



For College, Community, and Justice

HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

## #RealCollege Institutional Capacity–Building Cohort (ICBC)

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical role colleges play in meeting the basic needs of vulnerable students, from food to shelter to safety. It created a call to action to break through the bureaucratic silos dividing colleges from other social support systems that must work together to support our students. The #RealCollege Institutional Capacity–Building Cohort will increase the organizational and programmatic capacity of colleges and universities so that they can strengthen and build integrated and collaborative ecosystems to meet students' basic needs and promote academic success.

Click here to visit the [ICBC webpage](#).

### What is the #RealCollege Institutional Capacity–Building Cohort (ICBC)?

The Hope Center's [#RealCollege Survey](#) is the nation's largest and longest-standing rigorous assessment of students' basic needs. It offers colleges and universities an up-close look at often invisible challenges facing their students, fueling critical insights into what it will take to address key values such as diversity, equity, and inclusion. We created the survey to inspire colleges and universities to examine and address student's basic needs. That mission is more critical than ever as institutions and students struggle to survive and thrive, maintaining a connection to higher education despite a recession and public health crisis.

That is why The Hope Center is pleased to offer the inaugural #RealCollege Institutional Capacity–Building Cohort (ICBC) in fall 2021! We will place our #RealCollege survey on hiatus this year to focus on this effort to support our partners in meaningful engagement.

Members of the ICBC will learn how to assess, analyze, and address students' experiences with basic needs security following the #RealCollege [Theory of Change](#). Membership in the ICBC is by application only, and broad and open-access and Minority-Serving institutions will receive priority.

**All applications must be received by May 4, 2021.**

### Benefits of ICBC Membership

As an ICBC member your institution will develop innovative solutions to complex problems, empower your leaders to impact organizational change, and build connections with other colleges committed to supporting students' basic needs.

Join The Hope Center team as we collaboratively:

1. Assess and analyze students' basic needs security and experiences with the new economics of college.
2. Examine current basic needs programming to determine its equitable impact and identify routes for improvement.
3. Build a cross-functional leadership team to address students' basic needs and establish a basic needs ecosystem for support.
4. Identify ways to resource and sustain that basic needs ecosystem.
5. Drive policy change for #RealCollege students at the state and federal levels.

ICBC members will work closely with Hope Center leaders, including:

- [Sara Goldrick-Rab](#), President and Founder
- [Christine Baker-Smith](#), Executive Director
- [Dr. Idrisa Abdul-Hamid](#), Senior Director of Operations and Finance
- [Vanessa Coca](#), Director of Research
- [Paula Umaña](#), Director of Institutional Transformation
- [Carrie Welton](#), Director of Policy and Advocacy
- [Chloe McKenzie](#), Research Fellow

### Membership

ICBC members must identify 5-7 representatives, which should be a combination of administrators, staff, faculty, and student members. Every team should include:

- A member of the senior institutional leadership team
- Director of Institutional Research
- Faculty member
- Undergraduate student with lived #RealCollege experience

### Activities

ICBC members must commit to active participation in the program, which runs from September 2021 through May 2022. Not every member of your institutional team needs to attend all mandatory meetings. However, your institution must be represented by at least three members of your team at every mandatory meeting.

The Assessment activities involve surveying students and conducting focus groups. The Institutional Research office should lead that work, which could be integrated into ongoing/existing activities. The exact timing of the assessment is flexible, but it must occur at least once in fall and once in spring. We hope that some members will do it twice in fall and twice in spring if possible. ICBC members are required to share aggregate results with The Hope Center. Also, all ICBC members will join the ICBC Slack Channel to support ongoing communication and learning throughout the year. This is where group discussions and additional asynchronous learning will take place.

### Timeline

The program includes both synchronous and asynchronous activities; some are mandatory, and some are optional. **All mandatory sessions are in bold.** Dates and times for optional and asynchronous sessions are forthcoming.

September-October 2021	<b>Welcome and Orientation to the ICBC</b>	Synchronous	September 9, 3:00-4:30 pm E.T.
	<b>#RealCollege Assessment and Analysis Using Surveys and Focus Groups</b>	Synchronous	September 21, 2:30- 5:00 pm E.T.
	<b>Assessment Session 1: Practice assessing students and analyzing data</b>	Asynchronous	
	Coaching: Troubleshooting Assessment		
	Work on Fall Institutional Basic Needs Assessment	--	October 1- November 15
November 2021	<b>Coaching: Discuss Fall Assessment</b>		November, times to be scheduled
	Complete Fall Institutional Basic Needs Assessment	--	Due November 15
December 2021	<b>Forming and Supporting a Basic Needs Ecosystem</b>	Synchronous	December 9, 2:30-5:00 pm E.T.
	Assessment Session 2: Practice assessing students and analyzing data	Asynchronous	

	Coaching: Ecosystem Development		
January-February 2022	Share Fall Assessment Results	--	January 2022
	<b>Driving State and Federal Policy Change</b>	Synchronous	February 15, 2:30-5:00 pm E.T.
	Improving Public Benefits Utilization on Campus	Asynchronous	
	Improving Emergency Aid Utilization on Campus	Asynchronous	
	Coaching: Ecosystem Development		
	Work on Spring Institutional Basic Needs Assessment	--	February 15- March 31
March- April 2022	<b>Assessment Session 3: Practice assessing students and analyzing data</b>	Asynchronous	
	Complete Spring Institutional Basic Needs Assessment	--	Due March 31
	<b>Coaching: Discuss Spring Assessment</b>		April, times to be scheduled
May 2022	<b>Sustaining a Basic Needs Ecosystem</b>	Synchronous	May 10, 2:30-5:00 pm E.T.
	Coaching: Ecosystem Sustainability		
	Assessment Session 4: Practice assessing students and analyzing data	Asynchronous	
	<b>Final meeting</b>	Synchronous	May 26, 3:00-4:30 pm E.T.
June 2022	Share Spring Assessment Results	--	June 2022

### Eligibility

To ensure a high-quality learning experience that allows for meaningful engagement, membership in the inaugural ICBC cohort is limited. The Hope Center will fully subsidize the cost for a small group of institutions based on need and discount the price for the other members.

**Only one application per institution** may be submitted. Please connect with your colleagues to coordinate the application!

Applications from broad and open-access and Minority-Serving institutions will receive priority. Preference is given to institutions that can demonstrate that they serve large numbers of the following student populations:

- Pell recipients
- Minoritized students

- Undocumented students
- Rural students
- Parenting students
- Students struggling with mental health concerns including addiction
- Students exiting incarceration
- Students experiencing housing or food insecurity

ICBC members must identify 5-7 representatives, which should be a combination of administrators, staff, faculty, and student members. Every team should include:

- Member of the senior institutional leadership team
- Director of Institutional Research
- Faculty member
- Undergraduate with lived #RealCollege experience

Institutions are free to select the other 1-3 members of their team and may want to consider including student services providers, graduate students, or other members of the institutional community committed to assessing and addressing student basic needs.

### Pricing

Membership in the ICBC is limited and only those who apply by the May 4 deadline will be considered. The full price per institution for participation in the ICBC for the academic year 2021-22 is \$20,000. We are pleased to offer a discount to all institutions, for a final reduced fee of **\$13,000 per institution**.

We also offer participants optional additional technical assistance following the conclusion of the 2021-2022 year to continue their learning. You may lock that in now for a reduced rate of \$2,500 per 10 hours of assistance. Please see the application for more information.

The fee must be paid via a [partnership agreement](#)<sup>1</sup> with Temple University. This capacity building effort could potentially be funded using the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

A limited number of institutions will receive a full scholarship based on financial need. On your institution's application, please indicate whether you wish to apply for a scholarship. Institutions selected for participation will be provided with additional details regarding scholarships and payment processes.

### Application

Any member of the institutional team applying for the ICBC is permitted to apply, but **only one application per institution will be accepted**. Please review the [PDF of the application](#) in advance to ensure that you have ample time to confirm the members of your institutional team and complete the application form.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

All applications are due **May 4, 2021**. Decisions will be made July 1, 2021.

Please email [icbc@temple.edu](mailto:icbc@temple.edu) with any questions regarding the application process.

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<sup>1</sup> *This partnership agreement is for reference only. Institutions selected for participation will be provided with a participation agreement in July 2021.*