

CLASP

Policy solutions that work for low-income people

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Responding to Our Students' Needs: Strategies for the Future

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About CLASP

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) advocates for policy solutions that reduce poverty, promote economic security, and advance racial equity.



Lauren Walizer



Student Voice

Student: “...I called my mom, and I was like, ‘You have to give me money, I’m broke, I need \$50.’ ... She gave me like \$30, because she’s broke too, but it all counts.”

Traditional aged full-time private college student living off-campus and working multiple part-time jobs

Source: “Studying on Empty: A Qualitative Study of Low food Security Among College Students” research by the Trellis Company <https://www.trelliscompany.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Studying-on-Empty.pdf>

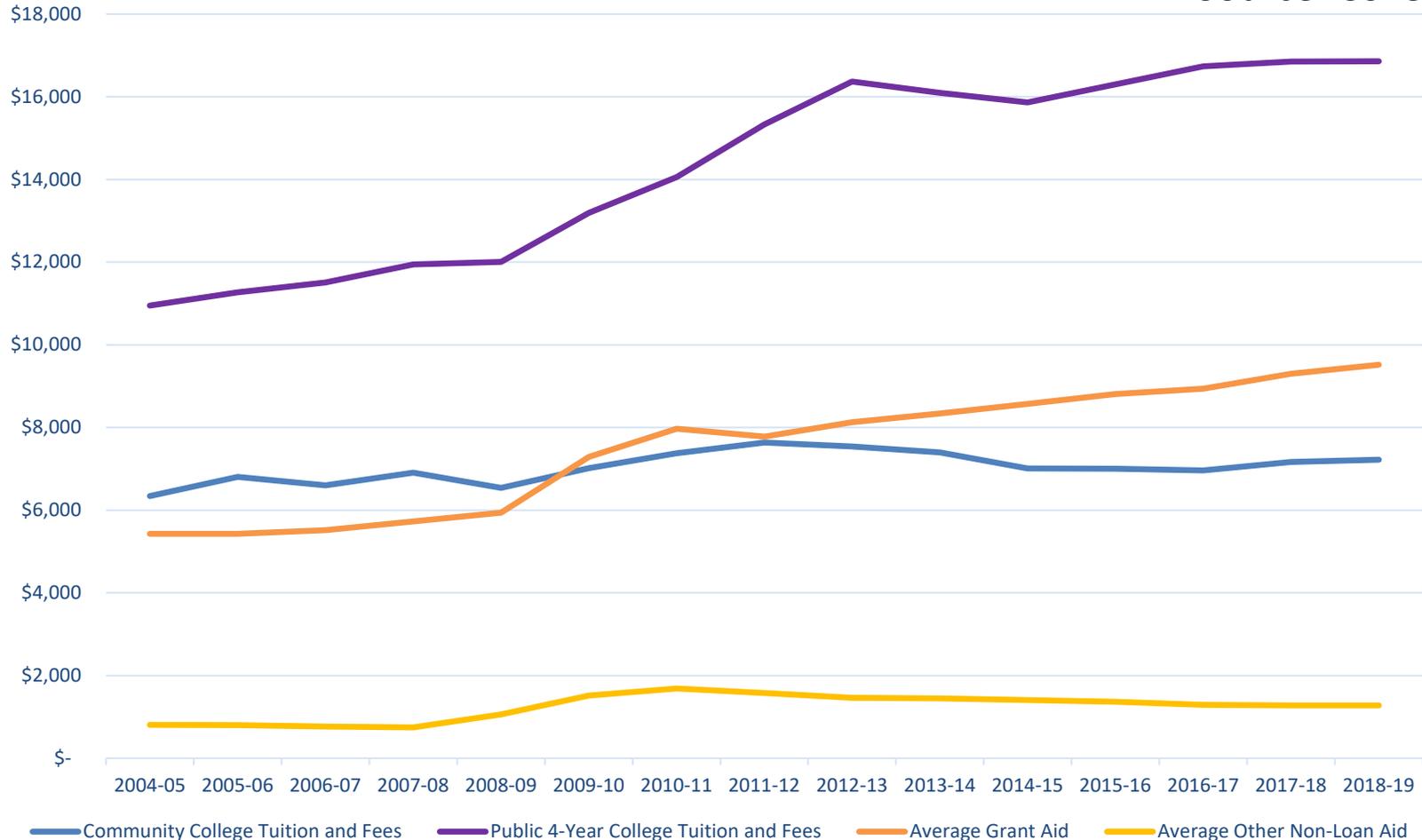
Granite State Students



- Only about half are dependent on their parents; 27% are independent and on their own, & 1 in 4 are caring for dependents.
- 63% are working in a work-study or other job.
 - More than 40% of working students are working at least 35 hours a week
- 12% of students received a public benefit.
- 1/3 have an annual income of \$30,000 or less.

Trends Over Time: Student Aid & NH Tuition Charges

Source: College Board



Financial Need Can Cause Students to:

Have higher risk
of food/housing
insecurity or
health problems

Have less
time for
studying

Reduce
sleep

Reduce their
enrollment
intensity

...limiting a students' chance of...

persisting and completing



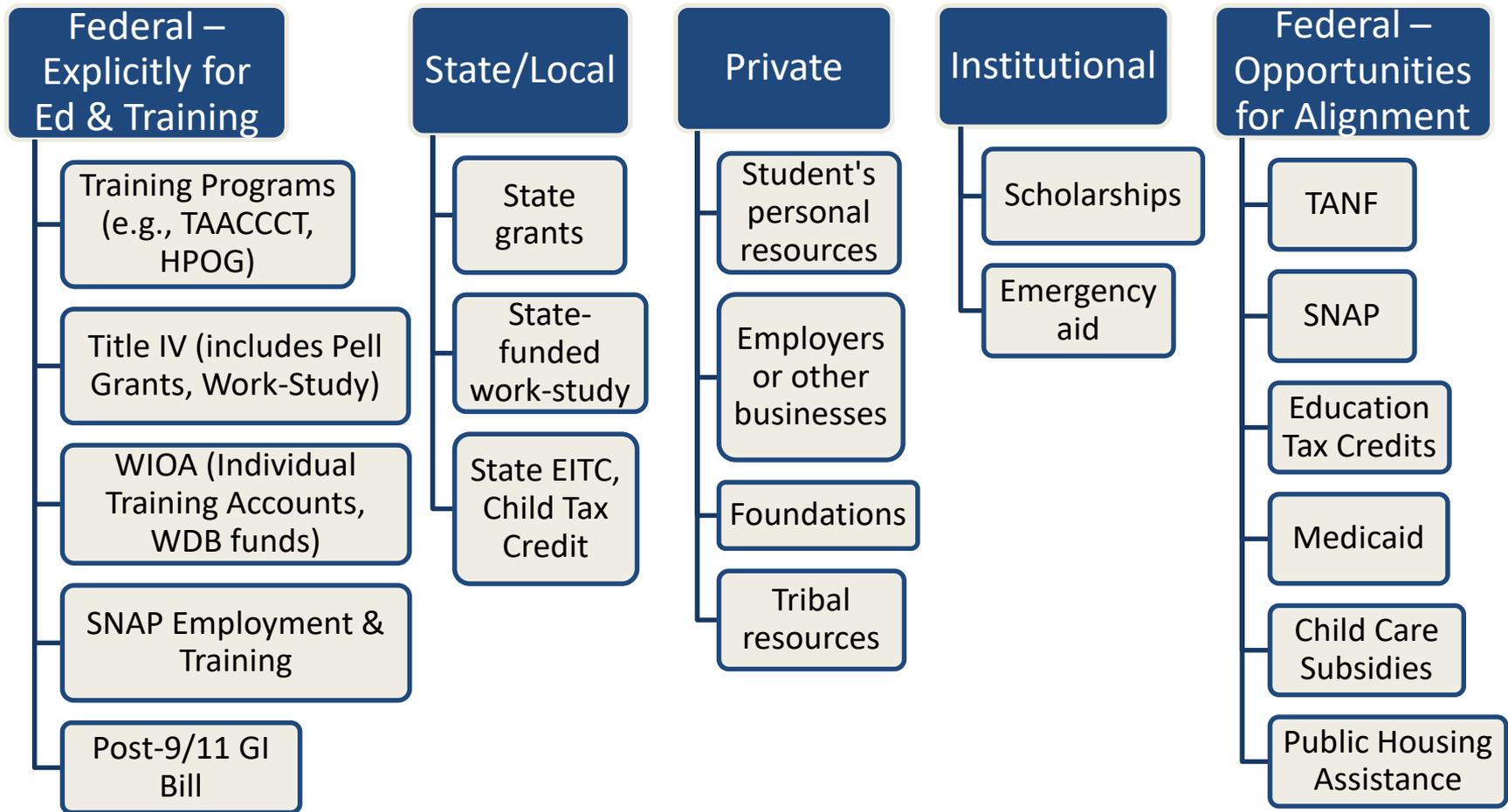
Student Voice

“If I go to class and I don’t spend those miles on my car that wastes my gas, then I won’t have to put so much in my tank a week, then I can put more money towards food so I can get more food. So I didn’t go to classes a lot because that was my thought process.”

Traditional aged full-time public college student working full-time and living off campus with family

Source: “Studying on Empty”

Comprehensive Student Aid





Student Voice

“I lived off my tip money for meals at work. And if I didn’t get enough [tips] that day, I just didn’t have anything [to eat].”

Full-time, public college student

Source: “Studying on Empty”

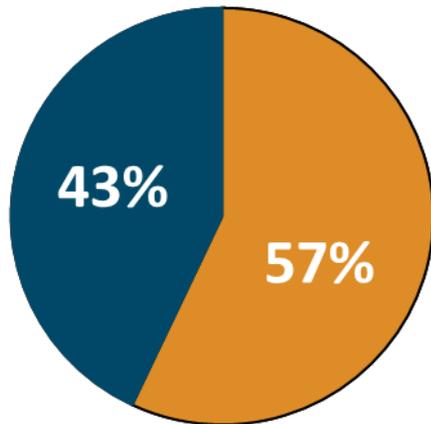
(Student) Hunger in NH

- UNH study: Looked at food insecurity over 1 year; 25% of students had experienced it in that time.
 - 3.9% reported eating smaller or skipping meals because they lacked money for food.
 - 11.6% were hungry but did not eat because there wasn't enough money for food.
- As of October 2019, about 1 in every 4 NH K-12 students were eligible for free or reduced price student lunch.
- The NH Food Bank has seen a 5.5% increase in demand.
 - At a recent event, they fed almost 600 people but had to turn more than 230 households away.

National Reviews of Student Hunger

- #RealCollege 2020 by the Hope Center. In the 30 days prior to the survey:
 - 42% of community college & 33% of 4-year college students experienced food insecurity
 - Only 38% of community college & 49% of 4-year college students were both food & housing secure.
- Government Accountability Office report, GAO-19-95
 - Includes a literature review of food insecurity studies, examples from colleges, and recommendations for the Food & Nutrition Service to improve communication.

Most Students with Low Incomes Don't get SNAP



57 percent of potentially eligible students (those who have low incomes, and at least one additional risk factor for food insecurity) are not enrolled in SNAP.



Student Voice

“I’ll buy cup noodles and drinks and snacks. I haven’t really been – eating meals per se – sandwich items, cereal, stuff like that... I tried to apply for EBT and SNAP, but they said [that] because I was a student, I [didn’t] qualify.”

Full-time, first generation public college student

Source: “Studying on Empty”

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Students attending *more than half time* are eligible if they meet income, asset criteria, and any apply:
 - Caring for a child under age 6;
 - Single parent caring for a child 6-11 and enrolled full-time, or unable to obtain child care;
 - Working for pay at least 20 hours per week;
 - Receiving any work-study funds;
 - Receiving TANF benefits;
 - Unable to work because of a disability; OR
 - Enrolled in certain programs aimed at employment (e.g., WIOA, TAA, SNAP E&T or other state or locally-funded training program).

SNAP can help!

- SNAP can be used to buy food at authorized retailers.
 - Generally, it can't be used to buy prepared foods or to pay for college cafeteria meal plans.
- A household of 1 can receive up to \$194/month
 - For a household of 3, that maximum is \$509/month
- SNAP produces value: for every...
 - \$1** the federal government invests in the program
 - \$1.50** of economic activity is generated



How SNAP Works in States

- States have some flexibility to define how SNAP operates in their state, including re: the student rules.
 - E.g., the state can define what enrolled in a program aimed at employment means
 - Many programs in community colleges could reasonably count under this heading:

Perkins Act programs

Career pathway programs

High-demand majors



Student Voice

“School is nice, though. They have [free] ramen in the student lines. And so, one day I did not have any food. And I’d left my debit card at home – again. .. So, I was able to have a thing of ramen. That was nice.

They provide snacks there pretty commonly. I’d say, once a week, they probably bring a cart around while I’m there. And I get to take a little snack.”

Traditional aged full-time public college student

Source: “Studying on Empty”

College Interventions

(strategies more effective pre-COVID-19)

- Put free snacks (e.g., fruit, granola bars, ramen) in high-trafficked areas
- Keep dining halls open over breaks
- Allow students to share meal points
- Create a food pantry
- Offer events with free food – and notify students when leftover food is available
- Bring human service agency/community partners onto campus to help connect students to services

College Interventions: Strategies for the Foreseeable Future

- **Keys:** Multiple solutions will be necessary and the same solution won't fit every campus; all work will help normalize these issues and people's response to them.
- Quantify the problem
 - What types of students are struggling?
 - What are they struggling with, specifically?
- Leadership buy-in

The Power of Data: Examples from CA Colleges

San Jose State University

- 2,897 unique visits & 11,000 total visits to the pantry each year. The patrons:
 - 70% go to a single zone of the pantry (e.g., produce, toiletries, etc)
 - 19% of users are international students (vs 12% of all students)
 - 80% of their international student patrons are from India
- Found that the term “food assistance” works for domestic students, but not as much for international students.

Evergreen Valley

- 1,711 unique visits & 4,000 total visits to the pantry each year. The patrons:
 - 65% come weekly
 - 28% are age 40+ (vs 10% of all students)
 - 50% are Asian (vs 39% of all students)
 - 30% are Latinx (vs 41% of all students)
 - 83% passed their courses (vs 72% of all students)
- The pantry is in the college strategic plan
- Involvement by: faculty/staff, community partners, & special academic programs/students

College Interventions: Strategies for the Foreseeable Future

- Process changes:
 - Centralize student services
 - Integrate benefits into existing college processes
 - Engage a broad-based team to embed activities
- Develop plan to engage students
 - How to reach them? What information will you share?
 - Find student groups/individual students and/or community resources to help
 - Help with application and follow up activities
- Help with other expenses to relieve budgetary pressure so they have \$ for food
 - e.g., paying for electronic book licenses

HOW TO APPLY FOR SNAP

1. COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

You can either:

- Complete and submit the application online at <https://apps.state.or.us/onlineApplication/>
OR
- Print it or pick-up a paper application, fill it out and turn it in or mail it to your local DHS SNAP office

If you need additional assistance, have questions about SNAP or want to grab an application, find support on your campus:



www.pdx.edu/student-access-center/snap-enrollment-assistance



2. INTERVIEW WITH OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Once you have submitted your application, DHS will call to set up an interview with you.

- SNAP interviews can be conducted over the phone or in-person at the DHS office.
- If you think you missed the call from DHS please call your local office and schedule an interview appointment.

At your interview with DHS, you should be prepared to talk about the following items:

- How your education relates to your intended job after graduation.
- How many meals your meal plan pays for a week.

You have the right to advocate for yourself and your situation.

Keep in mind, you have 30 days from when you submit your application to DHS to finish your interview and turn-in all of your paperwork. If eligibility isn't determined after 30 days you will need to re-apply.



3. DETERMINE IF YOU ARE APPROVED!

If you've submitted all of the required paperwork you should find out if you are approved at the end of your interview

If you're approved, make sure to either pick-up your card from your local DHS office or request to have it mailed to you.

You can set the card pin-number (just like a debit card) at the office, over the phone or online.

SNAP benefits are disbursed once a month directly to your card. You can check your account balance by calling 1-888-997-4447 or at ebtEDGE.com.

Call 1-800-328-6715 if your card is lost.



QUESTIONS?

Reach out to us at *Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon*.

Visit <https://oregonhunger.org/snap-for-students/>

Call 503-595-5501 or email snap@oregonhunger.org



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Oregon State Univ

<https://tinyurl.com/ychjhrje>

Mercy College

<https://tinyurl.com/ya2qnl92>

Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

<https://tinyurl.com/yanqfoha>

Ohio University

<https://tinyurl.com/y7usre8b>



Student Voice

“I finished all my financial aid money that I had gotten for the spring, so now it’s really just what I’m making from work, and since I’m working part time, it’s pretty tight. I don’t spend money outside of anything that I absolutely need to.”

Interviewer: What would you say are the most important or necessary things that you spend money on?

“Rent and utilities. I need my apartment of course, and internet to do my homework, and electricity to have the internet.”

Full-time public college student working part-time and living off-campus

Source: “Studying on Empty”

Other Opportunities/Federal Action

- Funding provided by the CARES Act
 - Re: aid to students: how are you prioritizing students who have a risk factor for food insecurity or may be experiencing poverty?
 - Re: aid to institutions: how are you using your funding to build structures to support these students better (now and) in the future?
- Strengthen the SNAP program in future stimulus bills

Resources

- GAO report <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-95>
- Trellis' "Studying on Empty" report <https://www.trelliscompany.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Studying-on-Empty.pdf>
- Hope Center's "#RealCollege 2020" report https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019_RealCollege_Survey_Report.pdf
- More stories of food and housing insecurity, from the Chronicle of Higher Education <https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/insecurity>
- FAFSA or survey data from your campus



Student Voice

“I know I am not less than other people because I don’t have as much. But it’s hard to be hungry and motivated.”

Nassau Community College student

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/02/nyregion/hunger-college-food-insecurity.html>

Thank You



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