Moderator:

Craig Willingham

Deputy Director, CUNY
Urban Food Policy Institute
Featured Speakers

Nicholas Freudenberg
CUNY Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Director of the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute and Healthy CUNY

Sara Goldrick-Rab
Founding Director of the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice and Professor of Higher Education Policy & Sociology, Temple University

Jan Poppendieck
Senior Faculty Fellow, CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute
Panelists

Cass Conrad
Executive Director, Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation

Deborah Harte
Director, Single Stop, BMCC

Timothy Hunter
University Student Senate Chairperson and Student Trustee on the CUNY Board of Trustees

Karla Ignacio
Food Justice Leadership Fellow, CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute, and former Food Security Advocate at Hostos Community College
The State of Food Security at CUNY in 2020: An Assessment and Recommendations

May 21, 2020

Sponsored by The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation
Report Goals

• Who is food insecure at CUNY?

• What are scope, reach and impact of CUNY initiatives to reduce food insecurity?

• How can CUNY make measurable progress in reducing food insecurity in the coming years?
Sources for Report

1. 2018 Healthy CUNY Student Health Survey

2. 2018 Hope Center’s #RealCollege Survey at City University of New York (CUNY)

3. 2019 CUNY Environmental Scan of Food Security Resources on CUNY Campuses

4. 2019 Healthy CUNY Campus visits: Fall 2019

5. 2019 Interviews with Community Based Organizations Providing Food Security Programs at CUNY

6. 2020 Hope Center Survey of CUNY Food Pantries

7. 2020 CUNY Understanding Barriers to SNAP Utilization at CUNY Survey and Interviews

8. The 2020 CUNY Coronavirus Epidemic Impact Survey
FIGURE 1  Percentage of CUNY Students Reporting Hunger Often or Sometimes in Last Year, Healthy CUNY 2018

CUNY Undergraduates by Food Security Status, #RealCollege 2018 CUNY Survey
Percentage (%)

Very low: 35%
Low: 28%
Marginal: 20%
High: 16%
Comparison of Food Insecurity in 2018 and 2020 after COVID-19, Healthy CUNY Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gone hungry often or sometimes</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut or skipped meals due to lack of money</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worried would run out of food before you could buy more</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gone hungry often or sometimes
Cut or skipped meals due to lack of money
Worried would run out of food before you could buy more
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs that:</th>
<th>Existing Campus Programs and Other Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Directly give students $ or other resources for food and other necessities</td>
<td>Food related (e.g., food pantries, food scholarships, fresh food on campus, meal vouchers, emergency cash assistance for food)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not food related (e.g., transportation subsidies; childcare subsidies; utility assistance programs; support/academic recovery program; credit for life experience, book subsidies or free loans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Help students and families use resources better</td>
<td>Financial and financial aid counseling for students and families; benefits access; free legal support; psychological counseling; nutrition education; wellness programs on food/nutrition; student clubs on food security; healthcare access programs, health insurance enrollment assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Help students earn more, so they have more to spend on food and other necessities</td>
<td>Total work study budget; non-work-study campus-based work program; partnerships with employers to hire students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Help students obtain and use public benefits</td>
<td>Single Stop, Increasing access to SNAP (enrollment assistance); WIC center on campus; eviction prevention program; free tax prep services; programs that create awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Strengthen CUNY’s capacity to provide resources</td>
<td>Single Stop on campus; academic advising; case management programs (e.g. ASAP; faculty professional development to build capacity to assist with food insecurity; partnerships with CBOs with on-campus presence; on-campus homeless liaison and/or single point of contact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Waleek Boone, Transition Academy Director and volunteers distribute food at Medgar Evers College during Covid 19 Epidemic.
On the one hand…

18 of 25 campuses now have food pantries

Meal vouchers are being piloted at 3 community colleges with City Council funding and a total of 17 campuses have some meal voucher programs

8 campuses have Single Stop programs offering access to SNAP and other public benefits

23 campuses have emergency aid programs

New university leadership has made strong commitments to address food insecurity and recognizes that investments in food security can bring educational and economic benefits to CUNY and its students
On the other hand…

…most food pantries lack sufficient space, food, and staffing to meet demand.

…campus food service continues to be priced beyond students’ ability to pay and the voucher program is reaching only a few hundred students.

…Single Stop is not offered at 17 campuses, CUNY has no coordinated SNAP enrollment campaign and many students do not know about Single Stop on their campus.

…emergency aid falls short of demand, face spending restrictions that limit impact, and impose administrative burdens for colleges and students is high.

…food security initiatives are often siloed and not coordinated, increasing administrative burden, and reducing efficacy and impact; CUNY does not have a point person for leading and coordinating food security initiatives.
Healthy CUNY/Hope Recommendations

• Designate one person in CUNY Central Office as Director of Food Security

• Create a university-wide Task Force on Promoting Food Security charged with creating a plan to significantly reduce food insecurity at CUNY within three years.

• Encourage each campus to establish a Task Force on Promoting Food Security to develop, in coordination with the university-wide task force, a coordinated plan to make significant reductions in food security on their campus

• Establish CUNY-wide Student and Faculty Food Security Advocates Training Programs to create a cadre of students and faculty to mobilize their campuses and peers to take action to reduce food insecurity.
Healthy CUNY/Hope Recommendations

• Seek new investments to promote food security at CUNY from the city, state, and federal governments and from philanthropy.

• Consult with campus and CUNY-wide Food Security Task Forces to develop an equitable plan for dividing new and existing food security resources with clear and achievable accountability measures.

• Create system with measures and procedures for documenting and assessing all of CUNY’s food security programs to report on progress, gaps, and innovative practices.
Priority Policy & Program Changes

• Ensure that every SNAP-eligible CUNY student is actually enrolled

• Eliminate the federal provision that excludes full-time students from SNAP enrollment

• Advocate for continued city, state, and federal rule changes to make it easier for college students to enroll in SNAP

• Use the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to support for college students facing food insecurity, whether or not these students have a Social Security Card

• Assist in transforming every CUNY food pantry and emergency food program into a hub that connects students to other needed services
The New Economics of College

Our analytic framework

For College, Community, and Justice

HOPE4COLLEGE.COM
College prices are rising, especially beyond tuition.
Family income is falling short, especially for minorities.
3

Work does not pay enough

Income Inadequacy Rate by Number of Adults in Household
Hover over bar for more details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Full time, year round</th>
<th>Part time or part year</th>
<th>Not working</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Adult</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two+ Adults</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Households Below (40%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below Poverty (%)</th>
<th>Above Poverty &amp; Below Standard (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Poverty</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Poverty</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Standard</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Standard</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None working</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Below</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CUNY is inadequately funded

Less than $2,800 per FTE from NY State
5

The safety net is failing students

- SNAP – Exclusionary eligibility criteria and high administrative burden
- Many college students cut out of stimulus payments
- CARES Act dollars as implemented are highly restrictive
5 Years of #RealCollege Surveys

We have now surveyed 330K students at 400+ institutions

- **2015**: 10 community colleges
- **2016**: 70 community colleges
- **2017**: 31 community colleges, 35 4-year institutions
- **2018**: 90 community colleges, 33 4-year institutions
- **2019**: 171 community colleges, 56 4-year institutions
## Community Colleges vs. 4-year Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>4-year Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>42-56%</td>
<td>33-42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Insecurity</td>
<td>46-60%</td>
<td>35-48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>12-18%</td>
<td>9-16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Related Links and Publications

Link to the full report and executive summary on The State of Food Security at CUNY 2020.


COVID resources, including guides you can share with students!
https://hope4college.com/hope-center-response-to-covid19-for-realcollege-students/

This is a student advocacy campaign for the fair distribution of CARES dollars. https://www.swipehunger.org/faircares/

Policy guide for supporting Part Time students.

Healthy CUNY previous reports and additional resources www.healthy-cuny.org