



Academic and Student Affairs
November 2022

Student Basic Needs Initiative Update

Strategic Objective(s): Equity 2030
Focus Area: Student Success and Equity

Description/Goal/Intended Outcomes:

- The Minnesota State comprehensive approach to address basic needs insecurity is designed to establish and enhance system level and campus strategies to remove barriers that interfere with student enrollment and persistence to program completion. These barriers are disproportionately experienced by students of color, students who are first generation, and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.
- The comprehensive approach to addressing basic needs insecurity involves the implementation of system level initiatives such as a centralized basic needs resource hub connecting students to basic needs resources available on campus and in the community and community of practice engagement providing opportunities for the sharing of effective practices and resources.
- The comprehensive approach includes supporting campus based initiatives such as the establishment of comprehensive basic needs websites listing resources available on campus, communication and guidance in applying for SNAP benefits, and enhanced assessment resources to measure the impact of campus based basic needs initiatives.

Background/Previous Work/Outcomes:

- The basic needs community of practice is now over 200 members representing all Minnesota State colleges and universities. The community continues to be an effective mechanism to share effective practices, resources, and relevant news or updates.
- The 14 recommendations developed by the basic needs committee were endorsed by the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Council and the Senior Vice Chancellor. The recommendations have been shared with college and university leadership for their consideration and progress has been made in all system level recommendations.

- All colleges and universities have launched a comprehensive basic needs webpage listing all campus-based resources. A system level basic needs webpage has been developed and lists all college and university websites. The development of these websites is critical in helping to connect students with basic needs resources on their campus.
- The SNAP communication template was distributed to colleges and universities for fall 2022 implementation planning.
- A contract was signed with the Greater Twin Cities United Way formalizing a partnership between Minnesota State and the 211 program to establish a system-wide basic needs resource hub connecting all students with basic needs resources on their campus and in their community via text, chat, or phone 24 hours a day and seven days a week.
- Minnesota State received a \$700,000 grant from the ECMC Foundation to support the establishment of the partnership with the United Way 211 program.
- A presentation was provided at the January 2022 Board of Trustees ASA committee meeting updating the Board on our work. The presentation was enthusiastically received.

Activities for all 3 Year and Progression Measures

FY2023

- Launch a basic needs central resource hub.
- Provide resources to assist colleges and universities with meeting statutory requirements for basic needs.
- Explore a partnership with second harvest heartland for campus food pantries and to serve as a SNAP outreach provider.
- Explore the feasibility of creating a home-grown systemwide comprehensive basic needs prevalence assessment.
- Provide information on student basic needs base funding for the biennial budget request.

FY2024

FY2025

Board of Trustees Engagement

New actions in bold

- Update to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee in January 2022.
- Board approved contract with United Way 211 in April 2022.
- **Planned update to the board in March 2023.**

Expected Campus Engagement

- Ongoing engagement within the basic needs community of practice
- Campus representation within the basic needs ad-hoc committee and student affairs and enrollment management council

Staff Lead Contact(s)

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Monitoring Framework

- All colleges and universities promote the launch of the United Way 211 basic needs resource hub as measured by marketing tracking system.
- Reports of student engagement, satisfaction and perceived impact for the United Way 211 basic needs resource hub are created and used for evaluation of this tool.
- Contract with the Hope Center to evaluate the United Way 211 implementation and conduct the real college survey.
- All colleges and universities are in compliance with the basic needs statutory requirements.