

## **Cal State LA Food & Housing Security**

### **ASI Funding Proposal**

#### **Background**

In February of 2015 a study was commissioned by Cal State University Chancellor White. The purpose of this study was to examine student food and housing displacement across CSU campuses. The study looked at how campuses provided support overall to their student populations; What resources were available? What percentage of students experienced housing displacement or food insecurity, and how do we address these concerns? The study found that an estimated 8.7% of students who responded to the survey were displaced and 21% of students were food insecure (*Crutchfield 2016*). Prior studies completed on specific campuses indicated even higher percentages. The College and University Food Bank Alliance indicates that students represent a large percentage of poverty and food insecurity nationally. One in ten of Feeding America clients are college students, and research further shows that the rate of food insecurity is 1.5 to 4 times greater than the national average for college students ([www.CUFBA.org](http://www.CUFBA.org)). A large percentage of college students are nontraditional which means that those making up the student population are working one or more jobs while attending school, they may have families (children, spouse, etc.), amongst many other things. In light of these recent findings, Cal State LA has recently joined fellow CSU campuses in addressing, and improving, food and housing security within the campus community. In response to the food and housing insecurity, Cal State LA has charged the Food and Housing Security Taskforce with addressing food and housing displacement and other immediate needs for students through initiatives such as the CalFresh Outreach Center, Cal State LA Food Pantry, and Emergency Housing Program.

#### **Purpose**

The Cal State LA Food Pantry and Emergency Housing Program, under the Division of Student Life, works in close partnership with the office of the Dean of Students, the University-Student Union, and with various departments throughout campus such as the Alumni Association, Associated Students Inc. (ASI), Center for Student Involvement (CSI), College of Health and Human Services, College of Natural and Social Sciences, Department of Financial Aid, Housing and Residence Life, Kinesiology and Nutritional Science, Marketing, Public Health, Social Work, and Sociology. The food pantry's objective is to provide currently enrolled students with free food regardless of verified need as a means of supporting their wellbeing. In addition, the Cal State LA Emergency Housing Program seeks to provide hope and practical help to Cal State LA students struggling with homelessness or housing insecurity through the provision of short-term emergency housing in Student Housing. Our goal is to eliminate as many barriers as possible to ensure ultimate success for Cal State LA students.

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### **1.0. Target Population**

- The Food Pantry serves currently enrolled Cal State LA students regardless of verified need. The student's enrollment status is verified by verification of campus ID and class schedule.
- The Cal State LA Emergency Housing Program serves students who are currently enrolled at Cal State LA.

### **2.0. Program Logistics**

The pantry functions as a dry pantry with pre-selected/pre-filled bags for students to pick-up upon arrival. Students are able to view pre-filled bags to ensure that the bag contains items that they will likely use, with the possibility to swap 1-2 items if needed. Dietary restrictions are taken into consideration and are honored upon student request.

Food is supplied mostly from donated goods via campus and community partners, partnership with a local food bank, donated goods from students and others, and partially funded through the food pantries operating budget. Donations are accepted anytime during the week at the CalFresh Outreach Center (SA 113), Dean of Students Office (SA 115A), and Center for Student involvement (USU 206). However, Monday is the official donation day, held at the food pantry between 11am-1pm and 3pm-5pm. All handling of food donations, packaging, and storage follow guidelines set forth by ServSafe.

The emergency housing program currently consist of a 14-day program housed within Cal State LA's Housing and Residence Life. The program currently serves individual students experiencing homelessness. The 14-day emergency housing program is primarily funded through monetary donations, and does not have an operating budget. In addition, the emergency housing program will soon include a hotel voucher component which will enable students with children, spouses, etc. to have an emergency space available for a few days.

### **3.0. Staffing**

The Assistant Dean of Students: Wellness & Engagement, along with the Coordinator of Food and Housing Security oversee the operations of the pantry. The pantry is staffed by volunteers and interns from several academic programs.

The Director of Student Support and the Coordinator of Food and Housing Security process emergency housing applications, intake, placement of students, and work in close partnership with Housing and Residence Life.

#### 4.0. Food Pantry Hours of Operation

**Donation Day** – Monday 11:00AM-1:00PM; 3:00PM-5:00PM

**Service Day** – Wednesday 11:00AM-1:00PM; 3:00PM-5:00PM

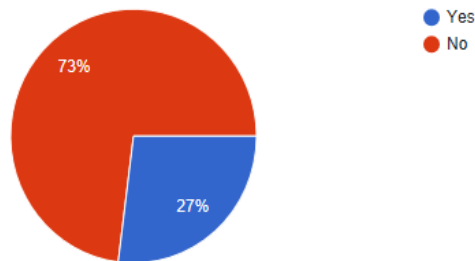
*Students unable to make the official service day, or needing additional resources, can contact the CalFresh Outreach center to schedule an appointment.*

#### 5.0. Fall 2018 Food Pantry Usage Data

As of fall 2018, the food pantry has served approximately 6,300 Cal State LA students since its opening in the spring of 2017. We serve an average of more than 150 students per week. Below are statistics captured through an optional and anonymous survey for fall 2018 to date.

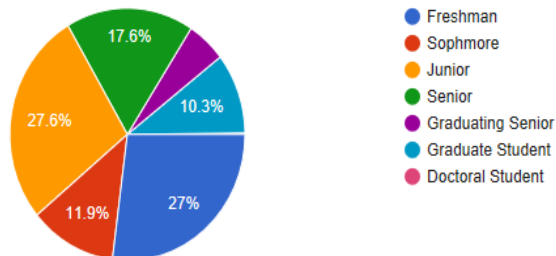
##### Is this your first time visiting The Food Pantry?

2,723 responses



##### Class Standing:

2,682 responses



**6.0. Emergency Housing Data**

The Emergency Housing Program Piloted in the fall 2018 semester. Through this program 20 students have been placed into the 14-day on-campus program.

**7.0. Food Pantry and Emergency Housing Cost & Requested Funding**

The Cal State LA Food Pantry is requesting additional funding to supplement serving students with its resources. The request below outlines two specific areas that would support food pantry operations, food and supplies.

<b>Average Cost of Pre-filled Bag:</b>	<b>Individual Food Items</b>	<b>Price Range</b>
	1-2 Cans Veggies	\$0.75 - \$1.88
	1-2 Cans Fruit	\$0.54 - \$1.50
	Rice or Pasta Item	\$0.99 - \$2.80
	Pasta Sauce	\$0.90 - \$1.50
	Cereal or Breakfast item	\$0.50 - \$3.50
	Protein	\$0.99 - \$2.00
	Snacks	\$0.41 - \$1.00
	<b>Bag Breakdown (Weekly average 100 bags)</b>	<b>Price</b>
	Range cost for 1 Bag	\$5.08 - \$14.18 ( <b>\$10.00 average</b> )
	Approximate Total 100 Bags x average \$10.00	\$1,000.00
	100 x 16 Weeks (1 Semester)	\$16,000.00
	Total Cost Annually (2 Semesters)	\$32,000.00
	<b>Requested Funds for Food</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>
<b>Budget for Pantry Supplies:</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>
	Giving is Golden Bag	\$1,650.00
	Donation Bag	\$1,400.00
	Pantry Staff T-Shirts	\$500.00
	Pantry to Plate	\$1,000.00
	Utensil Set – Promotional Item	\$677.00
	<b>Requested Funds for Supplies</b>	<b>\$5,227.00</b>
<b>Emergency Housing Program</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>
	Apartment Rental (1 Apartment = 1 academic year)	\$10,000.00
	Hotel Voucher Program (approximately 20 nights)	\$2,500.00
	Emergency Housing Supplies and hygiene kits	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Requested Funds:</b>		<b>\$52,227.00</b>

This proposal not only aims to support Cal State LA students in addressing food and housing security issues, but is also in alignment with ASI’s purpose of “advocating for the rights and interests of students” and “supporting the educational, social, physical and cultural wellbeing of the university community.”