BACK TO BASICS: COLLEGE STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 1:00 - 2:15PM 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
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SchoolHouse Connection works to **overcome homelessness through education**. We provide strategic advocacy and practical 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
Participants from this webinar will learn:

1. Learn at an introductory level about college student homelessness.

2. Get an overview of various services and resources colleges and universities offer to this distinct population, including exemplary programming and approaches from one of the leading institutions, Kennesaw State University.

3. Identify changes to policies and procedures to better support students experiencing homelessness in light of COVID-19.
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.
About 1 in 6

According to a recent poll by the Art & Science Group, about 1 in 6 of four-year college bound students appear to be at the point of giving up on the idea of attending a college or university in the fall.

69% of Students

From a survey of over 1,000 high school seniors, 69% of students foresee COVID-19 impacting their higher education financial situation.
COVID-19 and Homelessness:

- **Higher Education Resource:** COVID-19 Response for Youth Who Are Homeless or in Foster Care
- **FAQ** on COVID-19 and Homelessness
- **Weekly Virtual Chats** on COVID-19 and Homelessness
WHAT DOES HOMELESSNESS LOOK LIKE?

- Being homeless with family
- Parental substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Domestic violence
- Foster care
- Abuse and neglect
- Parenting
- Living in a hotel/motel
- Couch-surfing/doubling up
- Living in car
- Living in a shelter
- Deep poverty and lack of affordable housing
HOMELESS/HOMELESSNESS:

An individual who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth - A youth under 24 who is considered homeless from the definition above and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
16% university students
17% community college students

16% of four-year students and 17% of two-year college students respondents replied they experienced homelessness within the last year (Hope Center)
Homeless college students are not a homogenous group.

Youth (under 24):
- Barriers to financial aid
- K-12 transition impede being in college

Older students:
- May age out of youth programs
- Affordable housing
- Parenting students
What Do Young People Need To Be Successful In School?

Youth with lived experience said:

- Connection to positive, supportive adults
- Stability - difficult to meet educational needs when you can't meet basic needs
- Help navigating financial aid
- Knowledge of existing campus support programs and resources (social media, word of mouth, visibility: posters, flyers)
How CARE Serves KSU

Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (CARE) Services offers four programs to support KSU students and the community:

Providing financial assistance, access to food, temporary housing, and/or supportive services to foster students’ realization of a healthy, stable, and dignified life academically and professionally. Furthermore, to serve as a model of professional excellence and effectiveness by upholding core values of social justice, equity, economic sustainability, and mutual partnership.

KSU CARES

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

KSU VISTA NETWORK

GEAR UP GEORGIA
KSU CARES
SERVING STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS, FOOD INSECURE, AND/OR IN FOSTER CARE

Campus Pantries
Any KSU student, actively attending classes, may shop once every 30 days, no questions asked. After an Initial CARE Assessment, a participant may be eligible to have access to the linens and personal care items and increased access to the pantry.

ASCEND Program
The ASCEND program offers dedicated programming and opportunities throughout the academic year for cultural and learning experiences for incoming high school students who experienced homelessness and/or the foster care system.

Case Management
Student and Case Manager develop an individualized plan intended to empower the student to work towards daily living needs. The Case Manager may provide students with resources, referrals, and additional life skills to enable the student’s self-sufficiency.

Temporary Housing
Four on-campus apartments dedicated to serve as emergency/temporary housing for up to 14 days while the students work with CARE to locate and secure a long-term housing solution.

Temporary Work Program
Designed to assist CARE students with obtaining the experience needed in order to find a permanent, part-time job in collaboration with the Federal Work Study program.

Scholarships
CARE provides a number of scholarships annually to eligible students ranging from $500 per semester to the first full-tuition scholarship offered this academic year.

Because I would not be in college if I did not have some of the services that CARE provided. That’s a given.

In Fall 2019, 10 students housed in temporary housing; 13 students housed at local hotel; and 14 students provided with rental assistance.

Nearly $140,000 donated assistance and gift cards distributed to students since 2015.
Request received and Dean of Students assigns case

Financial Aid reviews request

Yes: Financial Aid and Scholarships sends a letter to student → DONE

No: CARE reviews request to determine service eligibility

Yes: CARE sends Financial Hardships Ineligibility Letter → DONE

No: Schedule an intake with CARE → DONE
MAKING IT ALL HAPPEN

• CARE operates similar to a non-profit but within KSU
• All donations via Foundation, tangible and monetary, directly benefit students
• Operational costs are covered by the University
• Primary Team: Director, Program Coordinator and Student Assistant
• FWS, Interns and VISTA Members are critical
• Campus partnerships (e.g. Aux Services, etc.)
• Ongoing Issues: Staffing and Space
Identify then Assess

• Marketing/PR
• Classroom Presentations
• High Impact Experiences
• Online Scheduling
• Campus Referral Info Cards
• Campus Partnerships
• Social Media
• Admissions and Orientation
Question and Answers?
COVID-19 Response

Shifting Our Model
CARE SERVICES IS WORKING REMOTELY AND CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES.

KSU CARES PANTRY HOURS AND LOCATION

- Kennesaw Campus
- Willingham Hall Room 130
- Tuesdays 10am - 12 pm
- Thursdays 2pm - 4 pm

PANTRY RESOURCES AND WALK-IN INFORMATION

To receive resources from the KSU CARES pantry, click below and complete the pre-order form prior to arrival.

Walk-ins are allowed during pantry hours, but student will be asked to complete pre-order form in person before acquiring any resources.

Once the pre-order form is completed and processed, the student will be given a bag with pantry items to take home.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case management will continue to be available for students in need of help. To begin receiving assistance, schedule an appointment or email CARE Services at careservices@kennesaw.edu
Week Two

Model

CASE MANAGEMENT

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careservices@kennesaw.edu

PANTRY INFORMATION

At this time, students can request food assistance by completing a pantry pre-order form, which is linked below.

For general questions or for additional questions, please contact careservices@kennesaw.edu or 470-578-5260
Question and Answers?
Our Next Steps

Scaling up our Capacity to Serve
Next Steps...

Case Management continue to have virtual option for all students

Pantry will have virtual shopping order option for STEM Campus

Outreach efforts Scaled up to include Online events and broader social media platforms
Question and Answers?

Wrap Up Questions
Resources

- Youth Homelessness in Higher Education Overview
- Tip Sheets for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College
- Higher Education Webinars
- The Hope Center Report - College and University Basic Needs Insecurity
- Art and Science Student Poll
- COVID-19 and Homelessness: Strategies for Schools and Early Learning Programs
- Beyond the Food Pantry: COVID-19 Response for Students Who are Homeless or With Experience in Foster Care
- COVID-19 FAQ Document
Contact info

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