

Address Housing Insecurity Among Students

Housing Insecurity vs Homelessness

Housing Insecurity

Student experienced any of the following in the last year:

- Had difficult paying or did not pay full cost of rent
- Had trouble paying or did not pay utility bills
- Moved in with others (temporarily or long-term) due to financial concerns
- Moved two or more times
- Borrowed money to help pay bills

Homelessness

Student experienced any of the following in the last year:

- Lived in a shelter
- Did not have a place to sleep for even one night
- Evicted from residence
- Thrown out of residence from family member, relative, or roommate
- Stayed in a shelter
- Stayed in any place not meant for regular housing, even for one night

Students Face Housing Barriers to Academic Success

46% Of students from two and four-year institutions **experienced housing insecurity** in 2018.

17% Of students from two and four-year institutions **experienced homelessness** in 2018.

1.5M **K-12 students** experienced homelessness in the last three school years, a 15% increase since 2015-2016.

Innovative Strategies to Address Housing Insecurity



Negotiate Free Nights For Students With Local Hotels

University of Fraser Valley uses a hotel near campus for athletics-related bookings. As an incentive, the hotel gives the university free nights to use at their discretion. The university uses those nights to provide temporary emergency housing to students while they secure a longer-term housing option.



Pair Emergency Housing With Staff Support

Kennesaw State University's Campus Awareness, Resource, & Empowerment (CARE) Services pairs housing insecure students with on-campus emergency housing rooms. CARE also provides one-on-one advising to help the same students find permanent housing.



Form Partnerships To Provide Low or No-Cost Housing

University of Washington-Tacoma partners with its local housing authority and a private developer to provide housing-insecure students with a place to stay during the school year. **The partnership provides UW-Tacoma with 52 different units for students** experiencing homelessness. Learn more about this initiative on **the next page**.

Sources: Walker, Tim. "They're Invisible": Number of Homeless Students Reaches New High." NEA, National Education Association, February 12, 2020. <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/theyre-invisible-number-homeless-students-reaches-new-high>; Goldrick-Rab, Sara, Christine Baker-Smith, Vanessa Coca, Elizabeth Looker, Brianna Richardson, and Tiffani Williams. Rep. #RealCollege 2020: Five Years of Evidence on Campus Basic Needs Insecurity. The Hope Center, February 2020. https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019_RealCollege_Survey_Report.pdf. EAB interviews and analysis.

Leverage Partnerships To Alleviate Housing Concerns

UW-Tacoma Forms Powerful Community Partnerships to Help Students

Student housing insecurity, often complicated by local housing markets, policies, and politics, is a challenging issue for higher education leaders to address. University of Washington-Tacoma (UWT) navigated this challenge by working with Tacoma's local housing authority and a private developer, Kōz Development, to subsidize rent on individual units through funds set aside for income-qualified homeless and housing insecure students. Eligible students sign an annual lease that can be renewed up to three times as long as the student achieves a 2.0 GPA and at least six credits. The program also accounts for unexpected challenges and allows students to take one term off due to hardship and renew the lease one year past graduation. In 2020, 91 students were receiving housing via UWT's college housing assistance program, demonstrating its reach among students in need.

► Successfully Fund and Connect Students With Housing Assistance



Engage Multiple Partners Within a Community

- In addition to its partnership with a local developer and housing authority, UW Tacoma partners with community members to provide students with housing through the program [Husky2Husky](#).
- Husky2Husky is a homesharing program that matches students with Tacoma residents willing to provide a spare room in their house in exchange for help with household tasks and/or financial exchange.



Spread the Word About Available Services

- UW-Tacoma spotlights its housing program with community members, staff, and local officials through community events in order to encourage continued support for the program.
- Faculty **include information about campus resources in their syllabuses**, ensuring students who may not otherwise know about programs are aware of available services.



Offer Multiple Avenues to Connect With Resources

- The office of student advocacy and support, housed within the student affairs office, serves as a **one-stop shop where students can connect to additional services** like emergency funding, the counseling center, and food insecurity resources.
- The office also has an in-house social worker who connects students demonstrating housing insecurity with the appropriate program.
- Faculty members can also refer students to the office, assisting students who may not visit the office on their own accord.

Source: West, Charlotte. "Colleges start looking for ways to house and feed their students who are homeless." The Hechinger Report. March 18, 2019; EAB interviews and analysis.