

CLASP

Policy solutions that work for low-income people

Demystifying SNAP EBT on College Campuses

May 2019

About CLASP

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

Our areas include: Child Care, Income and Work Supports, Job Quality, Youth, Immigration and Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development

Moderator



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Agenda

- I. CLASP Introduction, Agenda Walk through**
 - Parker Gilkesson
- II. Understanding SNAP Guidelines for College Students**
 - Carrie Welton
- III. Destigmatizing Food Insecurity on College Campuses**
 - Yesenia Jimenez
- IV. Establishing SNAP EBT on Your Campus**
 - David Nakamura
- V. Q & A**
- VI. Resources, Wrap up**

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Carrie Welton
Policy Analyst

Understanding SNAP Guidelines for Students

Demystifying SNAP EBT on College Campuses

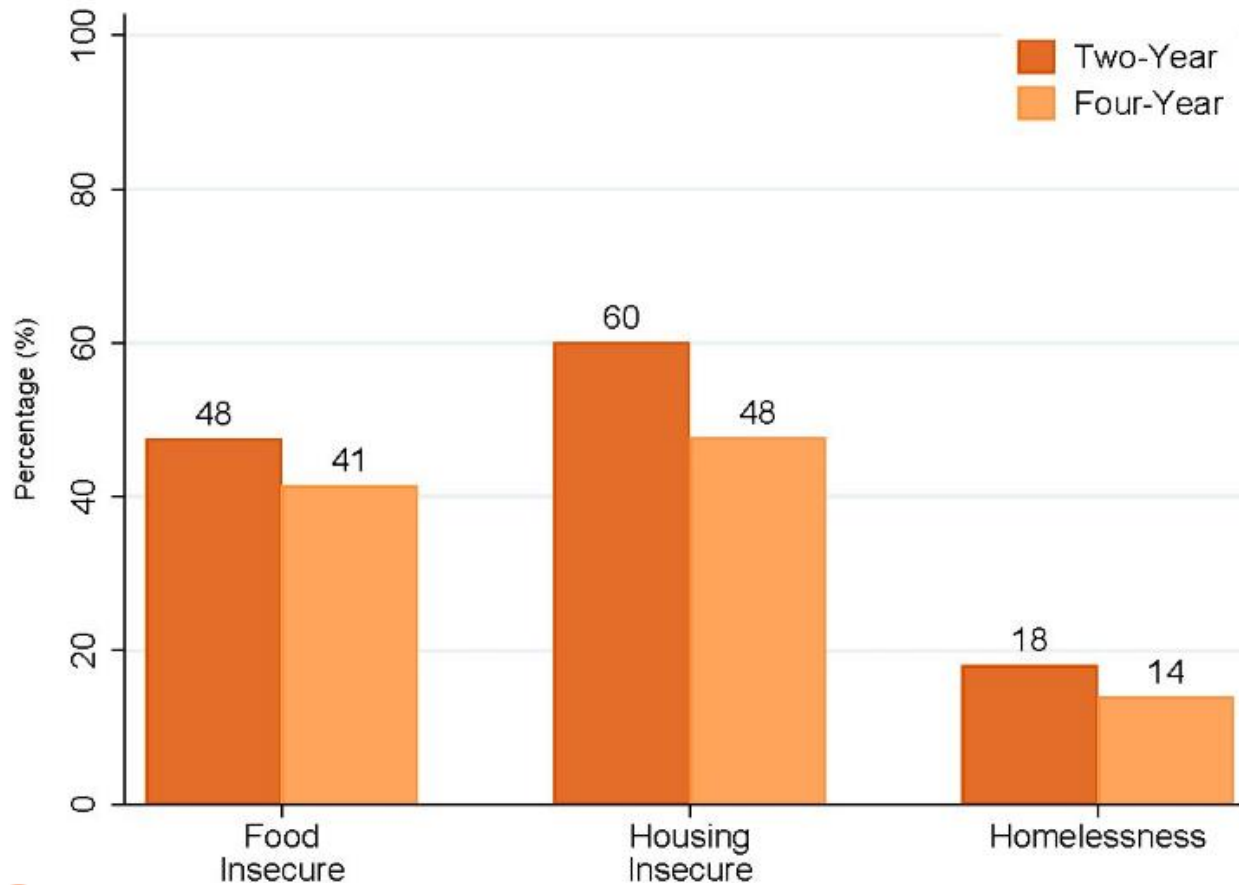
May 2019



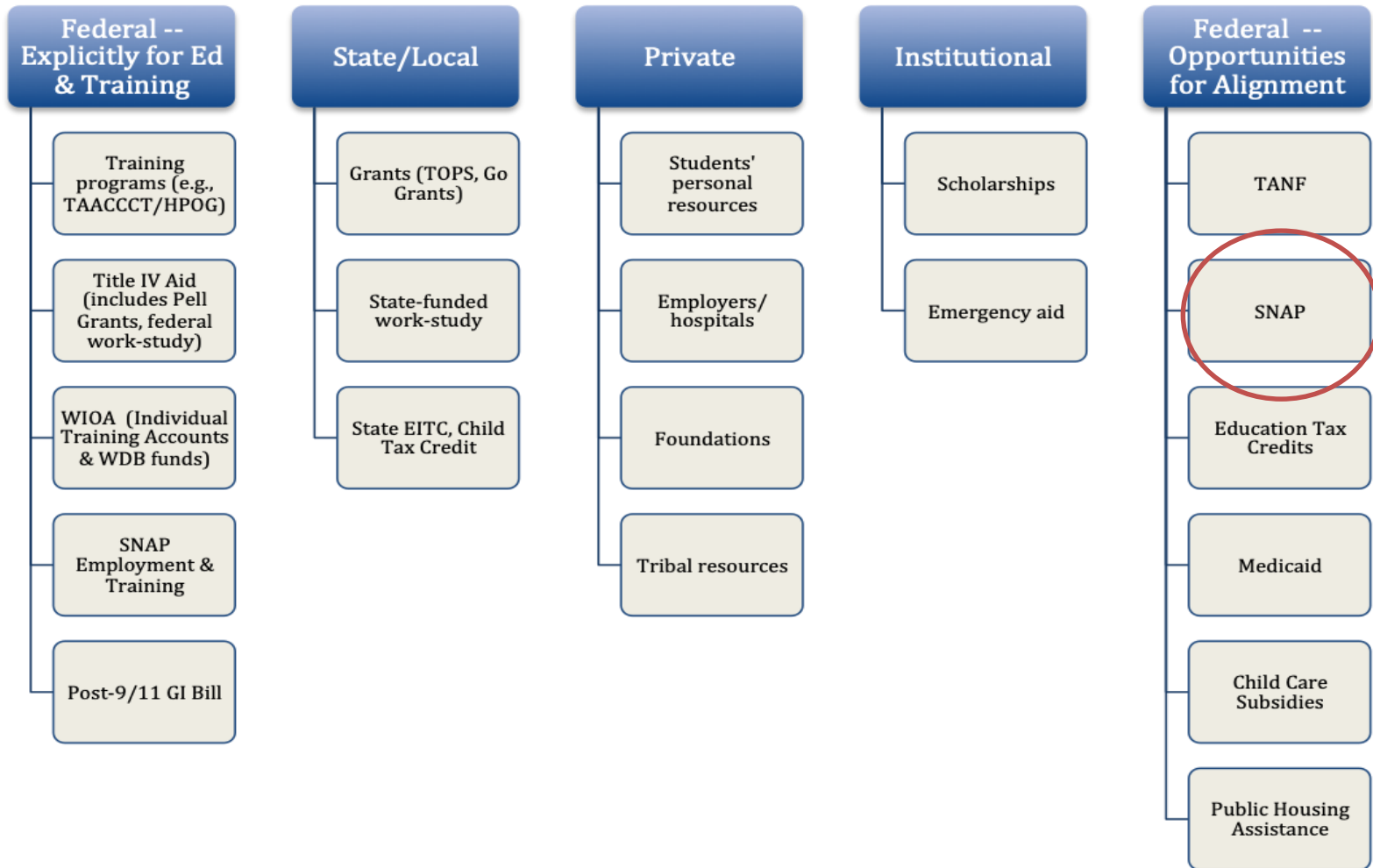
Converging Challenges for Students



Student Basic Needs Insecurity



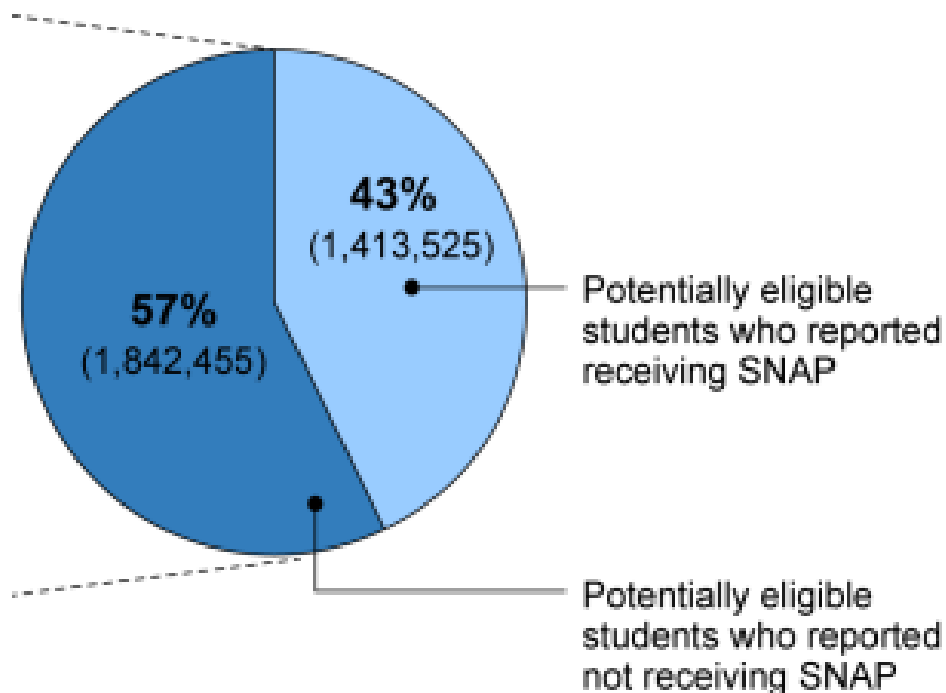
The Case for Comprehensive Student Aid



Few Students Receive SNAP

A recent report from the GAO estimated that among potentially eligible students with low incomes, 57 percent did not receive SNAP.

Participation rate among low-income, at-risk students who likely met a SNAP exemption (3.3 million students)



General SNAP Eligibility

Income and Asset limits

- 1 person: \$1,326
- 3 people: \$2,252
- Assets up to: \$2,250 in cash savings or vehicles over \$4,650 market value



Household Qualifications

- Living and preparing food together
- Almost always includes spouses and children under age 22
- Different rules for seniors



Immigration Status

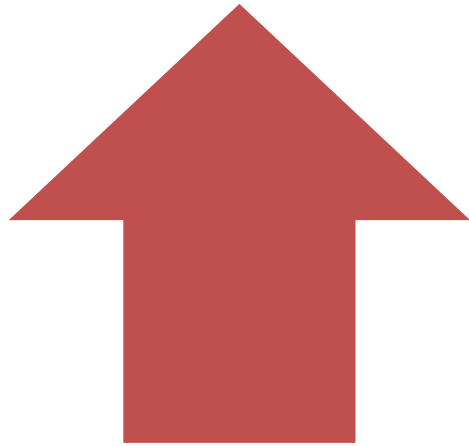
- U.S citizen
- Lawfully present non-citizens
- Some other non-citizens under age 18 in limited circumstances



Benefit Amount

- 1 person:
 - Max \$192
 - Average \$134
- 3 people:
 - Max \$504
 - Average \$378

Who is considered a student?



Less than half
time=not a
“student”



At least half
time=qualifies for
an “exemption”

SNAP and Student Eligibility

Receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance or services

Age 17 or younger or age 50 or older

Responsible for a dependent child under the age of 6

Responsible for a dependent child between the ages of 6 & 12 for whom you have trouble securing child care

Single parent enrolled full-time & responsible for a dependent child age 12 or under

Participates in a state or federally-funded work study program

Participates in an on-the-job training program

Works at least 20 hours a week in paid employment

In school through a state or federally- approved employment and training program

Unable to work for health reasons

Massachusetts has determined that students receiving a MASSGrant, funded by TANF dollars, eligible for SNAP under this exemption.

California permits students who are approved for work-study, and anticipate taking a work-study job during the semester, to qualify for SNAP under this exemption.

Pennsylvania issued new guidance that ensures students enrolled in a career and technical program as defined by Perkins qualify for SNAP through this exemption.

Other Eligibility Criteria

- Special criteria for those experience homelessness
- If attending less than half-time, a student could be subject to SNAP's work requirement
- If receiving more than half of their meals through a campus meal plan, not eligible for SNAP
- Could be eligible if receiving TANF cash assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or some other forms of general assistance
- Also, if a student or their family received one of several public benefits during two previous calendar years including this information on the FAFSA application may qualify them for an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero or the Simplified Needs Test (NST), which disregards asset information

Institutional Engagement

Low

Include in existing activities, communications, and resources, such as;

- Syllabi language
- Award letter notifications
- Information in supportive services
- Promote via social media accounts

High

Dedicated time and resources, such as;

- Paid staff navigators
- DHS / community partnerships
- Establish a campus food banks
 - Emergency aid funds
- Surveys or new data collection

EBT on Campus

Campus can foster a culture of support and engagement by leveraging public benefits to improve persistence and completion

....turning it over to Yesenia....

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Yesenia Jimenez

Emerson National Hunger Fellow

Destigmatizing Food Insecurity on College Campuses

Demystifying SNAP EBT on College Campuses

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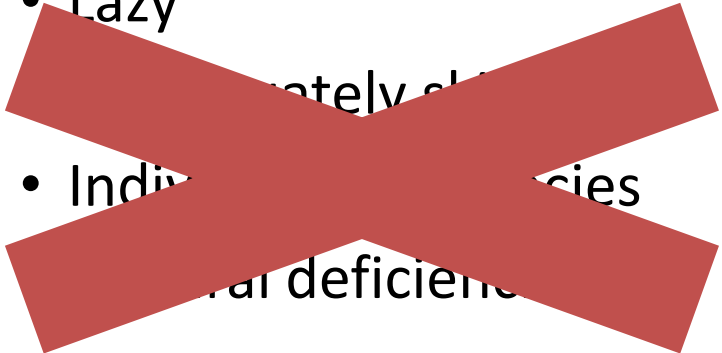


Stigmatization of Poverty in the US

- Misconceptions that people are:
 - Lazy
 - Inadequately skilled
 - Individual deficiencies
 - Cultural deficiencies, etc

Stigmatization of Poverty in the US

Misconceptions that people are:

- Lazy
 - Completely helpless
 - Individual deficiencies
 - Personal deficiencies
- 

Creating Safe Spaces

- Basic Needs Center
 - Co-locating services
 - One stop for food or SNAP assistance
 - Housing assistance
 - Emergency funds assistance
 - Transportation assistance
 - Health Insurance assistance

Developing Positive Messaging Around Food Benefits

Stigmatizing language

- “poor”
- “impoverished”
- “food stamps”
- “needy”

Use non-stigmatizing / neutral language

- “nutritional assistance”
- “Financial aid for food”
- “Holistic student wellness”

Get the Word Out!

Student **Outreach** is crucial!

Information about food resources should be posted on:

- Financial Aid Offices
- Campus Food Pantry
- Campus Website
- Student Center
- Library
- Farmers/Mobile Markets
- Dining Hall(s)
- Convenience store(s)

Destigmatizing SNAP Benefits on Campus

Several colleges currently receive SNAP EBT payments including both public and private colleges in at least seven states:

- California
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Pennsylvania
- Wisconsin

UC Davis – Aggie Compass



Advancing Educational Equity

Reducing Stigma around food benefits helps more students learn about and enroll in the SNAP program.

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David Nakamura
Executive Director
HSU University Center

Establishing SNAP EBT on Your Campus

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Who Do I Contact About Starting SNAP EBT on Campus?

- Good to start with data on food insecurity
- Excellent opportunity for student / peer collaboration
 - At HSU, we had the OhSNAP! group to work with
- Need support from campus food provider
 - They will need to apply and manage the program
 - Potentially change and manage inventory

How Does a Campus Qualify for SNAP EBT ?

- Assess your campus venues for eligibility
- USDA Program / SNAP
- See attached Tip Sheet
- Go to the retailer information
- Three of four staple food categories for “continuous sale”

Now We're Approved, Now What?

- Accounting and IT will need to be involved for back of house work
 - Integration with POS and accounting systems
- USDA Provides Excellent Resources
 - Cashier training videos
- Monitoring EBT Eligible Items

Student Enrollment for SNAP EBT ?

- OhSNAP! Peer advocacy and resource program
- Funded by County grant for low enrolled areas
- Work with students to access SNAP
- Can help with issues around stigma
- Nutrition, cooking, shopping, gardening
- Encourage advocacy for changes in eligibility requirements that will benefit students

How Much is SNAP EBT Used?

- It has been as much as 9.9% of total cash sales
- Estimated 11% of student cash sales
- Average ticket is \$7.50
- Average 40 – 50 transactions per day
- Likely means these are students who are buying single meals while on campus

Resources

- [SNAP & Students Fact Sheet](#)
by CLASP
- [CCC EBT Guidebook](#)
by California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- [Tips For Establishing EBT on Your Campus](#)
by CSU Student Wellness & Basics Needs Initiative
- [Family Friendly Campus Toolkit](#)
by Endicott College