

# Addressing Basic Needs Through Policy Change: A Federal and State Update

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BASIC NEEDS INITIATIVE CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

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SchoolHouse  
Connection

# Overview

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- State Policy
  - CalFresh
  - CalWORKs
  - 2018 Legislative Proposals
- Federal Policy
  - Farm Bill and Marker Bill AB 1276
  - FY2018 and FY2019 Budget
  - Higher Education Act reauthorization
  - HUD Homeless Assistance Reform

# ABOUT YOUR PRESENTER: A FORMERLY HOMELESS & HUNGRY STUDENT



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SEARCH

## Profile: Jessica Bartholow

By [Laura Zink](#)

November 18, 2004

Mills College Weekly

During a team ride to an away game for the Mills Volleyball team in the early nineties, Jessica Bartholow realized just how wide the class gap can be. She heard her teammates talk about how hard it was to believe that there were people who made less annual income than the price of tuition at Mills. What those students didn't realize was that Bartholow's family was among those ranks.

When Bartholow entered Mills as a freshman in the fall of 1990, her family couldn't afford a place to live. She paid for Mills with a combination of aid and scholarships, including a CalGrant, a PellGrant, a Supplementary Education Opportunity Grant, a Bank of America Scholarship, a Mills Scholarship, federal loans and a work-study job.

Her mother, father, and sister lived in a camper, the kind on the back of a truck, in a KOA campsite when Bartholow started living in the dorms at Mills. Economic drawbacks that she faced in her

Tweets by [@thecampanil](#)



**The Campanil** [@thecampanil](#)



Our website should be back up anv dav now.

#TalkPoverty @Jess\_Bartholow @Western\_Center #RealCollege

# COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION RESPONDS

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## ***California's Legislature Responding to College Student Hunger***

- ❑ AB 1930 (Skinner, 2014) – CalFresh Student Rules
  - Federal Rule Says Students (>1/2 time) ineligible unless:  
(a) Federal Exemptions (b) State Established Programs
  - AB 1930 establishes list of programs exempt & verification process
  
- ❑ AB 1747 (Weber, 2016) Increased Access to CalFresh, EBT & Meals
  - Requires RMP Application for Colleges in Participating Counties
  - Codifies practice of allowing public colleges & universities to participate in the State's CalFresh Outreach Program
  - Establishes (unfunded) fund for College Food Banks Partnerships

# COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION RESPONDS

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### ***California's Legislature Responding to College Student Hunger***

- ❑ AB 453 (Limon, 2017) – Hunger Free College Campus Funding
  - Gives all three sectors \$7.5 Million to colleges certified Hunger Free
  - To be certified Hunger Free, a campus must have a campus food pantry or regular food distribution on Campus and must make information about SNAP application on Campus. UCs & CSUs must also offer meal plan donation option.
  
- ❑ AB 214 (Weber, 2017) Increased Access to CalFresh, EBT & Meals
  - Clarified RMP Policies
  - Defines “half-time.”
  - Codified AB 1930 Workgroup policies

# COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION RESPONDS

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## ***California's Legislature Responding to College Student Hunger***

- ❑ AB 570 (Newman, 2017) – Veteran's Education Benefits
  - Ensures Military, Veteran and surviving family members fully benefit from the G.I. Bill and other US Veteran Administration education payments. It will achieve this by Exempting education benefits, stipends or allowances received from the US Veterans Administration from being counted as income or assets for the purposes of determining eligibility for CalWORKs.

# COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER

## WHAT'S NEXT

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### ***California's 2018 College Hunger Agenda***

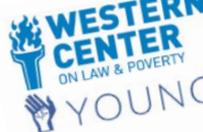
- ❑ Hunger Free College Campus Funding – Budget Request
  - Additional money for colleges certified Hunger Free
  
- ❑ AB 1894 (Weber) CalFresh, EBT & Restaurant Meals
  - Allows for all CSUs to participate
  
- ❑ AB XXXX (Arambula) CalFresh benefit increase
  
- ❑ Mystery Bill (Mystery Author) College Meal Plan

### ***2018 Federal College Hunger Agenda***

- ❑ H.R. 1276 – Closing the Meal Gap

# GET THE FACTS: FACTSHEETS ON ANTI-HUNGER LEGISLATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

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## New Tools to Reduce College Campus Hunger AB 1747 (Weber) Implementation Fact Sheet – October 1, 2016

**YOUNG INVINCIBLES**

According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness.<sup>i</sup> In a survey recently conducted by the University of California Regents, it was found that one in ten University of California (UC) students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition.<sup>ii</sup> Furthermore, nationwide lab reports show that half of all community college students are struggling with housing and/or food insecurity.<sup>iii</sup>

Assembly Bill 1747, authored by Dr. Shirley Weber and signed by Governor Jerry Brown addresses growing hunger among low-income college students in California.<sup>iv</sup> The bill provides with several new tools to draw down federal resources and aims to improve coordination of hunger efforts on college campuses and anti-hunger efforts in the surrounding community.



## CalFresh Student Work Rule Federal Law Restrictions & Recent State Law Provisions

When children born into the bottom fifth of the income distribution get a college degree, their chances of making it to the top fifth nearly quadruple, and their chances of making it out of the bottom increase by more than 50 percent.<sup>1</sup> Opportunities for low-income high school graduates to escape poverty and climb into the middle class by attaining a college degree have narrowed over the past two decades.<sup>2</sup> Several reports have documented the decline in low-income students attending college.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, college students from low-income families who do attend college, are less able to finish and more likely to be strapped with unbearable debt if they do graduate.<sup>4</sup>

Be sure to visit the webinar page or WCLP's resource page for advocates to find factsheets on AB 1930 (Skinner) and AB 1747 (Weber).

<http://transformcalfresh.org/atc-student-hunger-webinar-insightful-inspiring/>

# PARTNERSHIPS: TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS AND GET THE JOB DONE

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# About SchoolHouse Connection

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A national organization working to overcome homelessness through education.

We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with early care and education professionals, service providers, families, and youth.



# Federal Budget: FY2018 and FY2019

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- Stalemate over budget caps, immigration, disaster relief
- 5<sup>th</sup> continuing resolution to keep government open likely to extend until March 23
- FY2019 budget process also starting; President's proposal to be released on February 12
- Unclear whether “entitlement reform” will move forward as part of budget process

# Higher Education Act Reauthorization

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- In December, House education committee passed “The Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform” (PROSPER) Act (H.R. 4508) on a party-line vote
- Senate committee has held four hearings; expected to draft bi-partisan legislation this Spring
- Core issues: Simplifying FAFSA; simplifying the federal loan program; “competency-based education;” accountability

# Higher Education “Marker” Bills

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- The College Student Hunger Act, H.R. 3875. Would allow college students SNAP eligibility if they receive the maximum Pell Grant award, are in foster care, are an Armed Forces veteran, or are classified as an unaccompanied youth who is homeless.
- The Fostering Success in Higher Education Act, HR 3742. New grant program for transitions, “institutions of excellence”
- The Higher Education Access and Success Act for Homeless and Foster Youth, S. 1795, H.R. 3740

# Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth - S.1795/H.R. 3740

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## Sponsored by:

- U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) in the U.S. Senate
- U.S. Representatives Katherine Clark (D-5th/MA) and Don Young (R At Large/AK) in the U.S. House of Representatives

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

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## NEW PROVISION

An unaccompanied homeless youth's status does not need to be re-determined each year.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Youth spend a lot of time getting yearly determinations when their status has not changed.

They are asked to get information from previous years, which can be difficult.

Youth can be denied eligibility if they are not able to get the verification requested.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

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## NEW PROVISION

Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) must accept the determination of homelessness from an authorized entity. A FAA's disagreement with a determination is not considered conflicting information.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Deference was not always given to the providers most familiar with the youth.

Guidance was not always followed on this issue.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

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## NEW PROVISION

Adds to the entities that can verify a youth's status as homeless and unaccompanied, including TRIO, GEAR-UP and other homeless service providers.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Homeless youth receive services from an array of providers. Many of the providers youth were working with were not on the authorized list and their verification of youth's homeless status was not accepted.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Verification and Eligibility

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## NEW PROVISION

FAAs must make a determination of homeless status, based on the legal definitions of homeless and unaccompanied, if the youth cannot get it from other entities.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Determinations of homeless status were not being made for youth who were not connected to homeless service providers. FAAs failure to make determinations resulted in lack of access to financial aid. FAAs made determinations based on a restrictive definition of homelessness that is not in the higher education law.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid: Resolving Disputes

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## NEW PROVISIONS

The Federal Student Aid Ombudsman must resolve disputes related to homeless youth and youth coming from foster care, in consultation with knowledgeable parties, including child welfare agencies, local liaisons or State Coordinators established under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Disputes were often handled by individuals who did not understand youth homelessness or foster care.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid and Providing Supports to Students

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## NEW PROVISION

Institutions of higher education must disseminate notice about financial aid policies for homeless and foster youth.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Youth in foster care and experiencing homelessness have a smaller network of people and supports to learn about this information and often are unaware of financial aid rules and options.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid and Providing Supports to Students

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## NEW PROVISION

Provide youth the opportunity to identify as homeless or foster youth voluntarily for the purpose of receiving assistance.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

There is little reliable data on the number of homeless and foster youth in higher education. More and better data will allow for better identification of needs and services and will aid institutions in doing outreach to youth.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid and Providing Supports to Students

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## NEW PROVISION

Designate a single point of contact for homeless and foster youth at all institutions of higher education to help youth access and complete higher education, including by ensuring that youth are connected to applicable and available student support services, programs, and community resources (financial aid, academic advising, housing, food, public benefits, health care, health insurance, mental health, and mentoring).

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Homeless and foster youth often lack a support system to help them navigate college. Often campus staff do not have expertise in the needs of these populations to serve them most effectively. Many institutions have designated “SPOCs” who have been of tremendous assistance in assisting homeless and foster youth succeed in college.

# Removing Barriers to Financial Aid and Providing Supports to Students

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## NEW PROVISION

Provide priority for institutionally owned or operated housing, and require institutions of higher education to develop a plan for how homeless youth and foster youth can access housing resources during and between academic terms.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Lack of housing during and between school breaks is a major issue for homeless and foster youth and can cause youth to do poorly in school or drop out.

# Improve Access to Higher Education By Leveraging Existing Programs

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## NEW PROVISION

TRIO, GEAR-UP, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Education Opportunity Centers must:

- identify, conduct outreach to, and recruit homeless children and youth, and children and youth in foster care;
- Review policies to identify any barriers to access; and
- Submit descriptions of their activities to reach out to homeless children and youth, summarize any strategies that were effective in meeting the needs of these groups, and report on the number of homeless and foster youth served

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Foster and homeless youth are categorically eligible for these programs, and could benefit tremendously from them; however, many do not participate due to their mobility, invisibility, or enrollment barriers.

# Reduce Barriers to Higher Education by Making Programs More Affordable

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## NEW PROVISION

Homeless and foster youth are eligible for in-state tuition.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

The mobility of foster and homeless youth often make them ineligible for in-state tuition when they begin school.

Affordability is always a concern, especially with no family or support networks.

# Reduce Barriers to Higher Education by Making Programs More Affordable

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## NEW PROVISION

Homeless and foster youth are prioritized for the Federal Work-Study Program.

## PROBLEM IT ADDRESSES

Helping youth make ends meet.

# HUD Homeless Assistance Reform: Homeless Children and Youth Act

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- Overall purpose: allow communities to use federal HUD homeless assistance funding to meet the unique needs of children, youth, and families
- Bipartisan bills:
  - Senate bill S. 611 introduced by Senators Portman (R-OH) and Feinstein (D-CA)
  - House bill H.R. 1511 introduced by Rep. Stivers (R-OH) and Rep. Loebsack (D-IA)

# The Homeless Children and Youth Act: What Does it Do?

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- Amends HUD's definition of homelessness to include children and youth verified as homeless by school liaisons, RHYA programs, Head Start, Health Care for the Homeless programs, etc.
- Prohibits HUD from prioritizing one group, or one program model, over another; communities would be guided by local needs assessments and performance
- Aligns HUD Homeless Assistance with child- and youth-serving systems



The ABA has committed funds to support the development and implementation of a national Homeless Youth Legal Network (HYLN)—a new initiative to increase legal services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

For more information,  
please visit our website  
at  
[www.ambar.org/HYLN](http://www.ambar.org/HYLN)

Or contact:  
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