



Creating Hunger Free Campuses: Building a Cross-Sector Statewide Awareness and Legislative Campaign

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College Student Hunger: National Data

- **Fall 2020 Data, The Hope Center:**

- **3 in 5** U.S. college students¹ experience basic needs insecurity
- Food Insecurity ¹ :
 - **39%** at two-year institutions
 - **29%** at four-year institutions

- **2018 GAO Report:**

- 30% food insecure college students
- 60% of potentially eligible students were not receiving SNAP benefits



1) The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice: #REALCOLLEGE 2021 research, <https://hope4college.com/rc2021-bni-during-the-ongoing-pandemic/>

College Student Hunger: National Landscape

- **Federal & Congressional Activity on College Hunger:**
 - President Biden Takes Action to address college student basic needs - January 2022
 - COVID-19 policy actions
 - **EATS Act**, H.1919/S.2515, Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA) & Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
 - **Student Food Security Act of 2021**, Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Representatives Jahana Hayes (D-CT)
- **State Activity on College Hunger:**
 - Passed Legislation: NJ, MN, CA, MD
 - Introduced Legislation: NY, PA, WA, FL, IL, NC, WV, VA, MA



Photo: Grand Opening of Homestead Market, Holyoke Community College On-campus SNAP EBT convenience store, Fall 2021

College Student Hunger: Massachusetts Data

- **2018:** GAO Report on College Hunger (requested by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA))
- **2019 MA Data¹:**
 - **37%** public university students in MA are food insecure
 - Black, Latinx and LGBTQ+ student disproportionately food insecure - **52%, 47% and 46%**, respectively.
 - **53%** of student parents food insecure
 - Only **20%** of college students on SNAP



1) The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice: #REALCOLLEGE 2019 research, <https://hope4college.com/rc2021-bni-during-the-ongoing-pandemic/>

College Student Hunger: Massachusetts Activity

- **Mounting Awareness and media coverage**
- **2017, 2018, 2019:** Voices of Hunger Symposiums
- **2019:** Community College Bill filed
- **Fall 2019:** MA Hunger Free Campus Coalition established
- **May 2020:** Statewide SPOC group formed
- **February 2021:** MA Hunger Free Campus legislation filed
- **December 2021:** MA ARPA bill awards \$3.7M to college hunger efforts



Photo: Hunger Free Campus Coalition College Hunger Briefing, MA State House, January 2020

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MA Hunger-Free Campus Coalition (HFCC)



- The MA Hunger-Free Campus Coalition (HFCC) was formed in 2019 to address food insecurity among high-need populations enrolled in MA colleges and universities.
- Comprised of over 30 **colleges, students, hunger-relief advocates** and **anti-poverty organizations**, collectively, HFCC is working to leverage existing resources and services including maximizing student enrollment in SNAP, supporting campus meal swipe options, ensuring campuses work with local food banks and food pantries.
- Our goal is to ensure equity and incorporate student voices as we work to make Massachusetts campuses hunger free.

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MA Hunger-Free Campus Coalition (HFCC)

Fall 2019

HFCC Established
Brainstorming, Research
and Value Setting -
foundation to the HFCC

December 2020

Regrouped and
Reorganized
Legislation & Awareness

February 2021

Bill sponsors Sen.
Harriette Chandler & Rep.
Mindy Domb + Rep. Andy
Vargas file legislation

October 2021

Committee on Higher
Education Public Hearing

January 2020

State House Hunger Free
Campus Briefing

January 2021

Inclusive Bill Drafting
Process

March 2021

HFCC website launched!

December 2021

\$3.7M ARPA funding

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2021 HFCC Activity

*An Act establishing the
Massachusetts Hunger Free Campus Initiative (H.1368/S.822)*
in Committee process

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College Hunger Panel Discussion



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Learnings and Best Practices

- **Define the problem. Do your research. Determine solutions.**
 - Draw on national expertise, state legislation and lessons from other states
 - Utilize existing data
- **Build a cross-sector coalition**
 - Center diversity, equity and inclusivity of student voices!
 - Define shared commitment and values
 - Look at regional representation
 - Identify Usual and Unusual suspects
 - Engage Higher Educational Leadership:
 - Higher Education state agency
 - Higher Education Legislative Committees
 - College presidents
 - SPOCs
- **Leverage + generate awareness**
 - Media + social media
- **Gather:** Organize convenings to educate stakeholders on the issue
- **Identify funders to support college hunger work**



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Contact Information



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