%
- Pell Eligible 30%
“Miguel helped me tremendously. I was ready to leave OSU ... I don’t have family to help me. Miguel helped me get health insurance, walked me through the SNAP application, provided me with a laptop for the term (and) free textbooks, and I was awarded the Pell grant [$6,095] with his help. I wouldn’t be at OSU if it wasn’t for Miguel. I encourage every student to meet with him.”

HSRC Student, Winter 2019
About HSRC:

- Quick History
- Major programs
HSRC Student Users

- 58% are students of color
- 54% are first generation
- AY 2018: More than 14,314 HSRC service points, 2,512 unique students impacted (programs we do track, we don't track unique student pantry usage)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HSRC Food Security Programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Assistance Funds</td>
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<td>SNAP Outreach</td>
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<td>Food for Thought</td>
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Food Assistance Application

Each term, we accept applications from hundreds of students to award some of them money on their ID to buy meals on campus.

- Online application - Interventions and early-alert type function
Food Assistance Questions

- Demographics
- “Tell us how you pay your bills”
- Financial Concerns
- Food Security, USDA questions and more
- Housing security questions
- Course materials access
- Other financial barriers
- Open response
Food Assistance Application Data

Usage continues to rise

The new online application collects more data, but is more accessible to students.

Info from last fall:

- 970 applicants in Fall
- 82% with very-low food security
- 60% have housing insecurity in past 12 months
- 1 out of 9 were unsheltered recently (107)
- 1 out of 5 went a whole day without eating for financial reasons

79% Report that financial stress is having a negative impact on health and wellness
Food Assistance Interventions

- FAFSA updates (job loss)
- FAFSA independent eligibility
- Homelessness- Emergency housing
- Housing emergent challenges
- SNAP eligibility
- SNAP re-certifying
- SNAP ineligibility (accuracy check)
- Healthcare status
- Other HSRC programs (textbook lending)
- Access to term-long-laptop loans
- Utility assistance
Helped students access an estimated $180,414 in SNAP benefits

Helped students access an additional $188,500 (more financial aid, recovered scholarship, completion grants, CPPHS, etc)

Total: $367,000 in 2018-2018 AY

July- Oct. 16- $115,000
Housing Support

Emergency Housing

Partnership with campus housing - house students (at HSRC cost) up to 28 days while they find their next steps

- Start at HSRC for intake

“Hi Miguel! All checked out and in the process of getting settled in to my new place. Thank you so much for this help. I would likely still be in my car otherwise!...”
“I had been purchasing all my food from the dollar tree. I am SO happy to buy greens and fruits. I can't remember the last time I had a salad” - Spring 2019
Textbook Lending Program

Our library has over 2,200 textbooks and covering 600 different classes. Students can check them out the entire term.

Important points:
- Students help us build our shopping list
- Low-income students get priority access
- Many donated texts each term
Other HSRC Basic Needs Support

Shower, Laundry, Kitchen Facilities
Key partners

- EOP/TRIO/LSAMP
- Student Care team
- Reputation on campus
- Financial aid office
- University Housing and Dining

Assessment

- We do a lot of data gathering and assessment
- Institutional tools- and Institutional Analytics and Reporting (IAR)
Student Challenges

- Navigating institutional policies
- Cost of living and tuitions increases. Stagnation of state & federal support.
- Proactive outreach & support.

Advice

- Center students voices!
- Curiosity, humility, and lifelong learning. You will become a generalist
- Partnerships are key
- Resources are everywhere & people want to help. Sometimes you just need to facilitate.
- Anti-deficit & trauma informed approach
University of Illinois at Chicago

Annette Wright
Cynthia M. Rosales
Sue Farruggia, Ph.D.
Who We Are

• **Annette Wright**, Associate Dean of Students, Student Affairs

• **Cynthia M. Rosales**, Student Assistance Coordinator, Office of the Dean of Students, Student Affairs

• **Sue Farruggia, Ph.D.**, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

*Work by Dr. Farruggia and her team is generously supported by grants from the Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation and an anonymous foundation*
A Snapshot of UIC

- Research 1 university located just west of downtown Chicago
- **33,390 students in Fall, 2019**
  - 21,641 undergraduate students
    - 4,407 enrolled as new first-year students
    - 2,069 new transfer students
  - Of those new Fall 2019 first-year students:
    - 58% are Pell-eligible
    - 42% are the first generation in their family to attend college
    - 37% are from Chicago Public Schools
    - 99% are full-time students
    - 31% live on campus
  - There is no racial majority: 22% Asian American, 8% Black, 41% Latinx, 20% White, and 9% other.
Relationship among Research, Project Management and Programs
Resources on our Campus

Office of the Dean of Students
- Emergency Grant
- 3-day emergency housing (partnership)

Wellness Center
- Pop-Up Pantry

Campus Housing
- 3-day emergency housing (partnership)

Commuter Student Resource Center
- Off-Campus housing apartments
Ways to Identify Students

- Online form – ‘Student Assistance Inquiry’
- Social Worker/Case Managers from High Schools
- Prematriculation Survey
- Self-reporting or reports from concerned faculty/staff
  - FY19 96.6% of our cases for housing instability were self-reported
Prematriculation Inventory: A New Way

- Starting with the Fall, 2019 cohort, **all incoming first-year students respond yes or no** to a series of “referral” questions
  - Housing insecurities
  - Food insecurities
  - Child care needs
  - Undocumented student support
  - Disabilities accommodations
- **Students do not self-identify:** asked if they want additional information
- Completed at the time of placement testing
- Their names and contact information is **provided to appropriate offices for outreach**
- Next steps:
  - Pilot year-- edits made to wording.
  - Transfer students added in for Spring, 2020 cohort.
Indicators of Success

• No clear indicator at this time
  • Retention & Persistence
• iAdvise
  • Leveraging Partnerships
Key Partners

• Wellness Center
• Counseling Center
• Campus Housing
• Undergraduate Affairs
• Commuter Student Resource Center
• 1st Year Initiatives
Relationship among Research, Project Management and Programs
Project Management Framework

- Collaboration
- Transparency
- Accountability

Project Personnel:
Sponsor, Lead, Team members
Clear roles and responsibilities

- Dedicated Project Manager
- Clear system of documentation and communication
- Leadership support and commitment
- Project management tools and templates

Office of Project Management for Student Success Initiatives
Director: Negar Mansourian-Hadavi

Project Completion Status
Student Success Initiatives (SSI) Team

- Purpose of Committee
- **Who’s included:**
  - Undergraduate Affairs
  - Student Affairs Assessment
  - Diversity
  - College of Dentistry
  - 1st Year Initiatives
  - Dean of Students
  - Wellness Center
Student Success Initiatives (SSI) Team

GOALS

• **Assessing** the relevant UIC data and reviewing best practices
• **Identifying** creative ways to enhance the effectiveness of the current efforts for accessing and supporting students in need
• **Establishing** a sustainable network of support for students in need
• **Coordinating** with campus partners for marketing and education
• **Setting up** an assessment plan
Next Steps @ UIC

- Looking at external resources to partnership or refer for additional services
- Trainings/Workshops for faculty & staff
- Exploring other ways to identify students with housing concerns
  - Financial Aid
  - Admissions
  - High School administrators
A Collaborative Approach to Support Homeless Students Pursuing Post-Secondary Education

Lisa Jackson, MSW, LCSW
Assistant Director, CARE
Unconquered Scholars Program
lisa.a.jackson@fsu.edu

SchoolHouse Connection
October 23, 2019
Florida State University

- Established in 1851
- Located in Tallahassee, FL
- Sixteen independent colleges spanning 1,550 acres
- Serve over 40,000 students
- Climbed eight places to reach No. 18 in the U.S. News & World Report rankings
Unconquered Scholars Program

- Foster Care
- Homelessness
- Relative Care
- Ward of the State
Our Mission

Provide qualified Florida State University students guidance, continual mentor-ship, advocacy, security, and a voice to further ensure their personal academic success and long-term independence.
Scope of Issue

- Pre-kindergarten-12 (NCHE, 2016-17)
  - 1,354,363 in United States
  - 75,106 in Florida

- Post-secondary (NCHE, 2016-17)
  - Over 32,000 applicants indicated homelessness on the FAFSA, 1,991 of those in Florida (NCHE, 2016-17)
  - Almost half community college and 36% university students report housing insecurity (Wisconsin HOPE Lab, 2018)
  - Homelessness affected 12% of community college and 9% of university students (Wisconsin HOPE Lab, 2018)
Statewide Systems

Identification & Support

• Statewide network of Homeless School District Liaisons
  – Early identification of K-12 students experiencing homelessness.
  – Provides documentation to post-secondary institutions that
    student qualifies as experiencing homelessness per
    McKinney-Vento

• 2013 - Statue 409.1452
  – A college campus coach is focused on supporting children and
    young adults who have been or continue to remain in the foster
    care system
Identification & Support

• 2003 – Florida K-12 Education Code Section 1009.25 (1)(f)
  – Tuition and fee exemption
  • A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary residence, a public or private transitional living program, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes a student who would otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph, as determined by a college or university, but for his or her residence in college or university dormitory housing.
Institutional Support

FSU Strategic Plan

- Provide continued **fiscal and administrative support** to successful **programs** focused on inclusiveness in students’ academic and co-curricular experiences, among them the **Unconquered Scholars**.
- Increase academic and personal **success** among the cohorts of students most at-risk for attrition by building a strong pipeline to the Unconquered Scholars Program.
Identifying Scholars

• FSU application
• FAFSA
• Collaboration
  – Florida Department of Education Liaisons
  – School Counselors
  – Homeless Shelters
• Self-identify
  – Once on campus
• Referrals
  – Case Management
  – Campus Police
  – Faculty and Staff
Challenges

• Adjustment to college life
  – Autonomy, time management, academic rigor

• Funding
  – Completing FAFSA, lack of funds to cover expenses

• Overall wellbeing
  – Housing
    • Residence hall closures
  – Food insecurity
  – Medical and mental health
    • Lack of health insurance
    • Access to counseling services

• Imposter Perspective
  – Feeling “different” and “unqualified”
  – Isolating behaviors, resistant to ask for help
Campus Resources

- Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement
  - Alternate Admissions
- Financial Aid
- Student Business Services
- Wellness Center
- University Counseling Center
- Dean of Students
  - Case Management
  - Food Pantry
- Academic Center for Excellence
  - Tutoring
  - Academic skill building workshops
Unconquered Scholars Program
Building a Campus Family

- Engage Student Voice
- Strengths-based Perspective
  - Overcome Imposter view
  - Focus on past successes
  - Re-authoring
- Dedicated staff
  - Mentorship, advocacy, guidance
  - Scaffold approach
  - Incorporates student voice
- Cohesion building
  - Campus family
Student Voice in Action

- Unconquered Scholars Study Suite
- Grocery runs
- Suits for Scholars
- Scholars’ Snack Shelf
Student Voice in Action

- **Parents’ Weekend**
  - Scholars reported academic, emotional and social decline

- **Spearmans’ Scholars Weekend**
  - Strengthen *campus family* bonds
  - Embrace new experiences
  - Reflect on college life
Graduates

90% Retention Rate

85% Graduation Rate

2.90 Cumulative GPA
Building Campus-based Support

Considerations

• Institutional Awareness and Support
• Resources
• Qualified Program Staff
• Identifying Qualified Students
• Building Community

Next Steps

• Build Awareness on Campus
• Secure Institutional Commitment
• Determine Campus Department/Location
• Develop Program Design
• Recruit Students
• Build On-and-off Campus Support
See you at NAEHCY’s 31st Annual Conference!

November 2-5 \ Washington, DC

5 Sessions:
● What’s Hot on the Hill(s): Federal and State Policy Advocacy
● Education Leads Home: A National Campaign on Student Homelessness
● Lessons of College Liaisons: Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness
● NC’s Focus on Access to Quality Child Care for Children Experiencing Homelessness
● Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles

Find us at the Exhibit Tables!
Youth Leadership and Scholarship - Application Open

Scholarship open to applicants:
- Born on or after November 11, 1999
- Entering college for the first time in the 2020-21 school year
- Who have experienced homelessness within the last 6 years

DC Summit
Leaders in policy, advocacy, and mentorship

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/youth-leadership/scholarship-program/
4 Things You Can Do To Help Homeless and Foster Youth

Resources

- Tip Sheets for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College
- Higher Education Webinars
- The Hope Center Report - College and University Basic Needs Insecurity
- Tricks of the Trade: Advice from a Higher Education Basic Needs Navigator
  - Featuring Miguel!
Questions
Contact Information

Jillian Sitjar - jillian@schoolhouseconnection.org

Miguel Arellano Sanchez - Miguel.ArellanoSanchez@oregonstate.edu

Sue Farruggia - spf@uic.edu

Cynthia Rosales - crosal4@uic.edu

Annette Wright - awright@uic.edu

Lisa Jackson - lisa.a.jackson@fsu.edu