

## Address Food Insecurity on Campus

### Common Resources

#### Campus Food Pantries:

Food distribution centers on campus funded through community donations, student groups, and/or local food bank partnerships.

#### Meal Swipe Donations:

Students donate unused meal swipes that staff distribute to students.

#### Mobile Food Pantries:

Pop-up style pantries that bring food to campus and are typically only available monthly or weekly.

#### Satellite/Pocket

**Pantries:** Mini food pantries, offering refrigerated meals or non-perishable snacks, are set up in high-traffic locations.

#### Rescued Food Alert

**Systems:** Institutions send out texts, tweets, or use an app, to alert students about leftover food following campus events.

**Single Stop:** Nonprofit organization that partners with institutions to connect students to federal, local, and on-campus resources.

### Enrolled Students Going Hungry

**41%** Of four-year university students are **food insecure**.

**24%** Of students **cut the size of meals or skipped meals** because there was not enough money for food.

**20%** Only 20 percent of students experiencing food insecurity **receive SNAP benefits**.

### Innovative Strategies to Improve Support For Students Experiencing Food Insecurity



#### Raise Awareness of Resources through Peer Advocacy

City University of New York **increases student awareness of resources** with their [Food Security Advocates Program](#). Paid student advocates advertise food insecurity services through print and media campaigns and connect peers with federal and local benefits like SNAP.



#### Incorporate Opportunities for Feedback

American University conducts an anonymous survey emailed to users of the food pantry and uses the feedback to improve the pantry's operations. The survey has a **high participation rate of 85 percent**, demonstrating student interest in improving the program.



#### Use Multiple Channels for Food Distribution

CSU developed Rams Against Hunger to provide emergency food relief to members of the Ram community experiencing food insecurity. The initiative **encompasses multiple food insecurity services**, giving students more flexibility around how they receive support. The program includes initiatives to reduce food waste, increase awareness of available support, and connect students with federal resources. Learn more about this initiative on **the next page**.

# A Holistic Approach to Help Food Insecure Students

## CSU Launched Rams Against Hunger to Combat Food Insecurity on Campus

Current efforts to address food insecurity fail to reach all students in need. Social stigma, hard-to-find service locations, and strict eligibility requirements prevent students from accessing essential support. Colorado State University's [Rams Against Hunger](#) initiative provides multiple avenues for accessing support, so students can choose the option that works best for them. Rams Against Hunger services include a mobile food pantry, meal swipe donations, pocket pantries, a food recovery program, and in person assistance with navigating federal aid eligibility. The multi-pronged approach ensures students have a variety of methods to receive food relief. The visibility of the different services also raises awareness of food insecurity on campus and decreases stigma by allowing community members of different levels of need to access the resources.

### ► CSU's Multi-Pronged Strategy to Combat Student Hunger



#### Minimize Food Waste Through Repurposed Event Food

- The Ram Food Recovery program reduces food waste by allowing students to pick up leftover food from catered campus events.
- Community members sign up for free text alerts on their phone with details on where food is available.
- The program is free for all students, faculty, and staff. Individuals only need to bring a clean container and agree to the [CSU Waiver and Food Safety guidelines](#) to participate.



#### Reduce Barriers to Access for Food Insecurity Resources

- Services like the food bank and pocket pantries are available to all staff, faculty, and students with a campus ID, making the programs easily accessible.
- Pocket pantries are strategically located in high traffic areas so students can easily access pantry items.
- CSU centralizes services information on the Rams Against Hunger webpage. For more EAB research on centralizing services, [click here](#).



#### Use Partnerships to Support Food Insecurity Efforts

- The mobile food pantry is supported by a local food bank that delivers fresh produce, dairy products, and baked goods each month.
- CSU partners with the Larimer County Health District to provide on-campus advising to students on SNAP and other federal benefits.
- Pocket pantries are funded through a \$50,000 donation from the student government. For more information on successful campus partnerships that are profiled in EAB's research, [click here](#).