



Postsecondary Basic Needs Task Force: Vision and Action Agenda



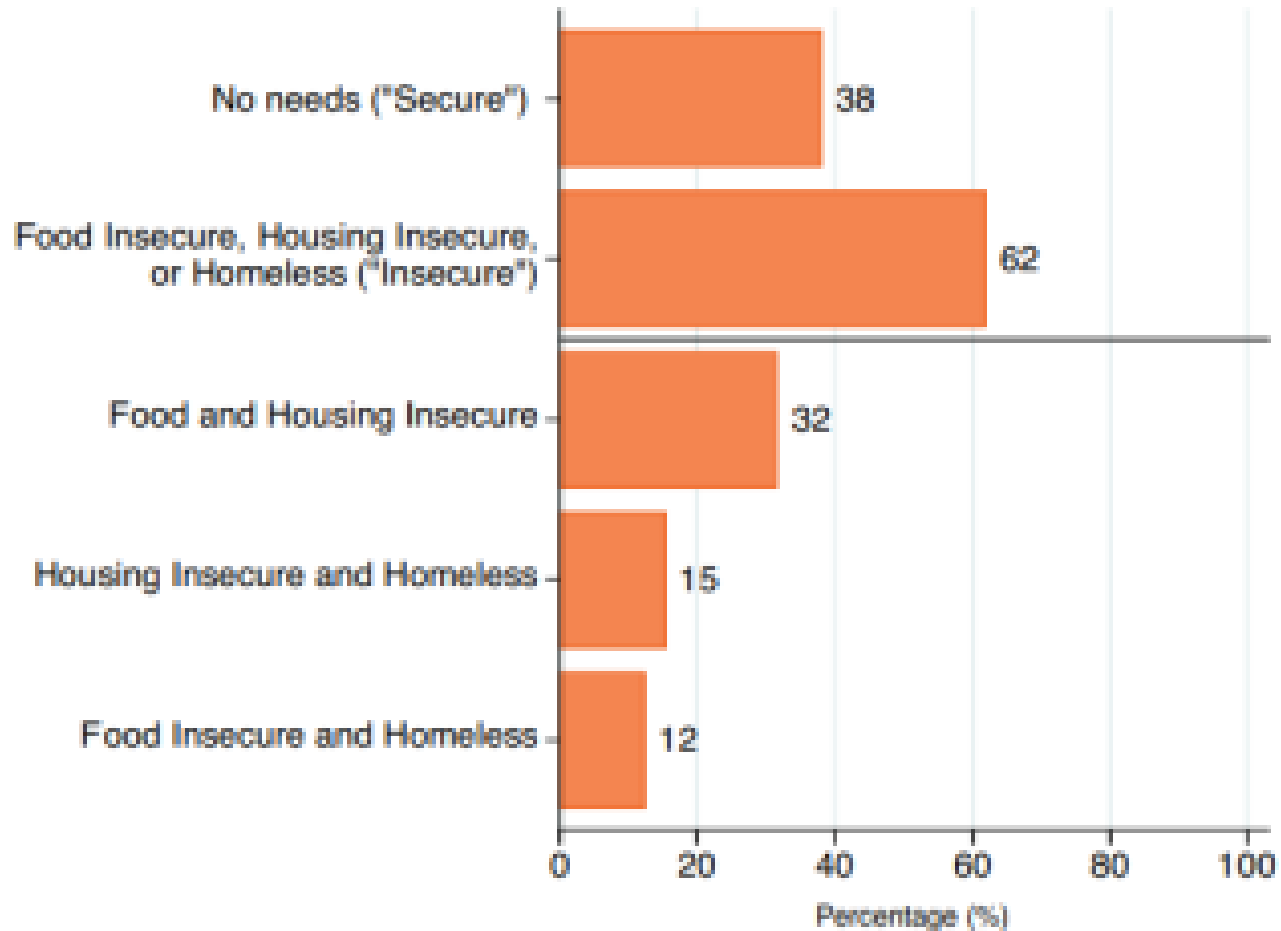
Student Supports Strategic Plan: WSAC Council

Access to basic needs should not be a barrier for Washington residents seeking a postsecondary degree.

- Basic needs encompass access to affordable housing, sufficient food, quality childcare, mental healthcare, and affordable transportation.
- Access could be provided through higher education institutions, existing federal or state public benefits, and/or local resources.



Why Postsecondary Basic Needs?





Current State Landscape of Postsecondary Basic Needs

- 2019 and 2021 state legislation
- Federal changes
- Data on prevalence of unmet basic needs
- Statewide Learning Community: Effective partnerships
- Statewide Advisory Group for Postsecondary Basic Needs



Basic Needs Task Force Participation

Student leaders

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Community-based organizations

Charles Adkins, Rethink Housing, City of Everett; Children's Alliance

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Coordinating team

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Subject Matter Experts

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Ryan Pricco, Childcare Aware

Joel Ryan and April Messenger, ECEAP

Claire Lane, Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition

Christina Wong, Northwest Harvest

Jennifer Dellinger, SBCTC

Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil, SBCTC

Carrie Welton, Hope Center for College, Community and Justice



Task Force Timeline

March

- Aspirational vision and guiding values
- Basic needs landscape exploration

April: Topic Subcommittees

- Barriers and problem statements
- Assets and models
- Action exploration, prioritization
- Consultation with subject matter experts

May and June

- Confirmation of our Vision and Action Agenda
- Feedback from larger Advisory Group
- Recommendation development ⁶



Washington Vision for Postsecondary Basic Needs

Postsecondary basic needs in Washington encompass but are not limited to food and housing security, access to quality, affordable childcare, and access to health care including mental/behavioral health care. Washington envisions a future where racial justice, economic justice and educational equity are centered in building basic needs security for all postsecondary students:

*As Washington **eliminates barriers** to basic needs for postsecondary students, **pursues equitable outcomes** and **reduces disparate impacts**, all students will have access to basic needs resources, leading to better academic outcomes, higher rates of persistence and completion, and greater stability to pursue their goals in the workforce and in further training and education.*



What are Our Values?

Attainment - Basic needs stability is foundational for students' persistence and completion, and for our state's attainment goal.

Eliminating barriers - Washington should identify and eliminate systemic and policy barriers for postsecondary students to access existing basic needs supports

Equity - Washington should identify disparate impacts of basic needs insecurity on student populations and focus solutions on those most impacted.



What Are Our Values?

- ***Data-driven*** - Data on postsecondary basic needs security and evidence-based solutions must be prioritized and drive actions.
- ***Coordinated and holistic approaches*** - Because basic needs are interconnected, solutions need to be holistic rather than separate and disconnected.
- ***Proactive, student-centered systems*** - Washington systems should seek to proactively ensure basic needs stability toward persistence and completion, rather than react to basic needs instability and crisis. Washington should appropriately invest in comprehensive, proactive and student-centered systems.
- ***Partnership*** - Addressing postsecondary basic needs requires a collaborative and regionally-customized approach. Higher education institutions, public agencies, community-based organizations, and private sector entities all have a stake in students' attainment, and thus have a critical role to play in basic needs stability toward attainment. Student leadership should be incorporated as partners in problem identification, solutions development, implementation and evaluation.



Questions for Consideration

- What do you think of the vision and values?
- Is there anything missing or any clarification we can provide?



Housing Security

Housing insecurity includes challenges that prevent someone from having a safe, affordable, and consistent place to live. ***Homelessness*** means that a person does not have a fixed, regular, or adequate place to live.

Mission: Ensure that all students have access to housing security to reduce barriers to persistence and attainment.



What Do We Know about Housing Insecurity?

#RealCollege Survey of 28 WA CTCs (2019):

- Six in ten students experience housing insecurity or homelessness.
- Housing insecurity disproportionately impacts students of color.
- Housing insecurity negatively impacts academic performance.
- A consistency exists between experiencing food and housing insecurity simultaneously.

PBIs in Washington's Students Experiencing Homelessness Pilot program reported:

- EWU (2019): 41% housing insecurity, 22% homelessness
- WWU (2019): 49% housing insecurity, 19% homelessness
- WSU (2020): 43% housing insecurity, 15% homelessness
- Evergreen (2020): 58% housing insecurity, 23% homelessness



What are Barriers for Postsecondary Students?

- **Eligibility** - The restrictiveness of eligibility requirements for coordinated entry services, such as requiring students to not have shelter for a period of time, can cause housing insecurity to be unaddressed until it becomes a crisis.
- **Student outreach** - Many students face stigma with sharing their unmet needs. Some students aren't aware that they're eligible for community or campus programs.
- **Limited partnerships** - Colleges and universities may not be aware of opportunities to partner with municipal organizations, councils, and community organizations to address housing needs.
- **Between-term housing** - Students on residential campuses may face gaps in safe, affordable housing during school breaks and summers.



What are Some Action Priorities for Housing Security?

Emerging recommendations:

- **Ensure an on-campus navigator/coordinator in all institutions** to coordinate partnerships with local organizations, conduct outreach to connect students with housing opportunities, and guide students through application.
- **Provide low or no-cost housing and food services on residential campuses, including during school breaks and summer**, to ensure that students have a safe, affordable, and consistent housing.
- Ensure that all students have access to **Emergency Assistance funds** through equitable systems.



Housing Security Questions for Consideration

- What do you think of these action priorities?
- How can Washington support regional and/or local efforts with institutions to address homelessness?



Food Security

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner. (USDA)

Mission: Ensure that all students have food security to reduce barriers to persistence and attainment.



What Do We Know about Postsecondary Food Insecurity?

Before the pandemic:

37-47% of WA CTC students experienced food insecurity in the previous 30 days.

- **Those with food insecurity perform worse academically than those who are food secure.**
- Students with marginalized identities experience disparate impacts.
- Students with dependents have higher rates of insecurity.
- A large proportion of students are unaware of or have not applied for community for campus supports.



What Do We Know about Postsecondary Food Insecurity?

Voluntary/emergency efforts:

- Food pantries
- Community partnerships
- Donated meal vouchers
- Emergency assistance for food
- Campus / community fundraising
- Campus outreach - Syllabi statements, messaging

Systems efforts:

- Public benefits access and BFET program
- Navigators / case managers
- On-campus meal plans
- Community partnerships



What are the Barriers?

- **Basic Food / SNAP barriers:**
 - Eligibility barriers for otherwise-eligible postsecondary students
 - Difficult to navigate application for postsecondary
 - BFET only for Associate-level students
- **Misconceptions:**
 - “Making college more affordable vs. funding food security”
 - “Why should it be easier for them when it was hard for me?”
 - Stigma around resources and public benefits
- **Reactive / emergency stance vs. proactive systems**
 - Extensive resources / effort toward emergency approaches



What are Some Action Priorities to Increase Food Security?

Emerging recommendations:

- Assess the prevalence of unmet basic needs on campus, regional, state levels.
- Expand students' access and application for SNAP food benefits.
- Expand BFET to include Bachelor students.
- Proactive food system for low-income students, particularly those ineligible for SNAP.



Food Security Questions for Consideration

- What do you think of these action priorities?
- What role do you see for data on unmet needs to dismantle misperceptions about food insecurity and other basic needs insecurity?
- What potential do you see for proactive, equitable food security systems in Washington, particularly for students ineligible for SNAP?



Childcare Access

Issue: Access to affordable, quality childcare is a fundamental need to advance the education for both parenting students as well as their children.

Mission: Ensure that all students have access to affordable, accessible, quality childcare to reduce barriers to students' persistence and attainment.



What Do We Know about Postsecondary Childcare?

- **Childcare is an equity issue:** Women are more likely than men to be parenting while in school. 38% of student parents are students of color.
- **Single parents:** About 41% of parenting students are raising their children as single parents while in school.
- **Low-income and working parents:** 28% of financial aid-receiving students are parents. Among Pell grant recipients, student mothers graduate with more debt.
- **Many WA campuses have child care centers,** but many typically only serve a fraction of student parents on campus. Regions vary widely.



What are the Barriers?

- Many students with dependents **struggle to find and afford childcare**
- **Caregiving demands affect student parents' ability to devote the time needed to succeed in school.** Without affordable, accessible, quality care, student parents are twice as likely to drop out than students without children.
- **The impact of the pandemic** has destabilized an already struggling system: 27% of WA parents quit their job or left school/training due to childcare; 27% went from full- to part-time work/school/training



What are Some Action Priorities for Child Care Access?

Emerging recommendations:

- **Subsidies:** Ensure that low income and working parenting students, regardless of degree, have subsidies for care, including funded access to WCCC. Consider state matching options for the CCAMPIS federal program.
- **Research:** A state landscape study on regionally-specific postsecondary childcare access and affordability gaps, as well as regional partnership opportunities, is a missing foundation for regional solutions.



Child Care Access Questions for Consideration

- What do you think of these action priorities?
- What would childcare access look like if it were supported across **all** education sectors?
- What information do you think is important to be able to respond to childcare gaps?

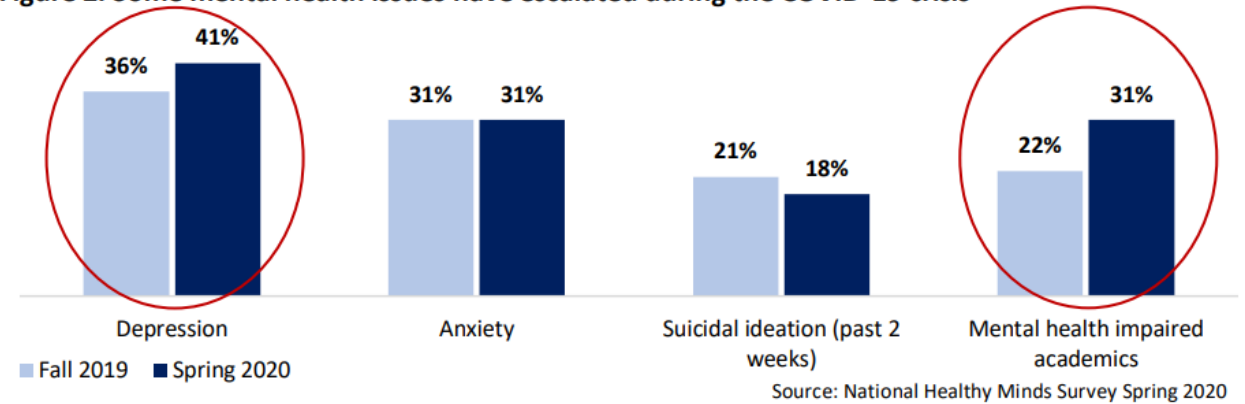


Mental/Behavioral Health Care

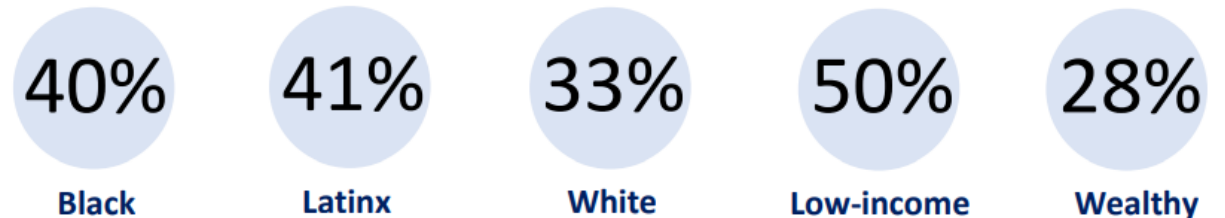
Mental and Behavioral Health includes a person's mind, behavior, and overall wellbeing and is a critical issue that impacts the ability to thrive while in school.

Mission: Ensure that all students have access to mental/behavioral healthcare to reduce barriers to persistence and attainment.

Figure 2. Some mental health issues have escalated during the COVID-19 crisis



Depression has been more prevalent among some groups during the pandemic.



Source: SERU COVID-19 Survey 2020



What Do We Know about M/B Health Care Access?

- **Modality matters** - in-person, telehealth options
- **Holistic supports are important** - Campus and community providers provide complementary services, and neither can entirely meet student needs on their own
- **Access and addressing stigma is key**- Consistent outreach and navigation
- **Representation impacts successful outcomes** - Culturally competent services are frequently not available, and have great disparities by region
- **Student led/engaged approaches show impact** - Student partnerships, peer-to-peer supports, and whole-campus wellness efforts



What are Barriers for Postsecondary Students?

- **Awareness and outreach** is dependent on the campus/provider capacity and often is not student-centered and well saturated
- **Navigating resources**, costs, and eligibility is confusing and many students report not following through due to challenges getting connected in the first place
- **Scarcity in providers** impacts ability for services to be culturally competent, timely and responsive in crisis, and limits access between terms and during summer quarter
- **Campus / Community provider gaps** create variable resources on campuses and in different regions, and there is lack of coordination between providers



What are Some Action Options for M/B Health Care Access?

Emerging recommendations:

- Develop a statewide/specific resource for all postsecondary institutions and their students that addresses eligibility and access for mental and behavioral healthcare and provides a standard service open to all postsecondary students, including a telehealth option.
- Create a regional funding/grant model to incentivize institutions in the same geographical area to share resources, including staffing.



M/B Health Care Access Questions for Consideration

- What do you think of these action priorities?
- What more do we need to know to address these needs?
- What do you see as missing from our state investments / policies that is making access hard for students?



Summary of Emerging Task Force Recommendations

Addressing all basic needs:

- Ensure navigators/case management for all students
- Develop data:
 - Engage colleges in coordinated assessment of unmet basic needs
 - Landscape and regional opportunity studies
- Equitable emergency funds for all

Topic-specific priority actions:

- Establish low/no-cost housing between terms
- Expand access to SNAP
- Provide proactive food security systems
- Eliminate barriers to childcare subsidies
- Establish state standard of M/B health care and regional funding for collaborations



Continue the conversation...

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