

# PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING TO INCREASE CAPACITY FOR BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES AT MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

February 2021

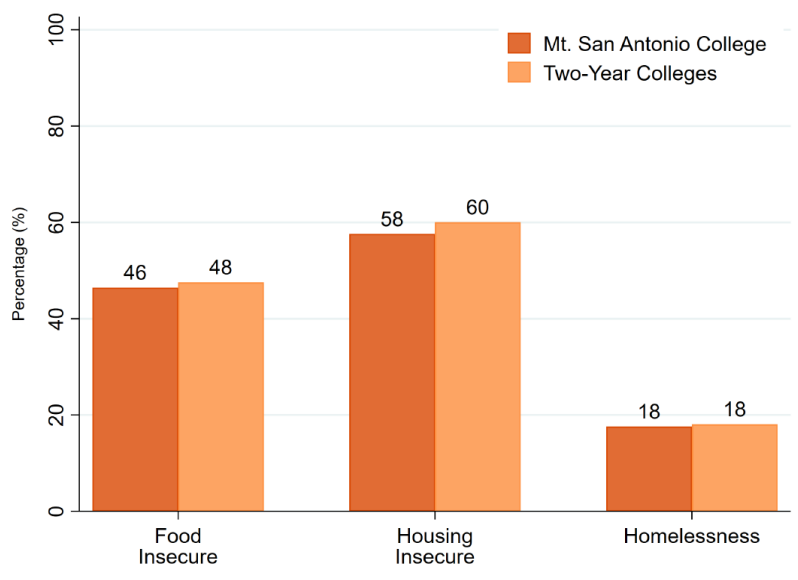
## SUMMARY

Basic Needs Resources is seeking increased and ongoing funding to build capacity to address the wide range of basic needs of Mt. SAC students, which includes housing resources for homeless students. A comprehensive “basic needs plan” advances Mt. SAC’s commitment to “value diversity in all aspects of the human condition” and “creating an atmosphere of safety and support” for all students. Basic Needs Resources is specifically designed to reach out to students experiencing basic needs insecurities and providing them access to resources on and off-campus to enable them to complete their educational goals.

## PROBLEM

Students in college face significant challenges. This is particularly true of students facing basic needs challenges who enroll in community college. Poverty, pervasive inequalities in schooling, and lack of supportive social and intellectual communities on campus are among the factors that undermine the success of housing and food insecure students who are more likely to leave college without completing a degree or certificate.

A survey conducted in 2018 by The Hope Center through their #RealCollege Survey Project revealed that at Mt. SAC, 18% of respondents reported being homeless at some point within the previous year; 58% were housing insecure within the previous year; and 46% were food insecure in the prior 30 days.



## ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

Basic Needs Resources (BNR) is designed to change the paradigm of hopelessness and despair for students struggling with basic needs to one of transformation and realization of success through college. While students’ long-term outcomes include completing an educational goal that lead to embarking on a meaningful career path, we understand that real college students are dealing with immediate basic needs that are obstacles to attaining their long-term goals. Basic Needs Resources leverages existing resources and partnerships in addition to implementing new strategies to support the basic needs of real college students.

## GOALS

Mt. San Antonio College's Basic Needs Resources aims to address students' short and long-term basic needs by providing them with food resources, housing options, mental health referrals, connections to job opportunities, emergency resources, and case management support. The following are the program's goals:

- To serve 200 and increase real college student participation with basic needs support services by 15% annually (this baseline number includes students who have: applied for CalFresh, participated in the food pantry 5 or more times, referred for housing assistance, and receiving case management support).
- To retain 70% of real college students that utilize resources and complete follow-up activities will remain enrolled through the end of the term and re-enroll the following regular term.
- To assure that the 65% of real college students will achieve success (as measured by such indicators as grade point average and satisfactory progress toward the degree).
- To demonstrate that at least 80% of students are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the comprehensive services through Basic Needs Resources and other support services on and off-campus.

## ACTIVITIES

Students in higher education face significant challenges accessing basic needs to maintain their academic performance. A high percentage of students who face basic needs insecurity are reflected of students disproportionately impacted in student equity reports. The following major activities (which are detailed in the work plan) enable Basic Needs Resources to accomplish its goal of helping real college students achieve their educational goals at Mt. SAC:

- Promote basic needs services and resources through coordinated inreach activities in collaboration with faculty, staff, and community partners.
- Respond to food insecurity needs of students with assistance to CalFresh benefits (up to \$204 a month for food purchases) and providing food resources through the campus food pantry and food cards.
- Assess and refer homeless and housing insecure students to the Campus Peer Navigator. In spring 2021, pilot a housing support program in partnership with Jovenes Inc, which provides rapid re-housing and bridge housing for eligible students.
- Provide comprehensive support services to promote the satisfaction, retention, and success of real college students through case management with Basic Needs Resources staff.
- Evaluate the program and disseminating findings.

### Basic Needs Resources — Work Plan

GOALS	2020-21 ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE	2021-22 ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE	2022-23 ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE	OUTCOMES
Promote awareness of basic needs resources to students in need.	Collaborate with faculty, campus support programs, and off-campus partners to inform eligible students of resources.	Collaborate with faculty, campus support programs, and off-campus partners to inform eligible students of resources.	Collaborate with faculty, campus support programs, and off-campus partners to inform eligible students of resources.	Campus-wide survey will show students awareness of resources and increased usage of services.
Minimize long term food	Conduct CalFresh eligibility educational trainings; provide pre-screens via	Conduct CalFresh eligibility educational trainings;	Conduct CalFresh eligibility educational trainings;	CalFresh Educational trainings/workshops to campus community;

insecurities by increasing CalFresh participation and maintaining benefits.	phone call with BNR staff or online pre-screen form submission; assist students apply to CalFresh through GetCalFresh.org; assist student complete the CalFresh process by assisting student provide any verification as requested by DPSS; assist student complete SAR 7 and recertification process to continue receiving CalFresh benefits; and work with Mt. SAC educational programs that increase employability to California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for purposes of student CalFresh eligibility.	provide pre-screens via phone call with BNR staff or online pre-screen form submission; assist students apply to CalFresh through GetCalFresh.org; assist student complete the CalFresh process by assisting student provide any verification as requested by DPSS; assist student complete SAR 7 and recertification process to continue receiving CalFresh benefit; and work with Mt. SAC educational programs that increase employability to California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for purposes of student CalFresh eligibility.	provide pre-screens via phone call with BNR staff or online pre-screen form submission; assist students apply to CalFresh through GetCalFresh.org; assist student complete the CalFresh process by assisting student provide any verification as requested by DPSS; assist student complete SAR 7 and recertification process to continue receiving CalFresh benefit; and work with Mt. SAC educational programs that increase employability to California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for purposes of student CalFresh eligibility.	complete at least 1667 prescreens; complete at least 834 application; 80% of participants will complete the full process with our assistance; complete 30 annual re certifications for CalFresh Participants; keep CFO contract Master log updated.
Address short term food insecurity by providing access to Food Pantry and other food resources.	Offer bi-monthly drive-thru food pantry during pandemic campus closure in partnership with Sodexo; provide basic needs cards to eligible students via email and mail.	Offer monthly food pantry (student-choice farmers-market style) in partnership with Sowing Seeds for Life; offer regular food pantry access (student-choice market style inside 67A-103); provide basic needs cards to eligible students; provide students with affordable and healthy nutritious educational information based on Leah's Pantry Eat Healthy Program.	Offer monthly food pantry (student-choice farmers-market style) in partnership with Sowing Seeds for Life; offer regular food pantry access (student-choice market style inside 67A-103); provide basic needs cards to eligible students; provide students with affordable and healthy nutritious educational information based on Leah's Pantry Eat Healthy Program.	Service an average of 1,000 students per farmer's market choice food pantry Service an average of 1,000 students per intermediate food pantry access to 67A-103 Address immediate food insecurity and link to longer term solutions
Address student Housing insecurity by providing referrals and/or housing through local housing resources.	Conduct a bio-psych-social assessment of student's current housing situation; implement Problem-Solving Intervention; provide student with problem solving skills/strategies to improve their housing situation; refer to Campus Peer Navigator. Pilot housing program with Jovenes Inc. in March 2021 with up to 10 students.	Conduct a bio-psych-social assessment of student's current housing situation; implement Problem-Solving Intervention; provide student with problem solving skills/strategies to improve their housing situation; house students in need with Jovenes Inc. housing program for up to 20 students; maintain referral with Campus Peer Navigator.	Conduct a bio-psych-social assessment of student's current housing situation; implement Problem-Solving Intervention; provide student with problem solving skills/strategies to improve their housing situation; house students in need with Jovenes Inc. housing program for up to 30 students; maintain referral with Campus Peer Navigator.	2021 (spring): 10 students with housing needs will be connected to housing through Jovenes Inc. 2021-22: Increase capacity for up to 20 students housed through Jovenes Inc. 2022-23: Increase to up to 30 students.
Improve academic success and personal development with intrusive case management support.	Utilize Problem-Solving Intervention strategies; create a plan of action and set goals with students to address resource needs; engage with students at least 2x a month to ensure completion of plan of action and provide guidance and feedback; connect student with a Mt. SAC counselors to ensure Mt. SAC educational goal is attainable and adjusted accordingly based on their basic needs situations; collaborate with Student Health Services mental	Utilize Problem-Solving Intervention strategies; create a plan of action and set goals with students to address resource needs; engage with students at least 2x a month to ensure completion of plan of action and provide guidance and feedback; connect student with a Mt. SAC counselors to ensure Mt. SAC educational goal is attainable and adjusted accordingly based on their basic needs situations; collaborate with Student Health Services mental	Utilize Problem-Solving Intervention strategies; create a plan of action and set goals with students to address resource needs; engage with students at least 2x a month to ensure completion of plan of action and provide guidance and feedback; connect student with a Mt. SAC counselors to ensure Mt. SAC educational goal is attainable and adjusted accordingly based on their basic needs situations; collaborate with Student Health Services mental	To serve 200 and increase real college student participation with basic needs support services by 15% annually.  To retain 70% of real college students that utilize resources and complete follow-up activities will remain enrolled through the end of the term and re-enroll the following regular term.  To assure that the 65% of real college students

	health and create support group for students.	health and create support group for students.	health and create support group for students.	will achieve success (as measured by such indicators as grade point average and satisfactory progress toward the degree).
Respond to students' short-term and emergency need gap.	Assess basic needs of students and collaborate with key offices including financial aid, to provide emergency resources including: emergency grant, temporary hotel "voucher," and/or care kits (hygiene, toiletry, and other basic needs items).	Assess basic needs of students and collaborate with key offices including financial aid, to provide emergency resources including: emergency grant, temporary hotel "voucher," and/or care kits (hygiene, toiletry, and other basic needs items).	Assess basic needs of students and collaborate with key offices including financial aid, to provide emergency resources including: emergency grant, temporary hotel "voucher," and/or care kits (hygiene, toiletry, and other basic needs items).	Ensure appropriate and timely need-based aid to students based on referral system and assessment by Basic Needs Resources staff.
Evaluate program services and outcomes, and disseminating findings.	Design evaluation model, establish baselines, prepare instruments, collect data, and conduct evaluation; prepare annual report and disseminate findings.	Collect data, include qualitative and quantitative measures, and conduct evaluation; Prepare annual report and disseminate findings.	Collect data, include qualitative and quantitative measures, and conduct evaluation; Prepare annual report and disseminate findings.	TBD

## EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION

Evaluation of the impact of Basic Needs Resources will involve evaluation methods that include quantitative analyses as well as qualitative measures such as focus groups, structured interviews, and observations. An external evaluating agency through a partnership with John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) will evaluate the program in collaboration with Mt. SAC's Research and Institutional Effectiveness (RIE) office.

Data and formative evaluations will be reported to the program staff, Basic Needs Committee, and other stakeholders to promote continuous improvement. An evaluation report will be prepared and disseminated widely. A summative evaluation will be completed at the end of the grant period, and the report will:

- Benefit the other possible replication campuses as they consider implementation of basic needs programs/centers;
- Provide information to refine approaches being used by basic needs centers at California Community Colleges;
- Reveal outcomes that can serve as lessons for other programs serving real college students.

The Basic Needs Resources staff and Basic Needs Committee members will disseminate project outcomes through reports, press releases, and participation in various conferences and symposia.

## BUDGET NARRATIVE

Basic Needs Resources requests incremental funding to increase capacity to develop and implement a housing component for homeless students and improve ongoing services including the food pantry and case management services. The attached budget lists the personnel and other resources needed to establish a comprehensive program. The requested funds would be used specifically for:

- **A full-time Director, Special Programs (Basic Needs)** starting 2021-22 to manage all aspects of Basic Needs Resources operation, including supervising staff and MSW interns, directing the food pantry, budgeting, facilitating partnerships with off-campus partners (Sowing Seeds for Life, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, John Burton Advocates for Youth) and serving as the main contact for Jovenes Inc., securing additional funding resources in partnership with Foundation, and overseeing program evaluation activities. Adding a management position to lead Basic Needs Resources is critical, as these functions are currently performed by the Dean of Student Services.
- **A full-time Student Services Program Specialist II** starting 2021-22 to assist the program director with case management of students demonstrating challenges with basic needs insecurities, lead the CalFresh Outreach project under the direction of the programs director, coordinate and lead personal enrichment skills workshops, expand basic needs outreach efforts, using equity-based promotional material on multiple platforms for social media, Canvas shell, center website, and printed brochure to promote basic needs resources.
- **Contracting with Jovenes Inc.**, which will provide housing assistance and co-located housing related case management to achieve housing security for eligible Mt. SAC students (see Jovenes Inc. Scope of Work with Cal Poly Pomona). If funding for 2020-21, we will pilot the model with up to 10 Mt. SAC students from March to June 2021 and expand housing offerings to 20 beginning 2021-22.
- **Food Resources** for Mountie Fresh Food Pantry (ongoing) is necessary in addition to food donations from Sowing Seeds for Life. Funding will be used to purchase food that have been funded primarily through the Hunger Free Campus allocation, which will end in June 2021. Other supplies and equipment associated with maintaining the food pantry are also necessary.
- **Other operational expenses** including travel, mileage, office supplies, and discretionary funds for operational expenses.

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#### Funding Request Summary

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Coordinator, Project/Program <sup>1</sup>	\$102,000		
Director, Special Programs <sup>2</sup>		\$156,000	\$158,000
SS Program Specialist II <sup>3</sup>		\$94,000	\$95,000
Jovenes Inc. (Housing) <sup>4</sup>	\$44,000	\$376,000	\$547,000
Food Pantry (food only)		\$200,000	\$200,000
Food Pantry (Sodexo staff)		\$20,000	\$0
General Operations		\$19,000	\$19,000
Basic Needs Cards (SEAP)		\$35,000	\$35,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>\$900,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,054,000.00</b>

1. Coordinator, Project/Program (A-95) – **Rigo Estrada occupies this role**: \$70,000 (salary) + \$32,000 (benefits)

2. Director, Special Programs (M-9, Step 3): \$107,000 (salary) + \$49,000 (benefits)

3. SS Program Specialist II (A-29, Step 3): \$59,000 (salary) + \$35,000 (benefits)

4. Jovenes Inc.: Year 1 (10 students for 3 months), Year 2 (20 students for 12 months), Year 3 (30 students for 12 months)

## Food Pantry Reopens After Renovation

By [Robert Bledsoe](#)

March 21, 2023 - 04:54 PM



The [Mountie](#)

[Fresh Food Pantry](#) has undergone a complete renovation and recently held its first Pantry in the renovated space. Located at the far south corner of building 67A (right next to the Bonita Ave. crossover bridge), the Pantry is there to fulfill a critical need at the college: combating food insecurity.

**"The most recent data we have from 2020 shows that more than 35% of our students are food insecure," said Rigo Estrada, Director of Basic Needs Resources.**

Program Coordinator of Basic Needs, Vivian Hernandez explained, "If a student is skipping meals and deciding how or when they can afford to eat, they are food insecure."

**"I started using the Pantry when I had empty pockets," said Sociology and Social Work major Leandro Perez. "Mt. SAC has this neat program (the Pantry) where no student should go hungry, and I really appreciated that".**

The big new addition to the Pantry is a freezer. This has expanded what can be offered to students, says Hernandez. "We are looking to focus on grab and heat items."



“If a student is hungry, or has no lunch to eat, they can grab something at the Pantry and heat it at one of the many microwave stations across campus,” said Hernandez. “We are able to provide that immediate resource with frozen burritos, instant meals and other items.”



Nevertheless, students grabbing milk or other refrigerated items will have to plan on coming by right before they go home, rather than between classes so that the items do not spoil.

The Pantry was gutted, floor to ceiling, and is all new. The renovations were made possible with the use of one-time Basic Needs grant funds, as well as bond funds and scheduled maintenance funds.

All actively enrolled students may take part, but since the food available is limited, Estrada says he asks students, “to allow those students that need it the most to access the pantry.”

Students must have their current student ID card to shop. A couple of housekeeping rules for the Spring semester are that students will choose between milk or eggs, corn or flour tortillas, and bread or bagels.

“They also upgraded their baskets,” said Leandro. “These neat rolling baskets hold more than the bags we had before.”

Another new feature is that many items are shelved in “food bundles”. “The food bundles are our way of choosing items that work together in recipes, like spaghetti,” said Hernandez. **“We are not just providing the food resource, but the nutritional education as well.”**

The recipes are designed to be made with low-cost ingredients, nutritious, and quick to fix.

“It’s a good assortment of healthy foods”, said Grace Manacop, a Food Science major, “They give you recipes online to make whole meals.”

Estrada said that the Pantry has added cooking tools, as well, after realizing many students do not own a cutting board, spatula, or wooden spoon.

**“In November of last year, during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, a drive for donations of these cooking items supplied the stock we now have,” explained Estrada.**

The Pantry is open on the second and fourth week of each month for three days each week. The next opening is Tuesday, March 28 at 11 a.m. [Check the website for dates and times](#). There is no registration or appointment necessary, but lines will form at peak times.

Students will find the newly renovated Pantry looking like a small corner market, not unlike those that pepper residential neighborhoods in Los Angeles. This is by design, said staff.

**“There’s no embarrassment in coming here,” explained Leandro. “No questions asked.”**

**“A major part of this renovation is just making this space look welcoming,” said Hernandez.**



Estrada explained, **“We don’t want students to feel like this is a pantry. They should just feel like they are doing their normal grocery shopping.”**

Students get five minutes to fill their basket, following the limits placed on specific items (generally 2). The student then goes outside to bag their groceries.





**“It’s quick and easy,” said Grace. “Why drive really far to a pantry, when this one is right here?”**

Estrada sees the Pantry as only a short-term solution to food insecurity and said a longer-term solution is connecting students with Cal Fresh, a statewide program that can provide up to a year of groceries. Students should ask the staff at the Pantry or [contact Basic Needs](#) for more information on enrolling in that.