

# #REALCOLLEGE CALIFORNIA

## THE ART & SCIENCE OF ADVANCING BASIC NEEDS WORK IN A PANDEMIC

### Coalition Offerings - 2021/2022

*"Addressing students' basic needs is hard and necessary work. We need to do it as a community, and #RealCollegeCA brings us together as allies in support of our students."*

Keith Curry, Ed.D. - President/CEO, Compton College



#### HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

#RealCollege is a national movement created by the Hope Center focused on the realities of what it means to be in college today. It seeks to change the landscape of higher education so that all students can afford and complete their studies.

Envisioned by the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce, this coalition was created in 2019 to provide support and technical assistance to leaders and teams involved in advancing basic needs work to increase institutional effectiveness.



#### CUTTING EDGE SUPPORT

In a post-pandemic environment, the Coalition contributes to strengthening an ecosystem unique to the state's landscape and serves as a greenhouse of innovative and evidence-based practices.

The Hope Center works with each institution to:

- Engage in the latest state of the arts practices to enhance students' post-pandemic basic needs supports
- Optimize the use of funding (e.g. HEERF III and state basic needs)
- Use the latest evidence, integrated with hands-on guidance to inform implementation and help members develop a cutting-edge mindset
- Strengthen and expand community alliances to better support students



#### LEARNING TOOLS

Our asynchronous learning approach meets members' needs and interests, offering alternatives to maximize their engagement including unlimited access to:

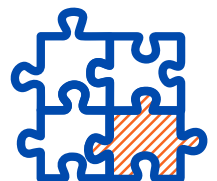
- A private platform where users have key coalition programming, basic needs-related resources, and relevant readings at the tip of their fingers.
- Exclusive channel to share and communicate with other coalition members and connect with the Hope Center staff.



#### IMPACT

The support to members of the coalition has helped leaders:

1. Devise and implement strategies to support students with emergency aid. As a result, Compton College used a new approach that doubled graduation rates
2. Strategize to develop innovative programs to secure students' housing.
3. Increase students CalFresh access and student success by utilizing data and establishing partnerships
4. Build internal capacity to respond to the ecosystem nuances, enhancing the operationalization of programs designed to support students



#### OTHER OFFERINGS

Coalition members have access to:

- Instruction on how to assess students' basic needs, and how to develop a stronger ecosystem of supports (NEW)
- Professional development for front-line staff and administrators (e.g. financial aid, basic needs coordinators), as well as faculty
- Learning opportunities to optimize the delivery of services and implementation of evidence-based and promising practices
- Charlas to share approaches and cultivate a community of practitioners
- Office Hours to get advice and coaching about specific basic needs-related issues including funding and coping with the emergency aid cliff

Our curriculum covers trending topics including but not limited to:

- Strategies to close the SNAP gap and promote student persistence
- Practices to help students manage stress and anxiety as they return to classes
- How to integrate benefits access into financial aid processes
- Approaches to help students re-enroll and regain access to financial aid
- How to use basic needs data to inform supports utilization strategy

### JOIN THE COALITION!

#### MEMBERSHIP PRICING

Student Headcount	Price
< 10,000	\$3,000
10,000- 20,000	\$4,000
20,001- 30,000	\$5,000
>30,001	\$6,000

Note: Fees are based on institutions' student headcount. District pricing varies according to the number of colleges in it and their size.