

Mountie Fresh: Mt. SAC's Hunger-Free Campus Initiative

In fall 2018, the Homelessness & Basic Resources Committee (HBRC) launched in response to Mt. San Antonio College's (Mt. SAC) commitment to supporting the needs of students whom face housing and food insecurities in addition to other basic resources. It was around this time that the state Chancellor's Office announced funding through its Hunger-Free Campus Initiative, for which Mt. SAC received \$68,000. As a result of the state's focus on addressing food insecurity on community college campuses, HBRC (see appendix for list of members) decided to focus on this basic resource need. Thus, Mt. SAC is organizing a CalFresh launch event in April and is in the process of establishing a mobile food pantry. The following provides the context for the purpose of addressing food insecurity at the College, followed by Mt. SAC's three-pronged approach to addressing this issue.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food insecurity is defined as a "condition of someone who does not have adequate resources to feed themselves." The following statistics were collected in the report, "Hunger On Campus: The Challenge of Food Insecurity for College Students":

- 22% of students reported very low levels of food security
- 25% of community college students qualified as having very low food security, compared to 20% at four-year schools
- 57% of Black or African American students reported food insecurity, compared to 40% of non-Hispanic white students
- 56% of first-generation college students were food insecure, compared to 45% of students who had at least one parent who attended college
- 25% use SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and California has the 4th lowest participation rate in the nation

Based on the growing concern of food insecurity nationwide, Mt. SAC's hunger free campus initiative titled "Mountie Fresh," will offer a three-pronged approach to addressing this issue for the students at the College.

CalFresh

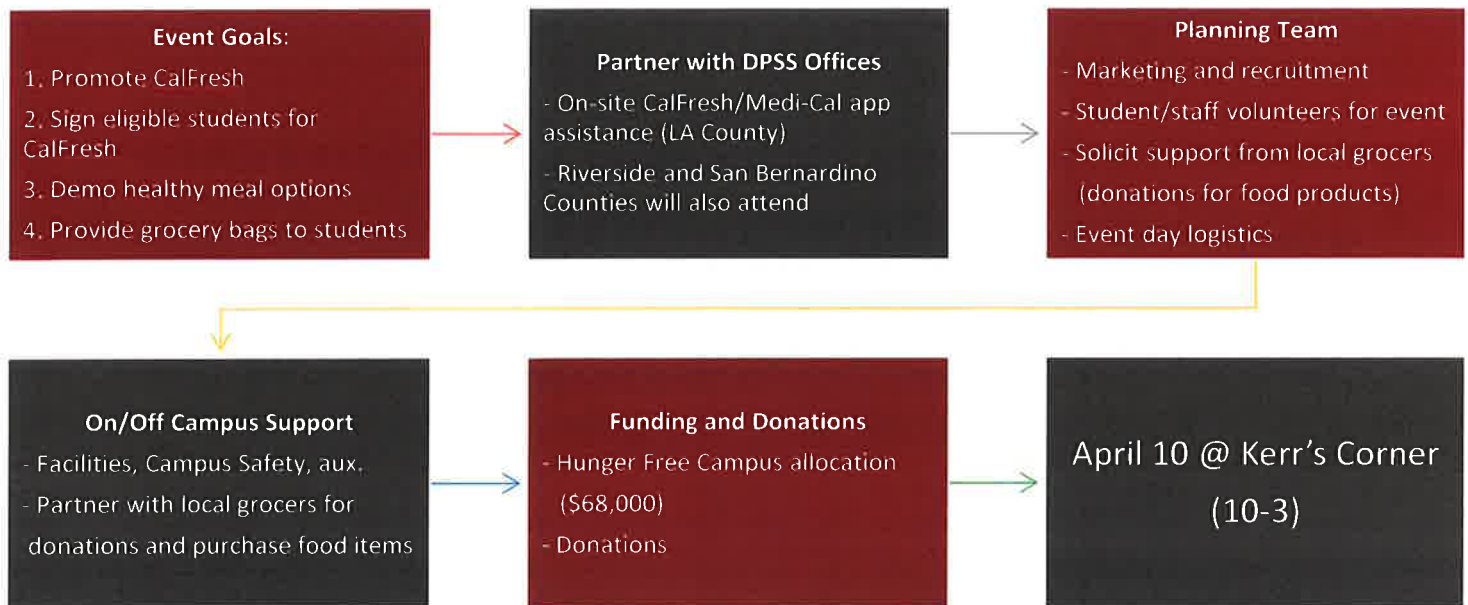
- Mountie Fresh Day (launch event)
- Regular CalFresh application assistance

Food Pantry

- Mobile Food Pantry (immediate)
- Food Pantry (future)

Meal Cards

- Student Equity
- Sodexo-donated cards
- Off-Campus contributions



Mountie Fresh Day planning members have also garnered gifts and discounted grocery items from Sprouts Market (Diamond Bar), Stater Bros., Costco, Smart & Final, and Cal Poly Pomona Farm Store among the various generous donors. Student clubs will provide games and activities for attendees and there will be multiple healthy cooking and physical/mental wellness demonstrations provided by Mt. SAC faculty, staff, and students. In the spirit of health and wellness, the event has also attracted outside resources including Alta Med, 211 LA County, and California Life Line, in addition to multiple campus services. Honors Society, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), will also promote their homeless and basic resource survey during the event. The construction of the survey was a joint effort between HBRC and PTK, and it is currently available on the student portal for students to respond.

The focus of the event however, is the CalFresh awareness and application assistance process, which will be provided by eligibility workers from LA County DPSS's mobile unit. They will bring an "application station on wheels" to Mt. SAC so that applicants can work with county workers in a private location. Riverside and San Bernardino County workers will also attend to assist students that reside in these counties with their application. In addition to CalFresh, applicants will also be able to apply for Medi-Cal. Our goal is to maintain ongoing partnerships with the county DPSS offices to provide Mt. SAC students continued access to CalFresh application assistance.

Another outcome of Mountie Fresh Day is the logo which prominently displays Joe Mountie promoting healthy eating, was designed by Mr. John Lewallen from Marketing & Communications. The Mountie Fresh logo will be used for future hunger free activities (see attached Mountie Fresh Day flyer).

received a \$50,000 gift to establish an endowment to put resources into meal card availability. While the Hunger Free Campus funding does not support meal cards as a primary activity to address food insecurity, a limited amount of cards can be purchased. Another option to explore is to purchase non-perishable food items that can be packaged in Ziploc bags or containers and be distributed to faculty and staff across campus to hand out to students in need. The following graphic shows how meal cards and meal packages can be provided on an ongoing basis to support a certain segment of students in need.



Student Equity Meal Cards



Privately Funded Meal Cards



Packaged Item Giveaways

This brief report provides a snapshot of Mt. SAC's efforts to address food insecurity at this point in time. Numerous offices and individuals are a part of this effort, which have largely been done piecemeal, but as we move forward under the umbrella of "Mountie Fresh," our intent is to plan and coordinate these efforts comprehensively. In addition to exploring and implementing strategies to address food insecurity through HBRC, Student Equity, and Foundation, the College's Student Health Services provided the following services to support students with basic resource needs as submitted by their office:

Medical Insurance Application Assistance

Student Health Services collaborates with East Valley Community Health Center (EVCHC) in providing Medi-Cal assistance and Covered California insurance program enrollment to students. EVCHC provides confidential application assistance every Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the clinic at 9E (see attached flyer).

Emergency Assistance

- **Hygiene Kits:** Student Health Services compiled 20 hygiene kits with shower cards from donated and purchased items from Student Health and Library Services. The kits include deodorant towellettes, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush and toothpaste, first aid items and a reusable bag. These are available for homeless students at both clinics.

Homelessness and Basic Resources Committee Membership

Barbara Carrillo, Student Services Program Specialist II, Student Life*

Debbie Cavion, Associate Dean, Kinesiology

Susie Chen, Faculty, Nursing

Nadine Hernandez, CARE Coordinator, EOPS

Jeze Lopez, Coordinator, REACH

Irene Martinez, Administrative Assistant III, Health Services**

Livier Martinez, Mental Health Clinician, Health Services

Kenneth McAlpin, Manager, Custodial Services

Paul Miller, Sergeant, Police and Campus Safety

Kim (Loni) Nguyen, Faculty, Biology

Giovanni Rodriguez, Student Activities Coordinator, Student Life

Logan Snyder, Student

Pauline Swartz (co-chair), Faculty, Library

Koji Uesugi (co-chair), Dean, Student Services

Maricela Vasquez Aviles, Student

*Website content updates

**Administrative support

MOUNTIE FRESH DAY

April 10, 2018 • 10 am to 3 pm

Kerr's Corner



Sign-up for
CalFresh & Medi-Cal
Healthy Eating
& Cooking Demos
Food Tasting
Wellness Resources
Giveaways & Games

For more information
contact: (909) 274-4525

CalFresh is a Federally funded nutrition assistance program that provides up to \$192 a month to help people access nutritious food items. Many college students are eligible for CalFresh benefits that can be used at local grocery stores.

At
Mountie Fresh Day
experts will help you
apply for CalFresh &
Medi-Cal!





**Certified
Enrollment
Counselor**



Need Medical Insurance?

We Can Help!

**Medi-Cal and Covered California
application assistance is available here at Mt. SAC for FREE!**

**Every Wednesday
11:30am - 2:00pm
Bldg. 9E – Second Floor**

~ It is helpful if you have the following items ~

- 1. Photo ID 2. Proof of Address 3. Current Tax Returns**

Can't come at this time?

Contact East Valley Community Health Center
to schedule a private enrollment appointment:

Email: enrollme@evchc.org Call/Text: (909) 762-3849

Call Student Health Services for general information: (909) 274-4400