

Spring 2019

Basic Needs Center Survey Report Number 322

College of the Canyons

Santa Clarita Community College District
26455 Rockwell Canyon
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Institutional Research, Planning, and
Institutional Effectiveness

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Tables.....	1
Figures.....	1
Introduction.....	3
Methods.....	3
Procedures	3
Subjects.....	4
Instruments	4
Results.....	5
Demographics.....	5
Food Insecurity.....	7
Food Pantry Awareness.....	9
Homelessness & Housing Insecurity.....	9
Transportation Security	12
Financial Security	13
Social Support.....	13
Key Results Disaggregated by Ethnicity	18
Key Results Disaggregated by Gender	19
Key Results Disaggregated by Age	20
Key Results Disaggregated by First-Generation Student Status	20
Key Results Disaggregated by Full-time/Part-Time Status.....	20
Recommendations.....	22
References.....	22

Tables

Table 1. Spring 2019 Sections	4
Table 2. Demographics	5
Table 3. Demographics, Continued.....	5
Table 4. Disaggregation by Ethnicity	19
Table 5. Disaggregation by Gender	19
Table 6. Disaggregation by Age	20
Table 7. Disaggregation by First-Generation vs. Continuing-Generation College Student Status.....	20
Table 8. Disaggregation by Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status.....	20
Table 9. Themes from Open-Ended Responses	21

Figures

Figure 1. Hours Worked Per Week in the Spring 2019 Term among Respondents of the Basic Needs Survey	6
Figure 2. Annual Household Income Designated by Household Size	7
Figure 3. Food Security among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents in Comparison to #RealCollege Survey Respondents at California Community Colleges	8
Figure 4. Food Security among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents in Comparison to #RealCollege Survey Respondents at California Community Colleges	8

Figure 5. Awareness and Use of Food Pantry between the Full Sample of Respondents and the Low Food Security Respondents 9

Figure 6. Self-identified Homeless College of the Canyons Survey Respondents a Comparison between the Full Sample of Respondents and the Low Food Security Respondents and the #RealCollege Survey Respondents 10

Figure 7. Non-Traditional Living Conditions among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents a Comparison between the Full Sample of Respondents and the Low Food Security Respondents 11

Figure 8. Housing Consistency and Satisfaction among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents..... 11

Figure 9. Housing Consistency and Satisfaction among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents Who Indicated Non-Traditional Housing Situations 12

Figure 10. Lack of Transportation with Detail on Frequency..... 12

Figure 11. Self-reported Ability to Quickly Obtain Financial Assistance 13

Figure 12. Self-reported Worry over Ability to Pay for College 13

Figure 13. Parents Expect the Students to Contribute to the Family Household Income 14

Figure 14. Student Self-report of Parents Understanding Students’ Course/Class Obligations 15

Figure 15. Student Self-Report of Family Supporting Pursuit of a College Education 15

Figure 16. Self-Report of Parents Expecting the Student to be Responsible for Other Siblings 16

Figure 17. Self-Report of Familial/Cultural Challenges 16

Figure 18. Self-Report of Knowing Someone on Campus to Ask for Help with a School-Related Problem..... 17

Figure 19. Self-Report of Being Able to Turn to Family to Ask for Help with a School-Related Problem..... 17

Figure 20. Self-Report of the Student Feeling They Can Approach Professors 18

Figure 21. Student Self-report of Meeting up with Classmates Outside of Class..... 18

Introduction

A recent article published in *The Atlantic* cites that many college students are too poor to eat. “One recent survey from Temple University, found that nearly 50% of students at more than 100 schools couldn’t afford to eat a balanced meal and 35% of students were skipping meals entirely because they did not have enough money for food. Nationally, about 13% of Americans are food-insecure” (Harris, 2019). As this issue is becoming a rising concern broadly throughout the United States the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at College of the Canyons was approached by the Associate Vice President of Student Services regarding a survey of Basic Needs to inform the planning of a Basic Needs Center (BaNC).

The Basic Needs Center was being developed as a one-stop locale providing free food, clothing, personal hygiene items, and assistance with housing and social services coordinated through community providers. The only requirement to receive services from the BaNC is that a student be currently enrolled in courses at College of the Canyons. This survey’s primary aim was to assess the basic needs of College of the Canyons students. These basic needs included housing insecurity, food insecurity, transportation insecurity, and financial insecurity, as well as assessing level of social support, and general demographics.

There has been some debate as to the consistency of the measurement of food and housing insecurity across these surveys nation-wide. In an effort to combat this issue College of the Canyons conducted a Basic Needs Survey in the Spring of 2019 that was consistent with the *2019 California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey* (Goldrick-Rab, Baker-Smith, Coca, Looker, & Williams, 2019). This was the nation’s largest annual assessment of basic needs security among college students. The results from this survey will provide information for the planning of the BaNC as well as inform the expansion of the BaNC onto the Canyon Country Campus. Results from this survey can be used for further planning of other needed resources such as those relating to transportation and social and financial support for students. The results presented in this report will be directly compared to the results from a statewide survey administered at nearly half of the schools in the California Community College system in the fall of 2016 and 2018.

Methods

The Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Office, with input from College of the Canyons’ Associate Vice President of Student Services, developed a survey that contained questions primarily modeled from the *2019 California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey* (Goldrick-Rab, Baker-Smith, Coca, Looker, & Williams, 2019). This was the nation’s largest annual assessment of basic needs security among college students. In addition to questions relating to food and housing insecurity the survey included questions regarding transportation, demographics, social support, and engagement. Respondents were invited to provide additional comments in an open-ended response format.

Procedures

Course sections were determined using the College’s 320 file obtained from the College’s Management Information System, Datatel. A stratified sampling method was utilized to determine sample sizes among the day and evening class sections and noncredit sections at both the Valencia Campus and Canyon Country Campus. Among the total classes offered in spring 2019, about 85% of the sections are on the Valencia campus and about 15% of the sections are on the Canyon Country Campus. Among the Canyon Country Campus sections about 66% are daytime sections, 26% are evening sections, and 8% are noncredit. Among the Valencia Campus sections about 71% are daytime sections, 27% are evening and 2% are noncredit. From the starting sample size of 3,000 student responses we aimed for a sample of sections that would result in 85.6% to be surveyed from the Valencia campus (2,568) and 14.4% (431) to be surveyed from the Canyon Country Campus. From the Valencia Campus we aimed for sections that would result in 71% (1,823) of the 3,000 to be daytime students, 27% (692) to be evening students, and 2% (47) to be noncredit students. From the Canyon Country Campus we sampled

sections that would result in 66% (283) to be daytime students, 26% (114) to be evening students, and 8% (38) to be Canyon Country noncredit students¹. Instructional Service Agreements, and Nursing were excluded.

Table 1. Spring 2019 Sections

Valencia (85% of Sections)	Canyon Country (15% of Sections)
71% Daytime	66% Daytime
27% Evening	26% Evening
2% Noncredit	8% Noncredit

The survey was also administered to 100% of online students. A letter went out to online faculty asking them to encourage their students to complete the survey via the survey link accessible through CANVAS. Completed questionnaires were coded and tabulated using Remark (2018), Excel (2016), and SPSS (2018). Refer to Appendix A for a copy of the questionnaire.

Subjects

Out of the possible 3,000 on-ground surveys submitted to classrooms for completion, 1,498 students (49.9% response rate) completed surveys. 1,073 students responded via the online link provided on CANVAS. The total survey sample size is 2,571 respondents with on-ground respondents making up 58.3% of the sample and online respondents comprising 41.7% of the sample.

Instruments

The survey included 24 close-ended/multiple choice questions. Categories of questions in the survey included: Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, Transportation, Social Support and Engagement, and Demographics. At the end of the survey there was one open-ended opportunity for respondents to indicate any suggestions, needs, or concerns, about food/housing, transportation, or other financial and social support.

¹ Sample sizes do not add exactly to 3,000 because entire sections were selected and in some cases smaller section sizes yielded slightly smaller numbers (2,999).

Results

Demographics

Table 2. Demographics

Race/Ethnicity (N=2,496)		Age (N=2,491)		Gender (N=2,491)		Financial Aid (N=2,479)	
Native Amer./Alaskan	0.30%	Less Than 18	5.90%	Female	58.8%	BOGW	41.90%
African Amer./Black	3.50%	18-19	32.00%	Male	39.1%	No	15.80%
Asian	6.50%	20-25	37.90%	Non-Binary	1.80%	Don't Know	42.30%
LatinX	36.30%	26-35	13.90%	Other	0.30%		
White	30.50%	36-40	2.70%				
FilipinX	4.30%	41-49	4.30%				
Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	6.50%	50+	3.30%				
Two or more races	15.90%						
Other-Non White	1.80%						
Unknown	1.00%						

Table 3. Demographics, Continued

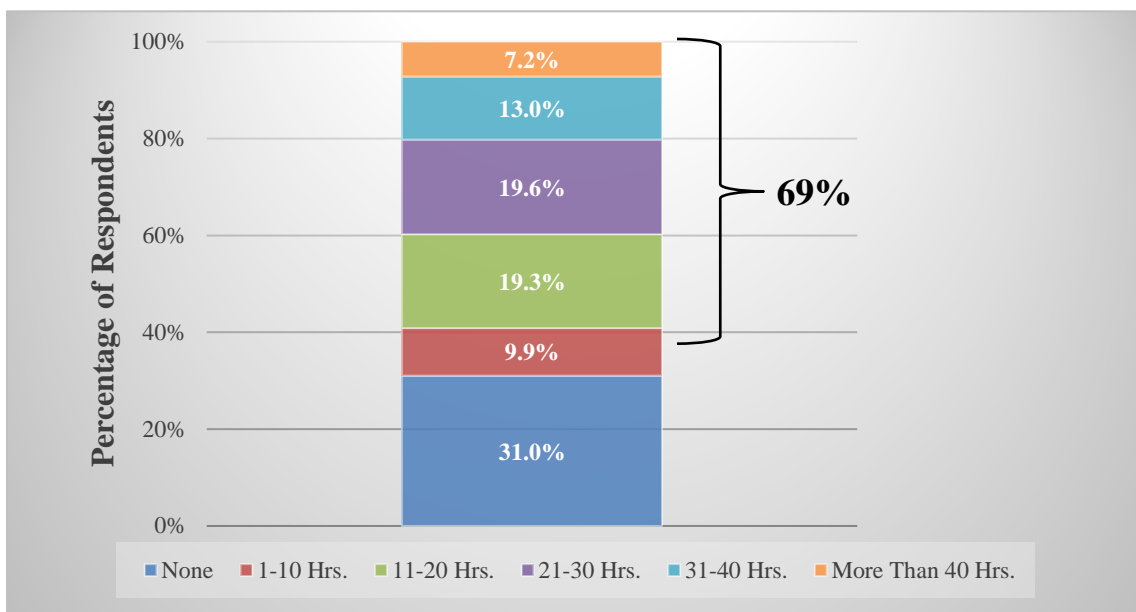
Unit Load	Continuing Generation (N = 2,483)	First- Generation.* (N = 2,571)	
Full-time	53.40%	First-Gen.	41.3%
Part-time (less than 12 units)	44%	Not First Gen.	58.7%
Don't Know	2.60%		

*First-Generation college student is defined as a student who had neither parent attend any form of college or university. Thus, making them the first in their family to attend college. Importantly, this is distinct and is **NOT** related to citizenship status or nation of origin.

Hours Worked Per Week

Just over thirty percent of respondents (31.0%) work 0 hours per week. 9.9% work 1-10 hours a week, 19.3% work 11-20 hours a week, 19.6% work 21-30 hours a week, 13.0% work 31-40 hours a week, and 7.2% work more than 40 hours a week (See Figure 1). A total of 69% of respondents work throughout the week.

Figure 1. Hours Worked Per Week in the Spring 2019 Term among Respondents of the Basic Needs Survey

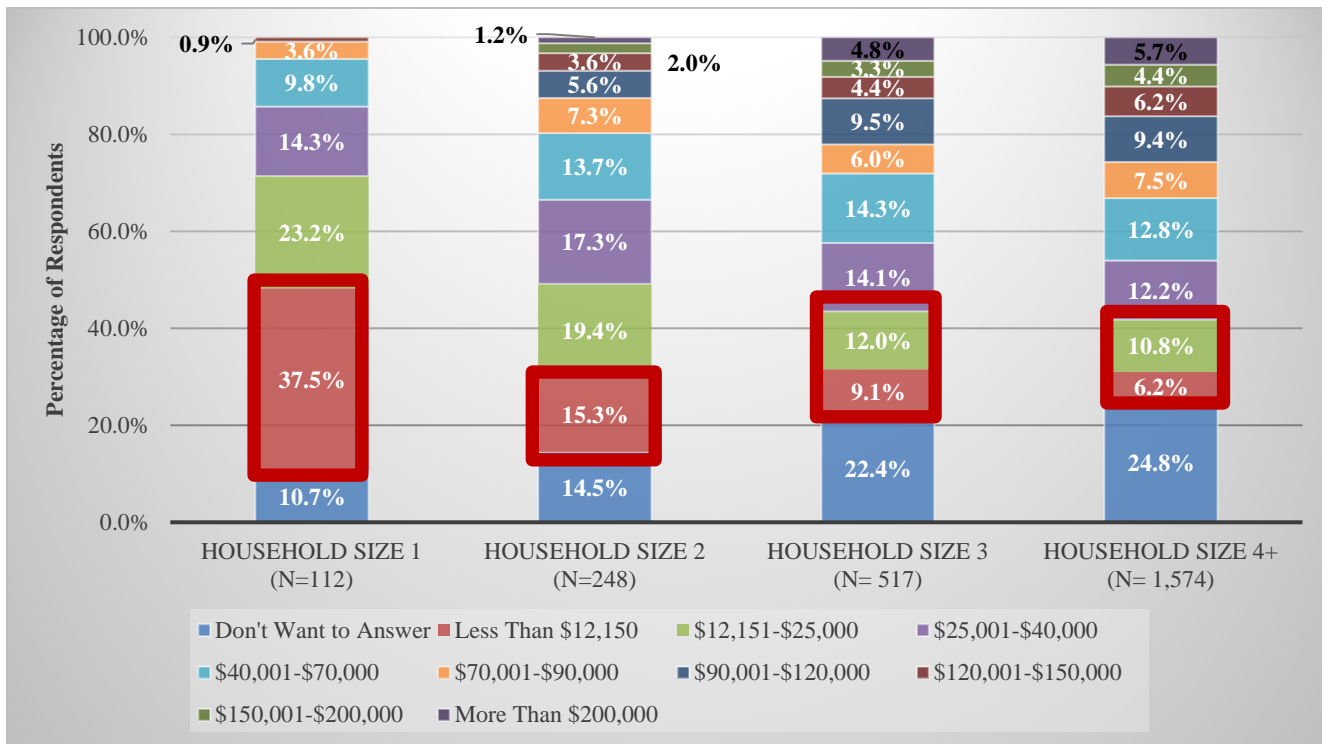


Income

Students were asked to indicate their household income (the total annual household income for everyone living in their household). For the overall sample of respondents, 35% have an annual income of \$40,000 or less, an additional 28.7% reported their annual income to be \$40,001-\$120,000. Just over ten percent (13.8%) of the total respondents reported their annual household income to be \$120,001 or more. Around a quarter of respondents (22.6%) did not want to answer.

Because the amount of annual income means something different based on the number of individuals within the household we further assessed the income per household size (see Figure 2; those proportions indicating below poverty are outlined by a red box). Importantly, among those respondents who reported living within a household size of 1 (N=112) 37.5% reported an annual household income less than \$12,150 which is below the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2018-19 designation of poverty. Among those respondents from a household size of 2 (N=250) 15.3% indicated an annual household income that was below the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty line. Among those respondents from a household size of 3 (N=527) 21% indicated an annual income that was below the poverty line and 29.2% of respondents who reported a household size of 4 or more (N=1,605) were below the poverty line.

Figure 2. Annual Household Income Designated by Household Size



Food Insecurity

Students were asked, “Which of the following best describes the food you have eaten in the last 6 months”

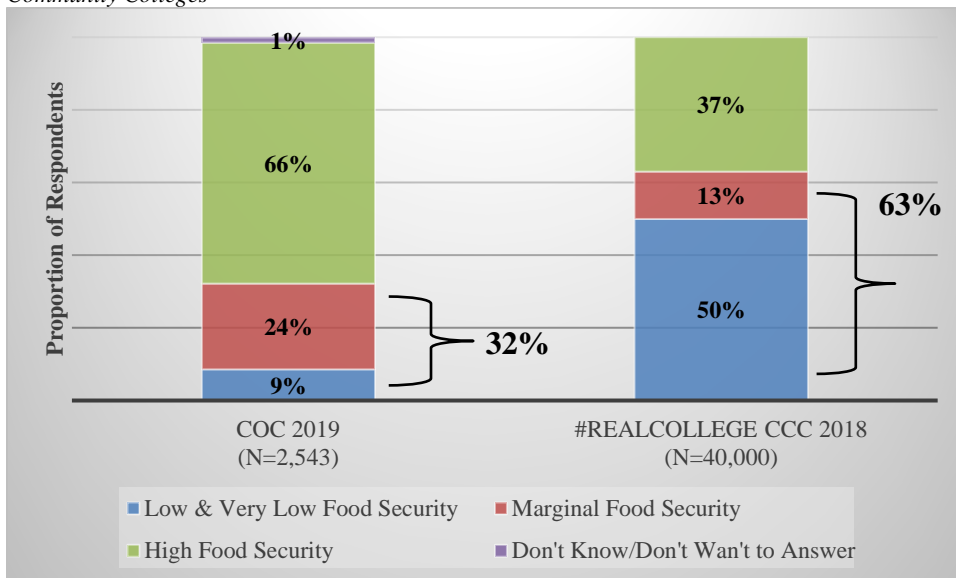
- I had enough of the kinds of food I want to eat (food secure)
- I had enough, but not always the kinds of food I want (marginal food security)
- I sometimes did not have enough to eat (low food security)
- I did not often have enough to eat (very low food security)
- Don’t know or don’t want to answer

Of the total students sampled, 32% (821) experienced some form of food insecurity over the last 6 months; this included marginal, low, and very low food security. Of the total students, 8.6% (220) experienced **low or very low food security** in the last 6 months. Of the total students sampled 66.3% indicated they had enough of the kinds of food they wanted to eat. Last, 1.4% reported they did not know or did not want to answer (see Figure 3).

Students were asked their agreement with the following statement: “In the last 6 months, I worried if I would still have enough food before I get money to buy more.”

- Often True (7%)
- Sometimes True (27.4%)
- Never True (60%)
- Don’t know or don’t want to answer (4.3%)

Figure 3. Food Security among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents in Comparison to #RealCollege Survey Respondents at California Community Colleges

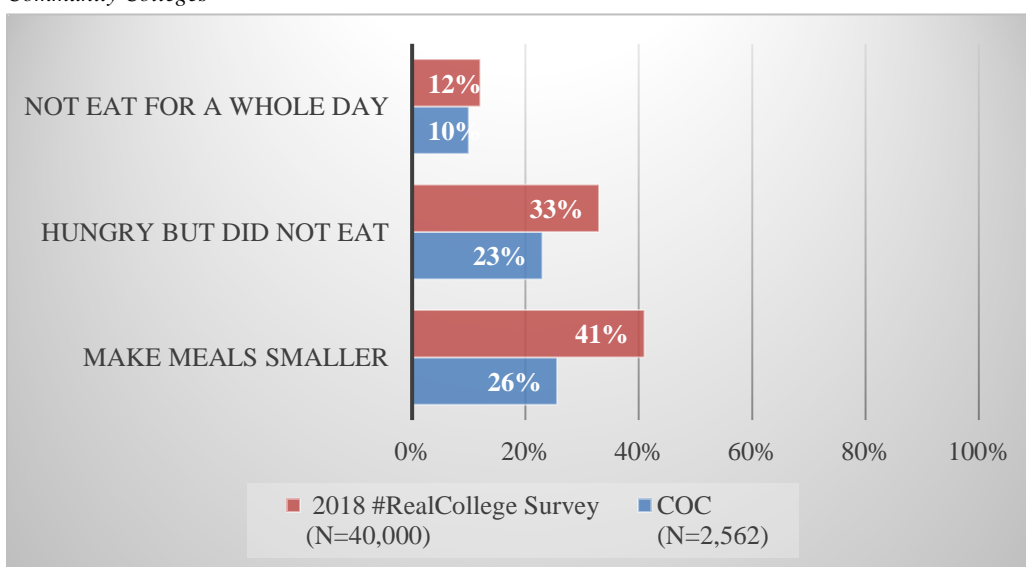


Students were asked the following three questions that were also asked within the #RealCollege survey.

- “Did you not eat or make your meals smaller because there wasn’t enough money for food?”
- “Were you ever hungry, but did not eat, because there wasn’t enough money for food?”
- “Did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food?”

Rates of respondents who agreed to these statements are compared to those rates reported on the #RealCollege Survey. Respondents at COC were similar in their reports of not eating for a whole day because there wasn’t enough money for food (10% vs. 12%) as to statewide reports from the #RealCollege Survey (See Figure 4).

Figure 4. Food Security among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents in Comparison to #RealCollege Survey Respondents at California Community Colleges

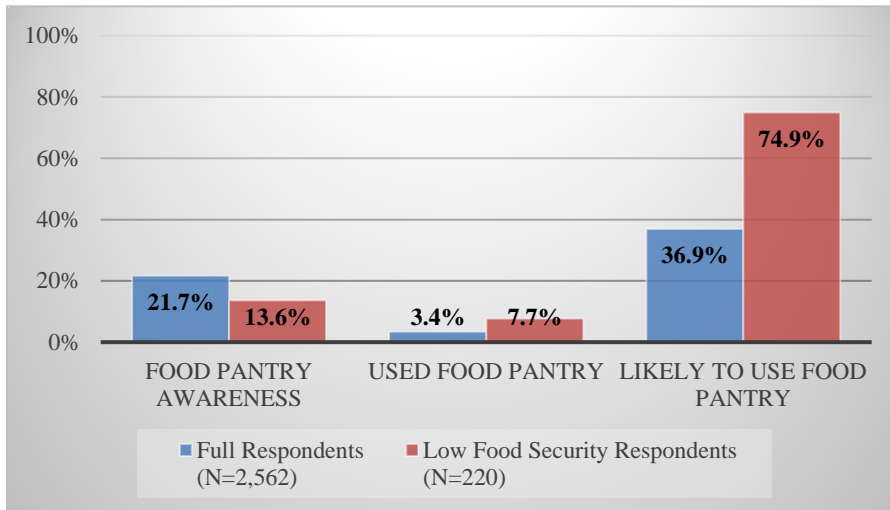


Food Pantry Awareness

Respondents were asked three questions relating to the food pantry (BaNC) on campus. Results are presented for both the entire sample of respondents as well as in comparison to the low food security subset of respondents (See Figure 5). The three questions are below.

- “Do you know that free food items are available through a food pantry on campus?”
- “Have you used the food pantry on campus?”
- “How likely would you be to use the food pantry on campus?”

Figure 5. Awareness and Use of Food Pantry between the Full Sample of Respondents and the Low Food Security Respondents

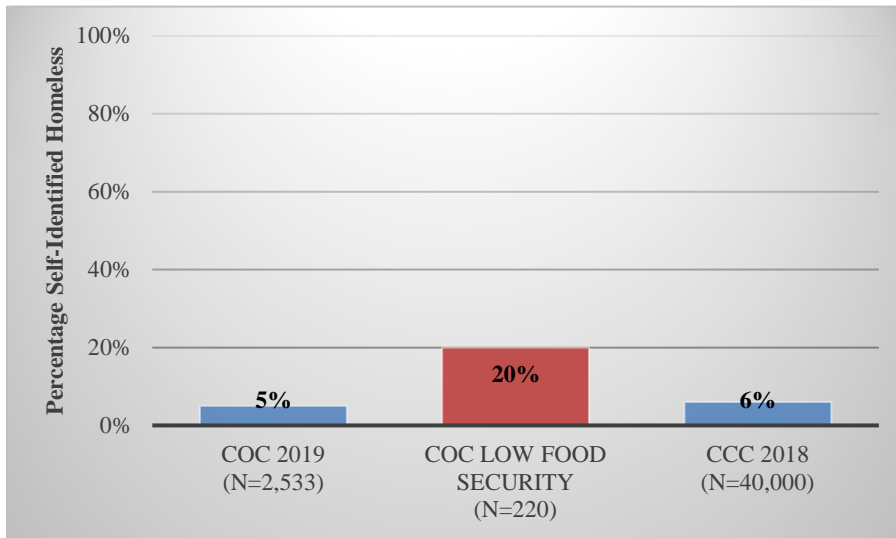


Low food security respondents were twice as likely (7.7%) to have used the food pantry as respondents as a whole (3.4%) and they are twice as likely (74.9%) to report that they would use the food pantry as respondents as a whole (36.9%) within the survey. Low food security respondents are less likely to have had an awareness of the food pantry (13.6%) than the full sample of respondents (21.7%).

Homelessness & Housing Insecurity

Participants were asked since starting college if they had **ever** been homeless? Of the COC survey respondents 5.1% self-identified as having been homeless compared to 6% of California Community College respondents from the #RealCollege survey who self-identified as ever having been homeless. The low food security COC respondents self-identified as having been homeless at a rate of 20%. (See Figure 6). Thus, **respondents who indicate low food security are four times more likely to have been homeless as well.**

Figure 6. Self-identified Homeless College of the Canyons Survey Respondents a Comparison between the Full Sample of Respondents and the Low Food Security Respondents and the #RealCollege Survey Respondents



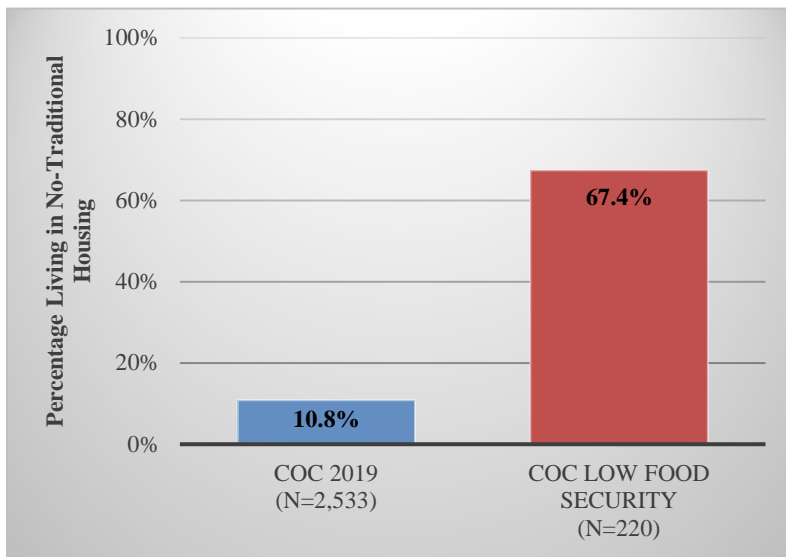
The survey also assessed homelessness and housing insecurity by assessing the conditions in which a person lives. The #RealCollege survey also assesses homelessness by asking students to identify living conditions that could be considered signs of homelessness. These conditions include the following non-traditional living situations:

- a shelter
- a camper
- temporarily with a relative, friend, or sleeping on other people's couches
- temporarily staying at a hotel or motel without a permanent home
- in a transitional housing
- at a group home or halfway home
- at a treatment center
- at an outdoor location such as a street, sidewalk, alley, bus, or train stop, campground etc., or
- in a closed area/space with a roof, such as abandoned building, car or truck, van, RV, tent, etc.

Of COC respondents, 10.8% reported having lived in one of the above-mentioned non-traditional locations in the last 6 months. According to the survey conducted by researchers of the #RealCollege survey, this would signify housing insecurity and in many cases those who are homeless do not self-identify as such but will display this form of housing insecurity. Essentially, an additional 5% of students were experiencing housing insecurity in this form of non-traditional housing situation and hardship, however, these students were not self-identifying as homeless.

The rate of housing insecurity was higher among those respondents who were also low in food security. Essentially, **those low in food security are six times more likely to report having had to live in one of these less secure non-traditional living situations in the past 6 months as compared to the rest of the COC respondents** (See Figure 7).

Figure 7. Non-Traditional Living Conditions among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents a Comparison between the Full Sample of Respondents and the Low Food Security Respondents

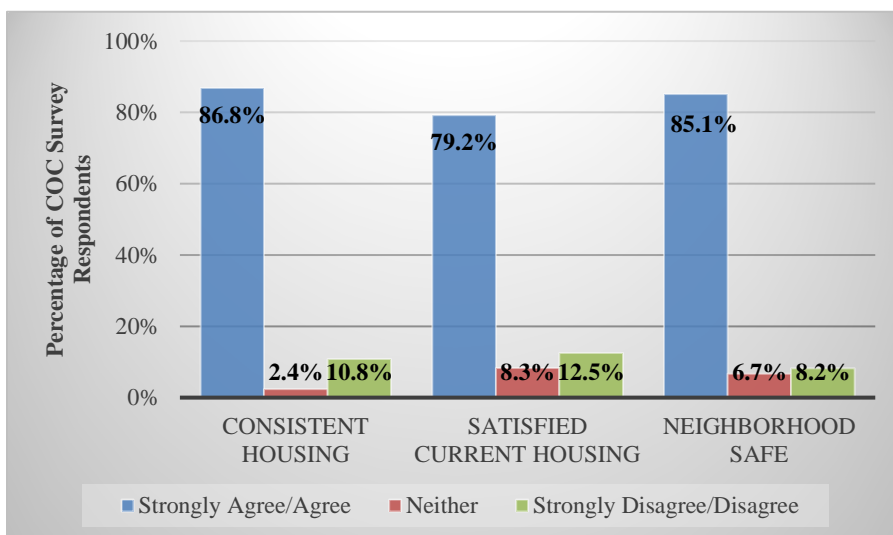


Students were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements:

- “I have lived in the same housing/living situation for 6 months.”
- “I am satisfied with my current housing.”
- “I feel safe in the neighborhood I live in.”

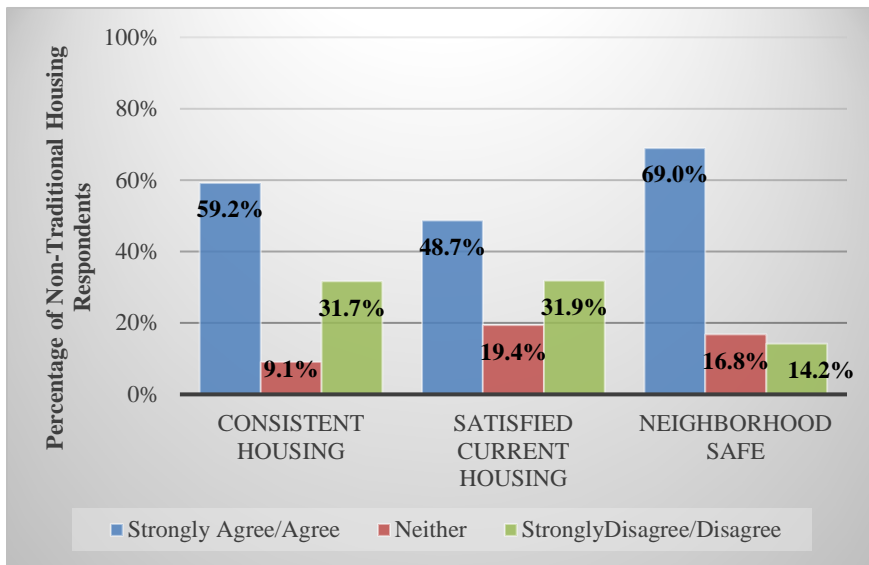
College of the Canyons students primarily feel satisfied with their housing, that they have consistent housing, and that their neighborhood is safe (See Figure 8).

Figure 8. Housing Consistency and Satisfaction among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents



We further analyzed the responses among the 10% of respondents who had indicated that in the last 6 months they had to sleep outside or in a camper or shelter (those who had experienced housing insecurity). Among these respondents who have had to reside in non-traditional living situations (a form of homelessness and housing insecurity), results illustrate that these students had higher rates of disagreement to statements regarding consistent housing, satisfaction with housing, and perceived neighborhood safety; 31.7% vs (10.8%) and 31% vs (12.5%) as compared to the general COC full survey results (See Figure 9).

Figure 9. Housing Consistency and Satisfaction among College of the Canyons Survey Respondents Who Indicated Non-Traditional Housing Situations

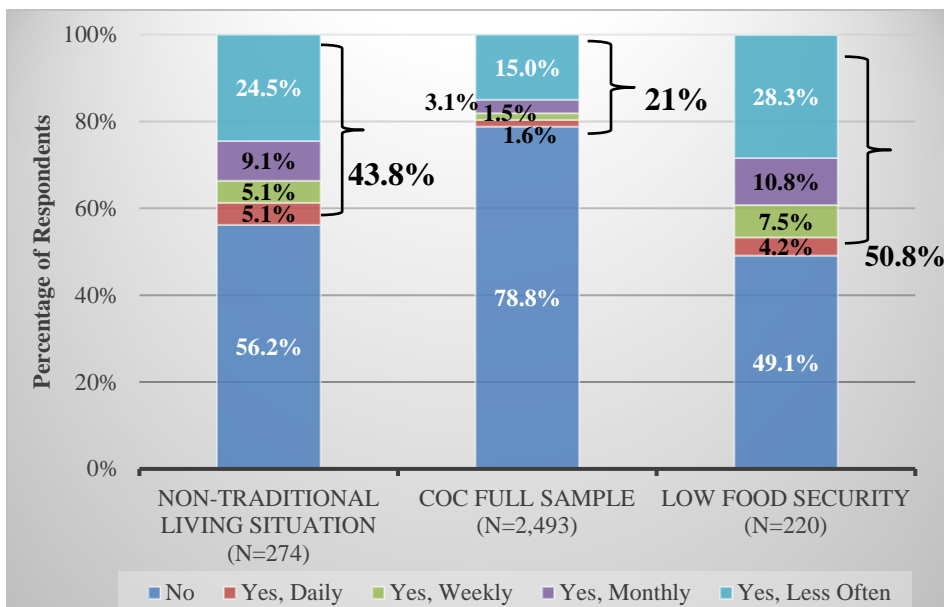


Transportation Security

Transportation was assessed via two items. Respondents were asked the following (see Figure 10):

- “Were there times you needed to get to campus, but could not, due to a lack of transportation?”
- “Do you have transportation to and from College of the Canyons?”

Figure 10. Lack of Transportation with Detail on Frequency



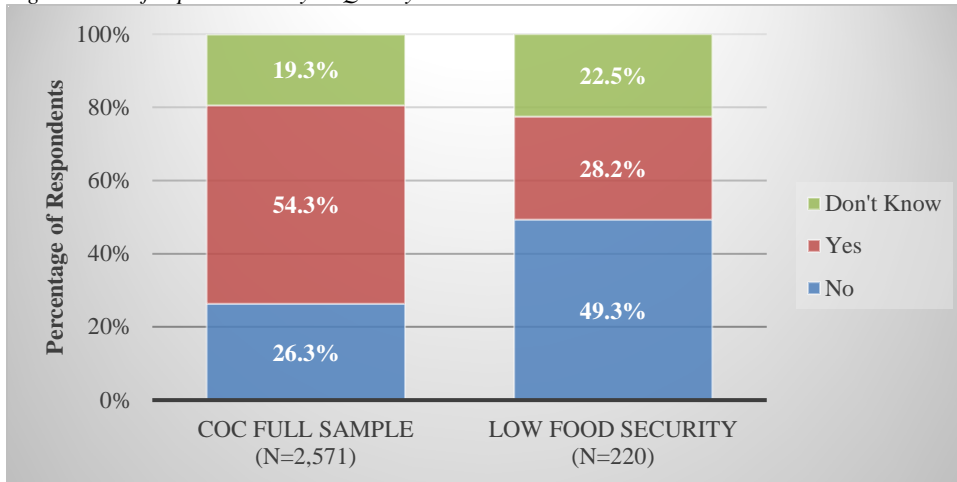
Just under a quarter of COC survey respondents (21%) report a lack of transportation to campus. This rate is twice as high among students who reported non-traditional living situations (43.8%) and even higher among those students who were identified as having low food security (50.8%). Thus, indicating that these students have multiple hardships across food, housing, and/or transportation.

Financial Security

Financial need was assessed with two items:

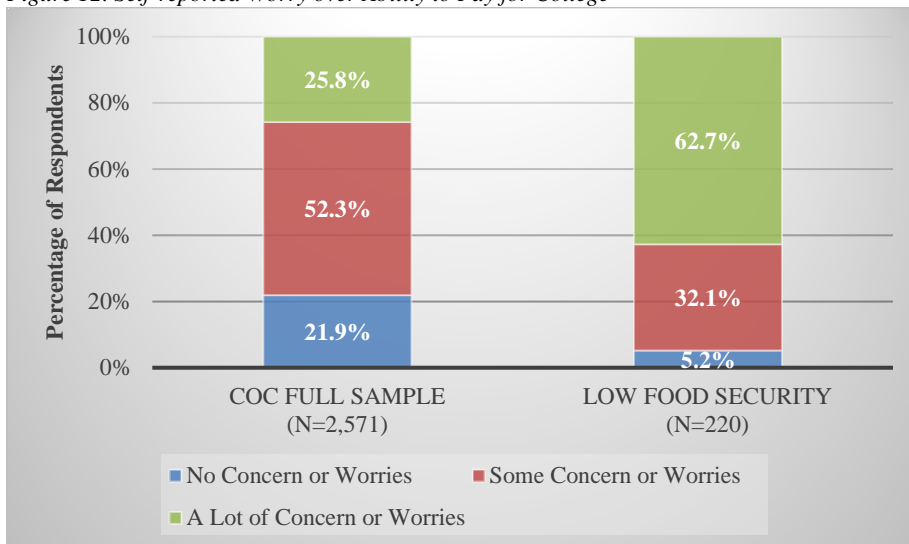
- “If you need financial assistance quickly, do you have someone to turn to for help?”
- “Do you have any concern or worries about your future ability to pay for your college education?”

Figure 11. Self-reported Ability to Quickly Obtain Financial Assistance



Just over a quarter of the COC survey respondents (26.3%) reported that they do not have someone to turn to in the event they would need quick financial assistance. This rate is almost twice as large (49.3%) among those low in food security (see Figure 11).

Figure 12. Self-reported Worry over Ability to Pay for College



Among the overall respondents, 25.8% report “A lot of concern or worries” about their ability to pay for college. Over twice as many (62.7%) low food security students report worrying about their ability to pay for college (see Figure 12).

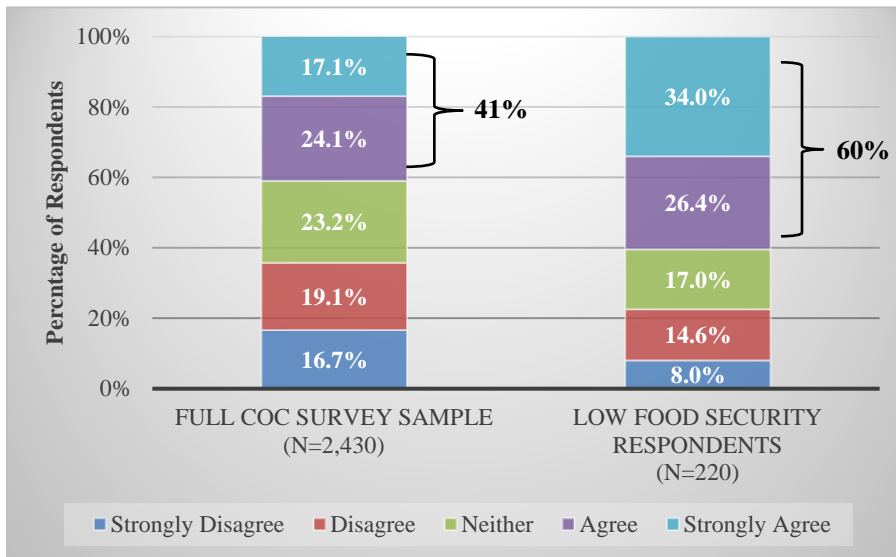
Social Support

Students were asked to indicate their agreement with the following questions regarding the level of social support they received from their parents/family, peers, and classmates:

- My parents/family expect me to contribute to the family household income.
- My parents/family are very understanding of my course/class obligations as a student.

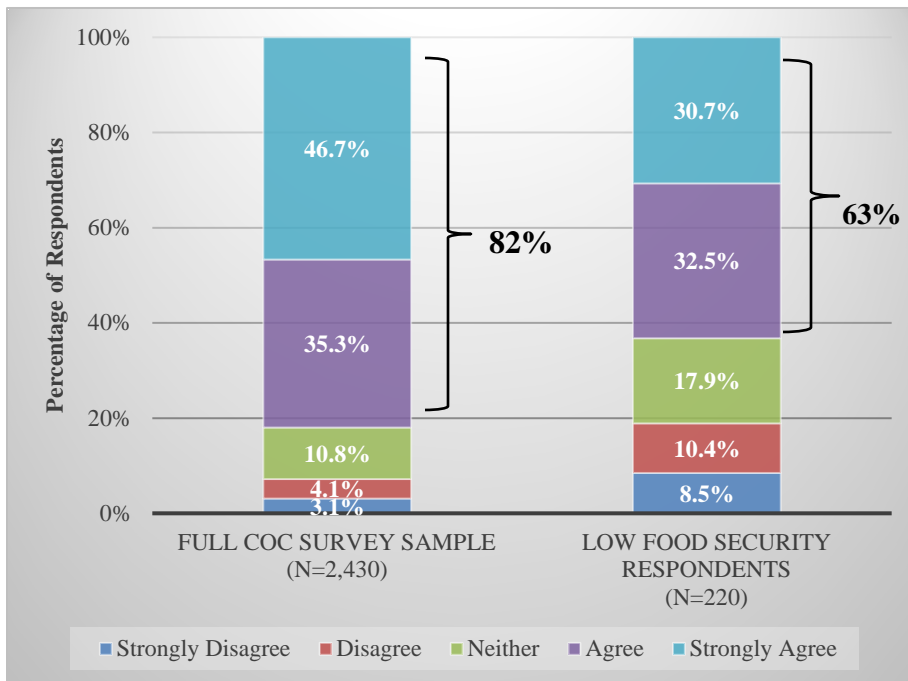
- My parents/family support my pursuit of a college education.
- My parents/family expect me to be responsible for other family members (siblings, grandparents, cousins, etc.)
- I feel I could perform better academically if I have no familial/cultural challenges.
- When I need help with a school-related problem, there is someone in my family who can help me.
- I feel that I can approach my professors with my problems.
- I meet up with classmates outside of class.

Figure 13. Parents Expect the Students to Contribute to the Family Household Income



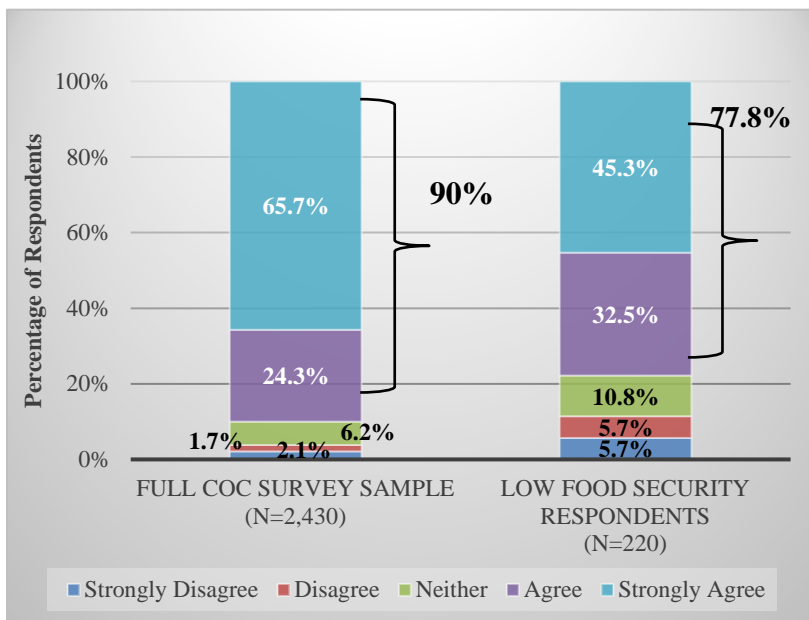
Students who had identified as experiencing low food security were more likely to agree (60%) that their parents expect them to contribute to the family household income than the overall COC survey population (41%).

Figure 14. Student Self-report of Parents Understanding Students' Course/Class Obligations



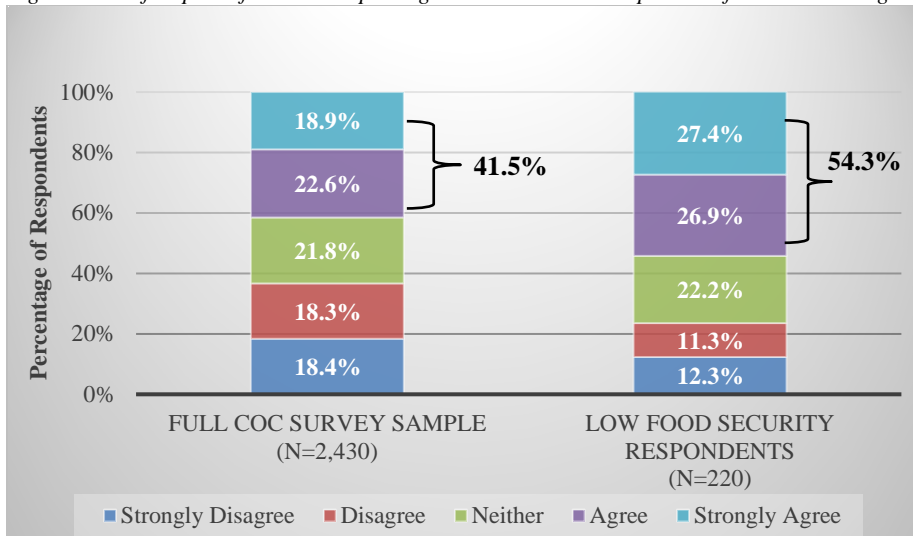
Students who had identified as experiencing low food security were less likely to agree (63%) that their parents were understanding of their obligations as a student compared to the overall general COC survey population (82%).

Figure 15. Student Self-Report of Family Supporting Pursuit of a College Education



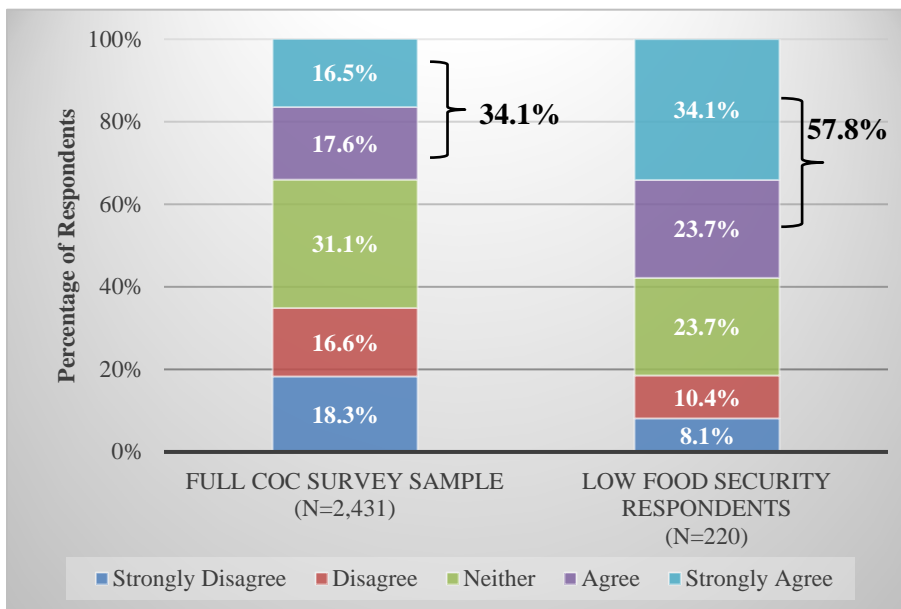
A majority (90%) of all respondents from the COC survey reported that their parents/family support their pursuit of a college education; however, a smaller proportion of low food security respondents (77.8%) report the same (see Figure 15).

Figure 16. Self-Report of Parents Expecting the Student to be Responsible for Other Siblings



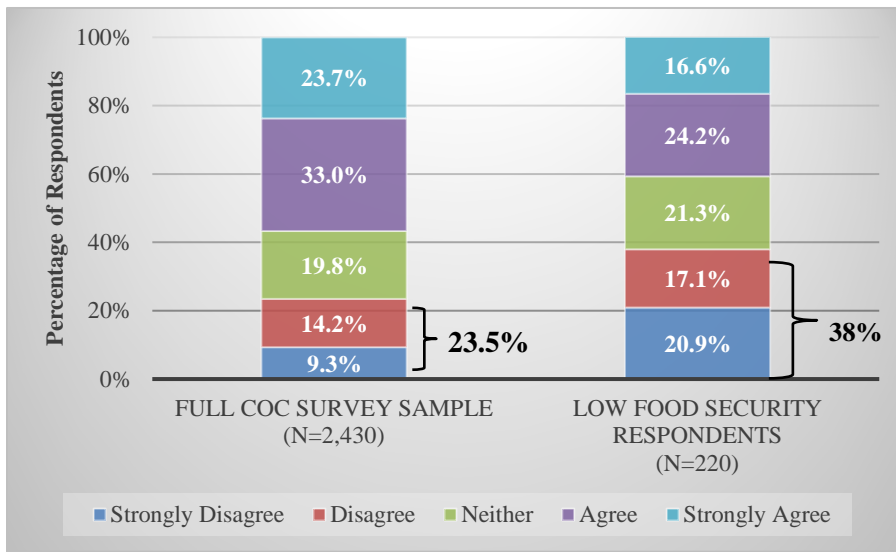
A little over half of students who indicated they have low food security (54.3%) report that their parents expect them to be responsible for their siblings as compared to the rest of the general COC survey respondents (41.5%).

Figure 17. Self-Report of Familial/Cultural Challenges



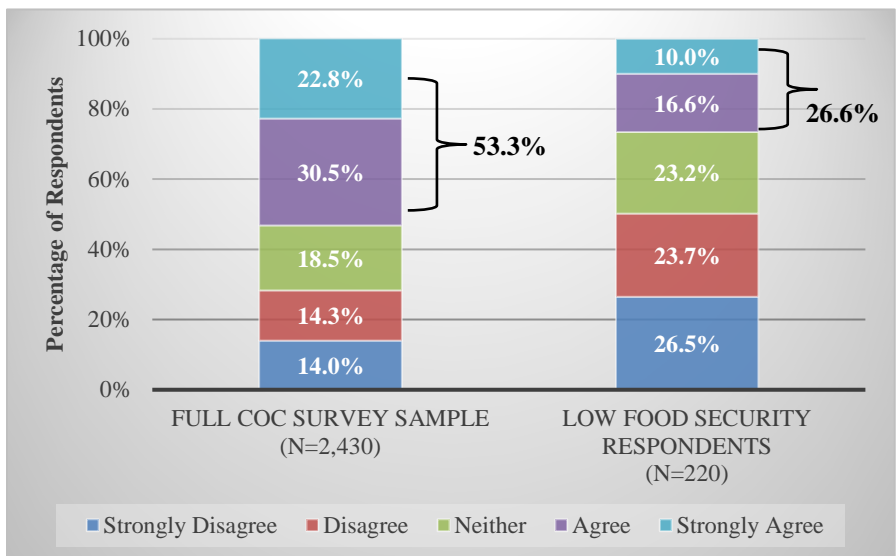
A majority of low food security students (57.8%) report familial/cultural challenges as compared to only 34.1% of the general COC survey respondents (see Figure 17).

Figure 18. Self-Report of Knowing Someone on Campus to Ask for Help with a School-Related Problem



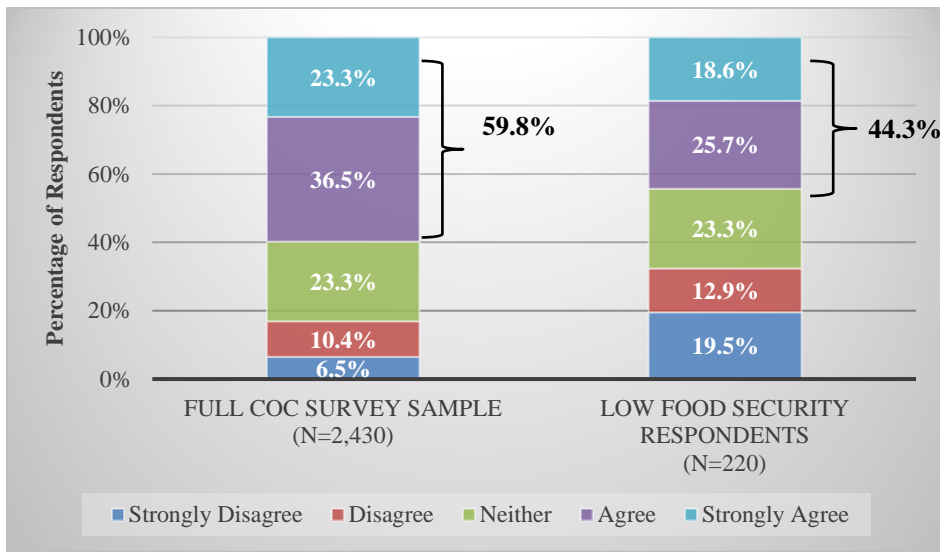
Over a third of low food secure students (38%) do not know someone on campus they can ask for help with a school-related problem compared to 23.5% of the general COC survey respondents who reported not knowing someone on campus they could ask for help (see Figure 18).

Figure 19. Self-Report of Being Able to Turn to Family to Ask for Help with a School-Related Problem



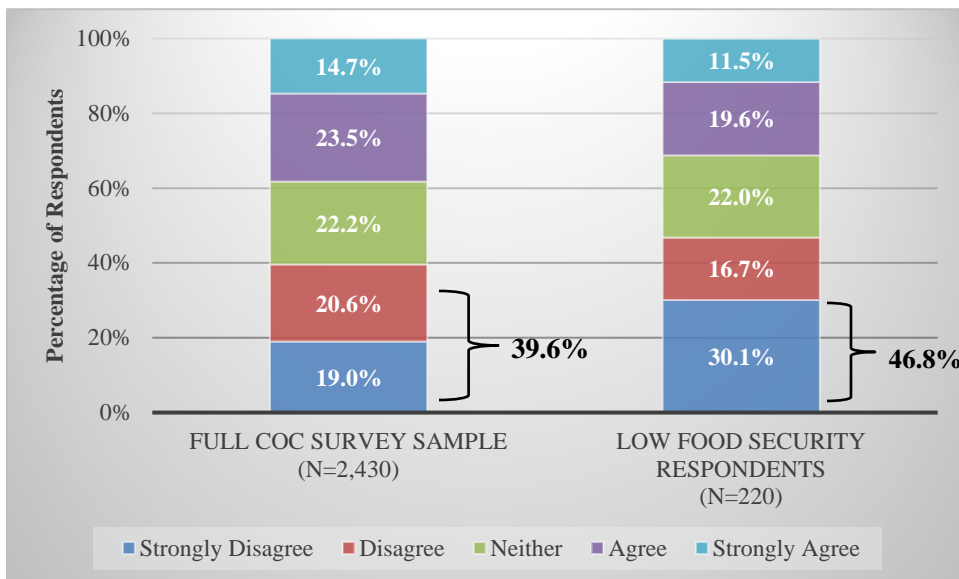
Only half as many low food secure students (26.6%) self-report being able to turn to their family/parents for support with a school-related problem as compared to the general COC student survey respondents (53.3%).

Figure 20. Self-Report of the Student Feeling They Can Approach Professors



A greater percentage of the general full COC survey sample (59.8%) feel that they can approach professors as compared to the students who reported experiencing low food security (44.3%).

Figure 21. Student Self-report of Meeting up with Classmates Outside of Class



A larger proportion of students who experience low food security (46.8%) disagreed that they meet up with classmates outside of class as compared to the general full COC survey sample (39.6%).

Key Results Disaggregated by Ethnicity

Food security, homelessness, transportation security, concern about financial ability to pay for college, and parents expectations about contributing to the family household income were disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, age, first-generation status and full-time/part-time student status. These results were compared to the full COC survey sample within a table for ease of the reader. In Table 4, Black/African-American, Latinx, and Multi-racial students had higher proportions of students within the low food secure, transportation insecure, and financially concerned groups than what they represented

within the full COC survey sample. Thus, they were over-represented among these “at-risk” groups (See Table 4). LatinX and Black/African-American had higher proportions of students whose parents expect them to contribute to the family household income as compared to the proportions they represent within the full COC survey sample.

Table 4. Disaggregation by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Full COC Survey Sample (N=2,496)	Low Food Security Respondents (N=220)	Homeless Respondents (N=127)	Transportation Insecure (N=176)	Concern: Financial Ability to Pay for College (N=1,931)	Parents Expect Me to Contribute to Household Income (N=995)
White	30.50%	21.30%	30.70%	16.70%	27.20%	23.70%
LatinX	36.30%	42.20%	29.10%	38.50%	38.60%	43.20%
Black/Af-Amer.	3.50%	9.00%	6.30%	7.50%	3.70%	4.80%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	6.50%	3.80%	6.30%	12.10%	6.50%	6.50%
Native Amer./Alaskan	0.30%	1.40%	0.80%	0.60%	0.30%	0.10%
FilipinX	4.30%	2.80%	1.60%	3.40%	4.50%	4.40%
Other Non-White	1.80%	1.40%	0.80%	1.10%	1.80%	2.20%
Unknown	1.00%	1.90%	4.70%	2.30%	1.10%	0.90%
Multiracial	15.90%	16.10%	19.70%	17.80%	16.30%	14.10%

*Native American/Alaskan sample size is less than 10 thus; proportions are not called out due to small sample sizes.

Key Results Disaggregated by Gender

Females were slightly over-represented among the transportation insecure (62.1%), financially concerned (61.8%), and the group expected to contribute to family household income (62.2%) as compared to the proportion that females respondents in the general COC survey (58.8%).

Table 5. Disaggregation by Gender

Sex	Full COC Survey Sample (N=2,491)	Low Food Security Respondents (N=220)	Homeless Respondents (N=127)	Transportation Insecure (N=176)	Concern: Financial Ability to Pay for College (N=1,931)	Parents Expect Me to Contribute to Household Income (N=995)
Male	39.10%	39.40%	38.60%	33.90%	35.60%	36.20%
Female	58.80%	56.30%	55.90%	62.10%	61.80%	62.20%
Non-Binary*	1.80%	3.80%	3.90%	3.40%	2.10%	1.30%
Other*	0.30%	0.50%	1.60%	0.60%	0.40%	0.30%

*Non-Binary and Other samples sizes are each smaller than 10 thus; proportions are not called out due to small sample sizes.

Key Results Disaggregated by Age

Homeless respondents tend to be over-represented among the 26 and older age range of students. Financial concern over the ability to pay for college is over-represented among those students ages 20-35. Transportation insecurity is uniquely over-represented among students aged 18-25 (see Table 6).

Table 6. Disaggregation by Age

Age	Full COC Survey Sample (N=2, 571)	Low Food Security Respondents (N=220)	Homeless Respondents (N=127)	Transportation Insecure (N=176)	Concern: Financial Ability to Pay for College (N=1,931)	Parents Expect Me to Contribute to Household Income (N=995)
Less than 18	5.90%	4.70%	3.10%	4.60%	5.90%	3.50%
18-19	32.00%	24.40%	11.80%	37.40%	32.50%	23.70%
20-25	37.90%	46.50%	37.00%	38.50%	38.80%	41.00%
26-35	13.90%	16.40%	31.50%	10.90%	14.30%	17.70%
36-40	2.70%	1.90%	5.50%	1.70%	2.30%	3.90%
41-49	4.30%	4.70%	7.10%	3.40%	3.70%	5.80%
50+	3.30%	1.40%	3.90%	3.40%	2.50%	4.30%

Key Results Disaggregated by First-Generation Student Status

Food insecurity, homelessness, transportation insecurity, financial worries, and expectations to contribute financially to the household income are all over-represented among first-generation college students (see Table 7).

Table 7. Disaggregation by First-Generation vs. Continuing-Generation College Student Status

FGEN	Full COC Survey Sample (N=2, 571)	Low Food Security Respondents (N=220)	Homeless Respondents (N=127)	Transportation Insecure (N=176)	Concern: Financial Ability to Pay for College (N=1,931)	Parents Expect Me to Contribute to Household Income (N=995)
First-Generation	58.70%	71.40%	63.60%	63.60%	59.70%	66.60%
Continuing-Generation	41.30%	28.60%	36.40%	36.40%	40.30%	33.40%

Key Results Disaggregated by Full-time/Part-Time Status

Full-time students are slightly over-represented within the low-food security student group (54%) as compared to the proportion they represent within the general COC survey sample (53.4%). Part-time students are slightly over-represented within the homeless (47.2%) student respondent group and family household income contribution respondent group (47.7%) as compared to the proportion they represent within the general COC survey sample (44%) (see Table 8).

Table 8. Disaggregation by Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status

Full-Time/Part-Time	Full COC Survey Sample (N=2, 571)	Low Food Security Respondents (N=220)	Homeless Respondents (N=127)	Transportation Insecure (N=176)	Concern: Financial Ability to Pay for College (N=1,931)	Parents Expect Me to Contribute to Household Income (N=995)
Full-Time	53.40%	54.00%	50.40%	52.60%	53.80%	49.50%
Part-Time	44.00%	43.20%	47.20%	43.40%	43.90%	47.70%
Don't Know	2.60%	2.80%	2.40%	4.00%	2.30%	2.80%

The final question on the survey was an open-ended free response where students had the opportunity to submit any concerns and further suggestions regarding food/housing, transportation or anything else pertaining to College of the Canyons. The table below (see Table 9) is a list of themes in alphabetical order that students' responses have been grouped into. The full list of responses can be found in Appendix B.

Table 9. Themes from Open-Ended Responses

Open-Ended Themes
Better advertisement of college resources to every classroom
Better campus security
Building community is hard clubs disband after the semester ends
COC daycare assistance
DACA assistance
Dorms for students
Financial Aid should visit every classroom
Financial literacy
Food in the cafeteria is expensive
Help with anxiety and depression
Help with transportation I've missed classes because of transportation issues
Job finding assistance
Professors/ Campus personelle say racist things
Shuttle between campuses
Taxes Assistance
Textbook Recycling
Transportation between VLC and CCC can be difficult
Transportation from LA/ San Fernando Valley to Santa Clarita is difficult

Recommendations

Upon review of the results the following recommendations should be taken into consideration:

- Explore ways to increase the awareness of the Food Pantry (BaNC):
 - Specifically, among those students low in food security
 - According to open-ended responses; find innovative ways to remove the stigma of food insecurity
- Students who were found to have low food security were more likely to have comorbid needs (i.e., other disadvantages as well) such as homelessness/ housing insecurity/ lower social support/ greater financial concerns/ lower financial support etc., thus:
 - Ensure that when a student receives food at the BaNC that other needs aside from food are assessed and met such as other means of social support and financial assistance.
- With respect to College of the Canyons equity work it is notable that our Black/African-American, Latinx, Multi-racial, and first-generation students were more apt to experience low food security, homelessness, transportation insecurity, financial concern and worry, and parental expectations regarding contributing to the family household income:
 - Explore ways to reduce or remove these barriers which may assist in removing some of the equity gaps we see in academic achievement outcomes for these particular student groups.

References

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- Harris, A. (2019, July 11). *Many College Students are Too Poor to Eat*. Retrieved from The Atlantic: <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/07/lawmakers-introduce-bill-address-campus-hunger/593704/>

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Transportation: Open-Ended Responses
Would like to see improvements in public transportation if possible such as the SCV buses.
transportation to the canyon country campus is very difficult because the bus times are very unreliable at that stop (+- 30 min a lot of the times) and a rideshare is typically about \$20. This makes it even harder to schedule my work hours or follow through with my committments.
transportation
The lack of transportation within the city to los angeles makes my life very difficult (the city does not haxe zip or blue la cars). Also the Amtrak can be expensive. I live in LA and I need to commute to IA for resources like food, work, to my shelter. Also some professors sometimes are very harsh and disrespectful with students. I heard one professor saying very racist things againts black people in class and other saying that she decides who has a disability and who doesnt to a 74 year old woman in a walker. I feel also that there is not a student community at coc because after each semester the clubs all kind of get lost, no one maintains the same website or contact kist for alumni. Going to coc can be very discouraging but I know things can get better for future students because this is my last semester thankfully. They made it very hard
Shuttles (like golf cart trolleys) to take students quickly to classes when parking at the bottom of the hill (new parking garage) to the top of the hill (Bonelli, University Center, etc.) to encourage less parking lot drama.
Possibly a car pool database; I live in bakersfield and drive up monday for class and stay in valencia somewhere for my class tuesday
Please bring back Lyft discounts. You have no idea how helpful and how much I relied on them. Lyfts everyday are expensive and make it difficult to buy other necessities. Thanks
Parking permits need to be less expensive for students who do not qualify for bog waiver.
Parking is a expensive
Parking fees should be waived
Other reduced cost methods of transportation. There are not many bus stations near my housing, and those that are come later in the day.
offer free bus passes to students.
More grants that assist students with transportation
I would love to find out more about housing because I live 20 minutes away from school with no transportation, I don't know where to look for more options.
I use Lyft/uber to get to school every week (I live in the valley) and I waste majority of my money on that.
I think the pantry is great. I think public transportation from Castaic is great. I appreciate the no permit needed after 5 rule in Fall '18. All of my teachers have included mental health info in my syllabus. I appreciated the info guide on canvas this semester. Wish I worked closer to SCV and COC so that I could be on campus during the day. Would appreciate more regularly updated sites for students services, like where to get your ID or volunteer opportunities.
I know a lot of my friends need help with money issues so the food and especially transportation needs to be more available to them and more known that there is something they can use
I have a form of transportation but it is not always reliable. I usually bounce between family so I don't become bothersome. Possibly a low-cost apartment complex for students that want to live near the school.
Having the bus as a transportation sucks they leave you behind I be close to a bus and leaves me, also they stop running so early and not only that but buses take forever to pass by if you get left behind.
free food would be great for students who are unable to buy food due to transportation, textbooks, and tuition.
Food/housing, and transportation would be good if the students had low costs for getting them.

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Transportation: Open-Ended Responses
as someone who can't drive, I relied on the uber discount to get me to and from school. Luckily I have the means to get home without it. However, I know there are people who also relied on it because they couldn't pay the full price
Providing free and reduced transportation as well as tuition for those in need
Provide some lyft/uber discounts to help with transportation.
I live in the San Fernando Valley. The last bus traveling from College of the Canyons to the San Fernando valley departs at 9:23 pm. It would be helpful if there was a bus available around 10:00 pm, so I could take more classes at nighttime.
i just need a car to get around from work, home and school
City buses rarely ever run on time
Advertise the school bus pass better. I know it exists but can't find it.
I wish COC establishes a tram service on and around campus.
Maybe offer discounted bus passes for the local transit and set up a board for college students interested in sharing a house or apartment with other college students.
Some teachers will dock my credit if I'm late for class, but I don't control when the buses run late.
codes for lyft really help out when i don't have a car
I would say lowering the cost of a parking permit but, then again, it's not crazy expensive like a UC.
I think public education is ridiculously underfunded. I feel it would improve the well being of all students if this pantry has plenty of fresh fruit, or healthy snacks, granola, or some kind of fiber-rich, whole foods with antioxidants to improve circulation, brain function, and provide vitamins and minerals most people are deficient in. It would be great if there were better public transportation services for students (not Uber or Lyft). Something that actually works to reduce traffic congestion. I realize this is a city problem, and not the school's. I also believe college should be free to the public and subsidized by the state, as we have more than enough flagrant spending power for the military, and obscene tax cuts for the rich and wealthy. No one's education should be hindered because of their economic conditions, but c'est la vie. Bernie 2020? I guess the only viable change is the pantry. I had no idea it existed, but I'll be sure to check it out. Thank you!
possibly offering a student meal voucher at the college cafe
I don't know if the school would be OK with it but it would help students with addiction and alcoholism issues if there were 12 step meetings on campus, especially for ones who don't have a car.

Food Pantry: Open-Ended Responses
would appreciate more info on housing/food options
When it comes to nutrition and food, I feel there are not many choices to choose from that are healthy. Majority of food is chips, soda, cookies, etc. Some people, like me, can not have these items and instead choose to not eat for the day that I am at school. Microwaves provided in more than one building would help students make better choices when it comes to food. Bringing food from home to warm up would allow us to not only save money on food, but allow us to make better choices when it comes to nutrition. There has been plenty of times where I am in class for hours at a time without eating because of limited options. The cafeteria also needs to provide better options for students who are on campus all day.
The food price at school is expensive
The food pantry has been a big help to me when times were tough
More advertising of what avail to students. Perhaps this is something the professors can bring up and discuss at the beginning of each semester. As students develop respect and come to their instructors for advice about school and others.

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Food Pantry: Open-Ended Responses
More advertisement, because many people still do not know what the food pantry is about. We need to get the word out a lot more than usual.
I wish the food pantry was more helpful, sometimes the staff can be a little rude. I do not qualify for calfresh but the health and wellness center should advertise more local support programs like that for the students who dont know
I wish that the food prices at the college were slightly cheaper than the prices they are now.
I was unaware there is a food pantry on campus. It would be a good idea to include an additional \$5. to the student fee to support the food bank.
I never heard of the school's food pantry before. Maybe more should be done to make people aware of it.
I feel that many students including myself are embarrassed to go to a food pantry. Maybe there can be something similar to EBT for students. Even \$25 a week would help a lot of students with groceries or food
I was not aware of the food pantry so maybe just making that more well known.
Food should be available to those in need
food prices should lower
food is a necessity it could help a lot even for a free snack just to get by.
Food concerns, perhaps incorporate some items that are good for people with allergies. That might be one disadvantage why some students don't seek for the food pantry
Find ways to get word out about the food pantry better, because I have spoken to a lot of students who did not know about it!!!
Bring more awareness to the food pantry and other support COC offers.
Better campus food
Being aware of opportunities and information is the one the most significant aspects of being a student. Sometimes information or opportunities are not made aware to students.
Awareness of the food pantry.
More information about food pantry should be given.
I have never once heard about housing or food help in the 3 years I have been to COC perhaps emails or announcements would be good.
Have trouble paying for basic needs such as housing utilities and food
Lower the price of food retailers on campus. Retailers give discounts/food cards to qualified participants.
I walk pass area's that offer free snacks, but their baskets are always empty. I don't want to beg for food, as fear of being humiliated or judged in public.
Open Food Pantry more often
Free food or rather available food would always be a good option especially for students that are mostle on campus
Can I donate to the pantry???
If someone wants to donate food, where should the food go on campus. Also, is the pantry open most of the day?
I am not really sure about how the food pantry works, but maybe if food assistance could be given in a form of cash just so a student can get the food they need might be a decent option. (Just a Preference)

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Textbooks: Open-Ended Responses
There should be a textbook recycling program on campus so that students who want to donate their old textbooks can. These textbooks should be made available to all students free of costs. Similar to used textbooks but free. Only verification for rental of the book would be proof of registered class that textbook is required for and student ID as well as guarantee that the textbook will be returned at the end of class/semester. Eases student cost for textbooks.
Textbooks are too expensive.
Paying for textbooks suck =(
Make classes and textbooks cheaper please & thanks!!!!
It would be really nice if there were more scholarships available for every person not just ethnic specific or language specific. I'm white and 90% of scholarships don't apply to me but I'm struggling just as much and can barely afford to get by other than food and minimum bills. I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I want to move out of my house but that seems almost impossible with the cost of everything and scholarships are so hard to find and apply for. Plus everything in the student store at COC is way too expensive and classes are killing me. I pay about 700 dollars a semester for only two classes and books. The cost of everything is way too high. I understand that's the real world to grow up and learn how to budget your money but my paychecks are gone only a couple days after I get them, spent on necessities and bills. How am I ever supposed to get my own place or be able to afford the groceries I need. All I can afford is Del Taco and bills.
I've applied for fasfa and I still haven't received it I need to buy my textbooks ASAP
I wish I can easily obtain grants to continue my education. I find it very expensive to enroll for a class plus the books.
I needed to buy my textbooks before the temporary access online was disconnected, however, the loan disbursement for me wasn't until March 6th because I applied for financial aid the first week that school was in session. I spent almost \$250, leaving me with quarters for food and gas until the loan comes in on March 6th. Additionally, someone in the financial aid office misinformed me regarding my financial aid status last Thursday. I called to make sure everything was in order. Turns out I was missing one item and the person told me I had everything I needed. Now I will not be receiving my loan until March 27th. I do not know what I will be doing for food and other living expenses that I won't be able to afford due to bills. I have minimized my bills as far as I possibly can and I am stuck between a rock and a hard place. I am grateful that the loan will eventually come in, I am just feeling overwhelmed about this next month. This first one has been hard enough! Thanks for your time and concern for all of us students. I know the purpose of this survey is to protect and assist future students, so thank you for that! :)
How do I get books for cheap when professors require them? How do I afford food on my small budget?
College of the Canyons need to stop treating out of state students like garbage and give us our financial aid at the beginning of the semester, I really sucks when I can't use Federal Student Loans to buy books, help with rent, gas or food for the entire semester.
A waiver for books would help me. I qualify for the BOG waiver but have trouble paying for books. I will qualify for financial aid at the end of this session.
A sponsored rideshare more visible security more lighting at night more affordable books financial assistance case by case

Homeless & Housing: Open-Ended Responses
Maybe provide an area where homeless students can camp at night and be in a safe place?
It's probably way out of the budget, and probably has a host of other problems, but dorms or nearby living areas for homeless students only might be a good work-around. Student grants could help pay for it, and the school could do a process that proves that the student requires a place to live.

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Homeless & Housing: Open-Ended Responses
I think that maybe there should be a sort of program to help people who might very well be homeless soon.
Affordable housing should be provided to students, many students including myself are currently homeless in order to pursue an education.
There needs to be a safe option for homeless students over the age of 24-25.
The vending machine does not work at the canyon campus. Housings is to expensive and people do not get enough in wages.
The cost of housing and living arrangements in California is ridiculous for college students. As an independent student, it is VERY difficult to attend college full-time while supporting myself. It would be convenient for affordable housing to become available for students (on and off campus). I'd rather not go into huge debt just to be able to attend college full-time while paying all my bills.
Some students do not have family or housing and go to college to get out the situation, more help from the college for students who really need the help would be ideal.
Often times, my housing situation is threatened because of a strained relationship with my family. I don't know of any resources or affordable housing I could turn to.
lower housing costs
I'm happy to see this survey is being done! It's a real problem for so many students. I am fortunate that my housing and food needs are already met. Thank you!
I'm glad someone cares enough to listen; however, I don't know what could be done. If I were going to try, I would say instead of making parking structures, maybe that could of been a housing for the needy.
Housing is expensive for my mom and childcare for my brother is a pain but there's not much y'all can do for that probably
Help with finding housing.
affordable housing for students that make a low income. remain the five dollar coc students discount for students who dont drive and have class at night and the local city bus stops running before 9:30PM, and there are some classes that end at 10PM and there are no city buses, so sometime have to walk alone at night to a nearest metro link station.
Knowing that Santa Clarita has ordinances against sleeping in cars and that the campus parking closes at night after a certain point is stressful to me. Sometimes I get sick and need to have someone pick me up from school, but I can't leave my car at the college lot, so I end up driving it to a neighborhood to park it overnight until my friends can drive me back to get it the next day. There have been times also where I've worried about going home and wanted to just spend the night out but am afraid to sleep in my car for fear it could get towed or I could incur an expensive fine. If the college allowed overnight parking and assured students that they would not face legal repercussions for sleeping in cars on campus, that would help out tremendously.

Financial Aid & Loans: Open-Ended Responses
There is little to no support for students who are financially dependent on their parents but are still expected to pay for school expenses on their own. My parents cannot or will not pay for my current tuition, so I need to take out max loans to cover my costs. However, my parents income is at a threshold where I do not qualify for programs like the BOG waiver, leaving me to pay full price for tuition out of pocket. It is an extremely distressing situation.
the government needs to understand that our PARENT'S income, in no way reflects my financial stability. If my parent's wage is high, you cannot determine that I am financially comfortable when they are not financially responsible for me, nor can you determine whether I am able to get financial aid. Additionally, please take into consideration online campus students that don't have access to campus.

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Financial Aid & Loans: Open-Ended Responses
School should offer more financial support for students who are needed.
My mom has a part time job and every month we face if we're going to be able to pay rent. Financial aid helps, but it disappears quickly due to bills. I often pay rent when i can.
Maybe an anonymous list where people that want/need help financially, can add themselves, (contact info) and donations of food, even items such as cars etc received can be given to those on the list.
Just because someone has been working since they were 16 does not mean they have the money to pay for school and don't qualify for financial aid
It would be nice for financial help for middle class families
Is Financial Aid assistance based on 2016 or 2017 only? If so, that is unreasonable as my financial circumstances have changed drastically. I believe I can benefit from FA sooner at this time despite my financial situation 2 or 3 years ago. What options are there for me without resorting to a student loan?
I'm not sure if I can make the bills without financial assistance. This includes the loans I have already pulled to attend school. I have a lot of worries about supporting my family let alone myself.
I wish financial aid was easier to get for students returning to college after dropping out and failing previously.
I need more opportunities for financial stability.
I feel like financial aid should be given to not only Citizens/Residence but dream act students who maintain a good GPA
I am the soul provider for my spouse, parent, and siblings. I work 57 hours a week and can't get financial aid or scholarship because i take less than 6 units. Even though I have 4.00 GPA
I am a single mother of two sons who works hard and has no financial support. Anything that can be done to assist people in this situation would be beneficial to furthering their education and getting them out of financial despair.
higher financial aid or school grants
Free school program for students that cant afford food here at school because of financial reasons.
financial aid for tuition
does not receiving enough funding for food stamps to buy food qualify to receive help? does not being able to land a different job and having a job that doesn't provide enough stability in financial stability qualify to receive help?
As a student and also a college assistant at College of the Canyons, I definitely believe that the Financial Aid department should try to reach out to more students. For example, making it a requirement to go to every class and make sure students are reached out to so that they know the difference between FAFSA and the CCPG waiver, and whether or not they qualify for any aid.
While taking courses to transfer I feel as though I am relearning what was taught to me in high school for free a second time and paying for it. Student loans are guaranteed by the US government and tank our credit I just wish we better understood the long term ramifications to our credit scores.
They're needs to be more social support at school. So many people struggle with anxiety and depression but rarely ever seek help or counsel. Along with that professors need to be more understanding, sometimes we don't have the money to buy the book and Professors get upset or frustrated with us but it's not our fault. I have a friend who doesn't have a stable place to sleep, and can't move out because he can't afford it. He has to pay so much for tuition because he moved away for 3 years. There should be some sort of program that people can apply for to help get housing or get help finding a place. Some sort of housing program needs to be implemented so people don't need to be wondering where they're going to sleep at night.
the school could provide a bus schedule to give those who commute different options to get to school so they can save money

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Financial Aid & Loans: Open-Ended Responses
Pricing is high, as a student that struggles with money, eating at least 2 meals a day is difficult. I have to worry about other potential factors.
Need money , starve, starve
My friend dropped out of college due to late submission for FAFSA and now she has moved out of state where its cheaper to live and is working full time and not in high education. I think it's really unfortunate because her family didn't have to money and now she just doesn't have more than a diploma to show for it. just food for thought.
More access to work while working, taxes aren't always accurate when you've recently lost a job and want to go back to school yet your taxes aren't pliable to the money your making at the moment
I think implementing a housing system for students who need to get out of a particular unstable situation and for those who just may not want to live at home should be an option for College of the Canyons students. It would also be greatly helpful to have more information readily available in concern to student loans when planning to transfer.
This isn't a suggestion, but I just thought that it was super helpful that COC provides help with taxes. It is very useful and beneficial for me as well as many other students, so thank you.
The threshold for the BOG waiver is too low.
where can I get more money

Awareness Promotion of Food Pantry BaNC: Open-Ended Responses
there should be more awareness about these issues without embarrassing the students about their current situation. we can give hope and help them in their time of need
Student need to know more about resources available of campus to support them.
Promoting these programs with big posters all over campus would spread the word. Perhaps giving some instructors handouts to pass out in class will make people more aware of these programs.
Maybe send out a message via COC's instructure website, where most students go to almost daily.
Make it well know and the process easy
Let the students know well visually where we can acquire lots of these resources preferably where many people meet up such as the cafeteria
let every student, specially the internationals, know how to get all this help.
Just knowing something is available is important
It would be nice to know about support that is available to the students. There have been many options that could have been useful had I known they were an option with my personal and educational goals. Thank you.
Information about on-campus resources need to more readily available and promoted to students. I had no idea about a food pantry and I know of at least one other student that lives in her car, but she's in it full time and I'm in mine part time. I stay in mine mid-week to save on gas expenses so that I can afford food and to pay my rent/to keep my apartment. I have a long commute.
I think many students are not aware of all services provided. Maybe more active advertising of student services could help
I feel that the suggestions need to be more advertise for students to be notified.
I believe coc has a great program and they are trying their best to advertise it so that the students who need it the modt can appropriately utilize such support.
Continue to promote the program.
I don't believe the students have the knowledge of the services/resources available to them. Also, I do wonder if those who are indeed in need of such services would reach out for help. I hope so.

Appendix B: Open-Ended Responses

Awareness Promotion of Food Pantry BaNC: Open-Ended Responses
The support system was not widely announced.
Announce food pantry in email
I believe that taking mainly online classes contributes to me being unaware of there being a food pantry on campus for students to use. I learned of it via my professor's syllabus.
Due to me culture, I am not allowed to work. I stay at my parents home but when they're out of town, food gets tight and I ask friends for aid. I also know about the food pantry but I don't know where it is located.

Social Support: Open-Ended Responses
Offer more support for Teen in need and that come from a challenging backgrounds.
More social support and wellness center hours as they are very minimally there.
Making the personal counseling more approachable. Maybe an information meeting or having professors explain it at the beginning of a semester.
If someone needs help or looks like they need help, don't be afraid to approach them and ask them what's going on. If they won't answer, don't push it. They'll come around.
I want to be able to talk to my counselors regarding my future, but can't make an appointment. I think the appointment system needs change or there should be other resources besides the "my planner" online.
I do think a safe space for people grappling with anxiety issues can go when feeling overwhelmed with school work and obligations as well as tutoring from people sensitive to mental health issues and struggles.
Allow more online information about the sources that the school provides so students with anxiety know what they are walking into.
The issue with social support at the college-level of higher education is from how much of a practical purpose it has according to the students. Some students enroll in college with socialization as (at least), a potential reason for doing so, yet others are enrolled with the sole purpose of getting the credentials that will allow them to live happier lives due to the expanded possibility of making a higher salary (among other needs). This polarization, if it can be tackled, should be broken; these two extremes do not mesh well together, especially since multiple motives for enrolling in college exist.
I think an anonymous form of social support for students struggling with problematic professors would be useful, such as a tip line or anonymous request box. If one already exists, it would be useful to make it better known to students. Going to a staff member can feel daunting and my fellow students often suggest direct confrontation without considering the situation that could put the student in.