#RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

WEB APPENDICES

Appendix A. Survey Methodology

PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

In order to capture how colleges were dealing with students' basic needs insecurity on their campuses, the Hope Center developed a pandemic-oriented survey for institutions. Announcements of the survey were made simultaneously on the Hope Center's website, in the Hope Center's April 10 newsletter, and via social media channels. Links to the survey were embedded in the survey announcements.

Institutions responded to the survey on a rolling basis between April 9 and May 29. There were no restrictions on either the type of institution or the seniority level of institutional representative who could respond to the survey. Steps were taken to remove duplicate responses, and in the end, 165 institutions participated in the survey.

No incentives were given to institutions for their participation; and because of the way in which the sample was constructed, a response rate cannot be calculated. As noted in the *#RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity* report, the sample was largely drawn from a pool of willing participants (i.e., a "convenient" sample) and, as such, the conclusions may reflect the influence of survey self-selection.

Nevertheless, while our findings may not be applicable to all postsecondary institutions, we assume that the respondents were more interested and/or knowledgeable about the topics covered by the survey than their peers at non-participating institutions.

SURVEY INVITATIONS

As mentioned above, several approaches were used to recruit institutions. The invitation from the newsletter on April 10, which also alerted institutions to participate in the student version of the *#RealCollege During the Pandemic* survey, is shown below.

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New Survey Opportunities!

Now more than ever, it is clear that your students are humans first. Keeping them enrolled and on track to degree completion requires accurate information about their basic needs.

That's why our team at The Hope Center has mobilized to offer you a unique opportunity to field a "#RealCollege during COVID-19" survey to your students this spring. Our well-known and widely used survey instrument is modified to capture students' latest challenges. We are offering it to you free of charge. The results will be instrumental in shaping the actions of philanthropists and policymakers around the country.

To get this support, you must act now. Only an institutional leader who can authorize participation and send the survey link out to all of your enrolled students can register.

You must sign up here by Friday, April 17 to participate.

The survey will be fielded for 3 weeks beginning April 20. A national report will be released this summer.

In addition, we want to know how YOU and your institution are doing at this critical time.

*Please follow this <**LINK to SURVEY**> to take a short survey and let us know.*

Lastly, we recognize this is a fluid situation, and therefore in coming weeks, we'll begin the registration process for our standard fall #RealCollege survey of students (for a charge). Both this COVID-19 student report and the fall student report will offer essential information to help your team stay on top of students' needs, raise funds, adapt, and deploy strategic supports.

Thank you for your hard work during this critical time. Together, we will get through this.

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An example of an invitation that was shared via social media is provided below.

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*Hey college leaders: How is your institution faring under COVID19? How can Hope help? Take our 2 min survey to get support. Thanks to the more than 150 #RealCollege participants thus far! <**LINK TO SURVEY**>*

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Appendix B. Institution Survey Participants

The table below offers a more detailed description of the 165 participating institutions.

Seventy community colleges participated in the survey, and nearly as many (N=65) public four-year institutions. Private four-year institutions make up the remainder of the sample. There was robust participation from community colleges in the West, mainly from California, and private four-year institutions from the Northeast. There was also strong participation among rural community colleges. Participating public four-year institutions tended to be large, while a majority of private four-year institutions who participated in the survey enrolled fewer than 5,000 students.

Table B-1. Characteristics of Participating Institutions, by College Type

			Type of Institution					
	Overall		Public two-year		Public four-year		Private four-year	
N(colleges)	165		70		65		30	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Level								
Two-year	70	42	70	100	0	0	0	0
Four-year	95	58	0	0	65	100	30	100
Region								
West	53	32	28	40	22	34	3	10
Midwest	29	18	9	13	11	17	9	30
South	40	24	14	20	21	32	5	17
Northeast	43	26	19	27	11	17	13	43
Urbanization								
City	86	52	29	41	38	58	19	63
Suburb	48	29	26	37	15	23	7	23
Town	21	13	6	9	11	17	4	13
Rural	10	6	9	13	1	2	0	0
Size								
Under 5,000	34	21	13	19	4	6	17	57
5,000–9,999	55	33	32	46	19	29	4	13
10,000–19,999	27	16	13	19	10	15	4	13
20,000 or more	49	30	12	17	32	49	5	17

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (2019)

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Appendix C. Tables on Data Used in Report

Table C-1. Estimated Percentage of Students Affected by Basic Needs Insecurity During the Pandemic, by College Type (Table 1)

| | Overall | | Type of Institution | | | | | |
| | | | Public two-year | | Public four-year | | Private four-year | |
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Affected by food insecurity								
Lowest quintile	26	19	5	8	15	26	6	27
Low-middle quintile	52	38	25	42	19	33	8	36
Middle quintile	36	26	15	25	17	30	4	18
Middle-high quintile	16	12	9	15	4	7	3	14
Highest quintile	8	6	5	8	2	4	1	5
Total average	138	23	59	25	57	21	22	22
Affected by housing insecurity								
Lowest quintile	42	31	11	19	23	40	8	36
Low-middle quintile	45	33	18	31	19	33	8	36
Middle quintile	25	18	13	22	10	18	2	9
Middle-high quintile	18	13	12	21	3	5	3	14
Highest quintile	7	5	4	7	2	4	1	5
Total average	137	24	58	29	57	20	22	20
Affected by homelessness								
Lowest quintile	101	74	36	62	49	86	16	73
Low-middle quintile	24	18	14	24	6	11	4	18
Middle quintile	5	4	4	7	0	0	1	5
Middle-high quintile	5	4	3	5	2	4	0	0
Highest quintile	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	5
Total average	137	18	58	19	57	18	22	16

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. The sub-categories under each main category of basic needs refer to the estimated percentage of students, expressed in quintiles, at each institution who are affected by food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness. For instance, 8% of public two-year institutions estimated that fewer than 20% of their students are affected by food insecurity, whereas 26% of public four-year institutions estimated the same.

Table C-2. Extent of Campus Discussion about Basic Needs Insecurity, by College Type (Figure 1)

| | Overall | | Type of Institution | | | | | |
| | | | Public two-year | | Public four-year | | Private four-year | |
Extent of discussion	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A little to none at all	14	9	4	6	7	11	3	12
A moderate amount	35	23	16	24	13	21	6	23
A lot	48	31	20	30	24	39	4	15
A great deal	57	37	26	39	18	29	13	50

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Three "I do not know/unsure" responses were excluded from the analysis.

Table C-3. Extent of Campus Discussion about Basic Needs Insecurity as a Driver for Degree Non-Completion, by College Type (Figure 2)

| | Overall | | Type of Institution | | | | | |
| | | | Public two-year | | Public four-year | | Private four-year | |
Driver for degree non-completion	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A little to none at all	28	19	11	17	11	19	6	27
A moderate amount	39	27	11	17	21	36	7	32
A lot	40	27	26	39	12	21	2	9
A great deal	39	27	18	27	14	24	7	32

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Notes: Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Twelve "I do not know/unsure" responses were excluded from the analysis.

Table C-4. Types of Support Sought to Address Students' Basic Needs During the Pandemic, by College Type (Table 2)

| | Overall | | Type of Institution | | | | | |
| | | | Public two-year | | Public four-year | | Private four-year | |
Type of support sought	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No additional support is needed	13	11	3	6	7	16	3	17
Data collection to understand how students are affected by the pandemic	67	58	32	60	25	57	10	56
Support for state and/or federal policy advocacy	63	55	32	60	26	59	5	28
Information on how to connect students to public benefits programs	59	51	26	49	23	52	10	56
Guidance on how to effectively distribute emergency aid at scale	56	49	30	57	17	39	9	50
Ideas for how to effectively fundraise for basic needs programs	52	45	26	49	18	41	8	44

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Notes: Examples of the types of help needed to address students' basic needs are not mutually exclusive.

Table C-5. Supports Currently Offered to Students During the Pandemic, by College Type (Table 3)

| | Overall | | Type of Institution | | | | | |
| | | | Public two-year | | Public four-year | | Private four-year | |
Type of support	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Emergency cash grants	100	79	42	76	42	79	16	89
Open/active on-campus food pantry	73	58	27	49	37	70	9	50
Support accessing SNAP	72	57	32	58	29	55	11	61

Emergency housing or resource referral system to homelessness services providers	59	47	24	44	25	47	10	56
Grocery gift cards	49	39	22	40	18	34	9	50
Single point of contact for homeless students	45	36	21	38	22	42	2	11
On-campus dining services offering meals to go	44	35	3	5	34	64	7	39
Support accessing unemployment insurance	39	31	18	33	15	28	6	33

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Notes: Examples of supports currently offered to students are not mutually exclusive.

Table C-6. Status of Emergency Aid Programs, by College Type (Figure 3)

			Type of Institution					
Emergency aid program available	**Overall**		**Public two-year**		**Public four-year**		**Private four-year**	
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
No	27	20	17	29	7	13	3	14
Yes	107	80	41	71	48	87	18	86

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Table C-7. Selected Characteristics of Emergency Aid Programs, by College Type (Table 4)

			Type of Institution					
Characteristics of emergency aid programs	**Overall**		**Public two-year**		**Public four-year**		**Private four-year**	
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Uses an online application form	74	77	28	74	33	80	13	76
Distributes cash	46	48	20	53	16	39	10	59
Supported by extensive fundraising	44	46	17	45	21	51	6	35

Adequately staffed to distribute support within 48 hours	42	44	18	47	13	32	11	65
Extensively advertises online to students	42	44	14	37	19	46	9	53
Uses gift cards	29	30	15	39	9	22	5	29
Adequate financial support to meet demand	26	27	8	21	12	29	6	35
Provides support outside of standard business hours	24	25	11	29	6	15	7	41
Requires students to file FAFSA	20	21	10	26	6	15	4	24

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Notes: Examples of emergency aid program characteristics are not mutually exclusive.

Table C-8. Anticipated Challenges Involving Emergency Aid Program Implementation, by College Type (Table 5)

Anticipated implementation challenges	Overall		Type of Institution					
			Public two-year		Public four-year		Private four-year	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No implementation challenges are anticipated	20	24	7	21	10	26	3	23
Fund allocations, such as deciding which students to fund	53	62	23	68	22	58	8	62
Application volume, such as processing large numbers	46	54	19	56	21	55	6	46
Fund distribution, such as getting support out to students	44	52	21	62	19	50	4	31
Interactions with Title IV aid, such as how aid eligibility is affected	29	34	14	41	12	32	3	23
Fund stewardship/reporting	18	21	9	26	6	16	3	23

Source: #RealCollege During the Pandemic: Initial Institutional Responses to Address Basic Needs Insecurity

Notes: Examples of anticipated challenges involving the implementation of emergency aid programs are not mutually exclusive.

FOR COLLEGE, COMMUNITY, AND JUSTICE