



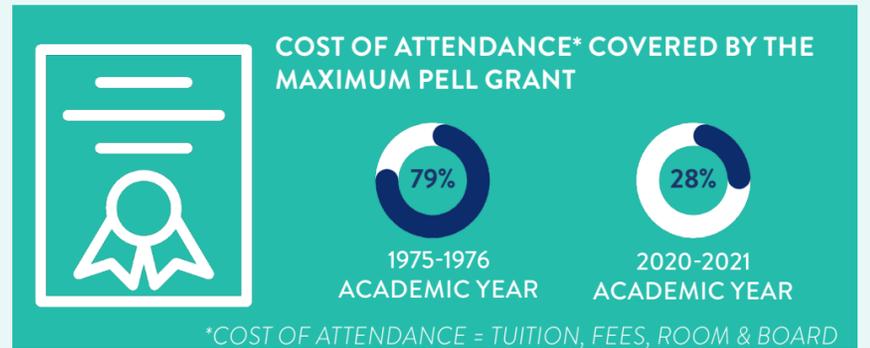
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS AND OUR COLLEGES

IMPROVING COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

The high cost of college is one of the single greatest barriers to students' postsecondary access and success. If America wants to have an educated citizenry and workforce to be competitive in the 21st century, then we need to invest in our students by making college affordable again.

DOUBLE THE MAXIMUM PELL GRANT. For decades the power of the Pell Grant to make college affordable has been declining. As the cost of college continues to rise, the days of an affordable college education no longer exist for many low-income students who rely on the Pell Grant. Doubling the Pell Grant would put college and the American Dream back within reach for millions of students.

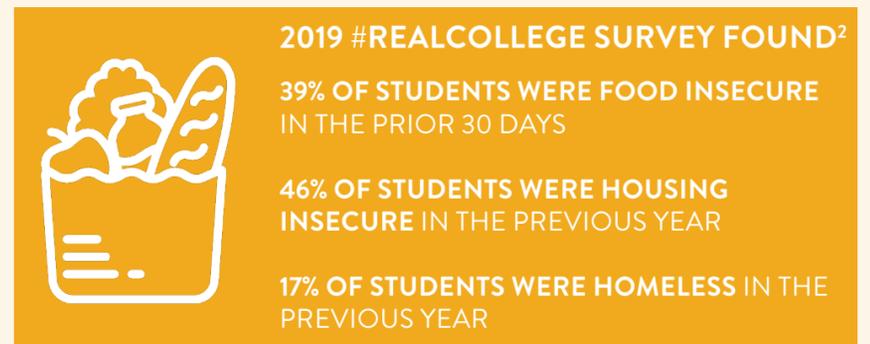


SUPPORT TO LOWER OR ELIMINATE TUITION COSTS FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING A PUBLIC COLLEGE. States have heavily disinvested in higher education over the past two decades. Creating a state-federal partnership to provide lower or free college tuition at public institutions would ensure that another generation has access to the postsecondary education they need for work and life in the 21st century.

REDUCING BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY

For many students, the greatest barriers to academic success come not from the classroom, but from meeting their basic needs. The experiences of the pandemic have further highlighted the importance of providing resources to students that reduce the burden of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness.

MAKE COLLEGE SNAP CHANGES PERMANENT. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, college students with a zero EFC on their FAFSA and those eligible for work study are temporarily able to access SNAP. Making this permanent would improve access to much needed support for thousands of students and ensure that hunger does not hold them back from earning a college degree.

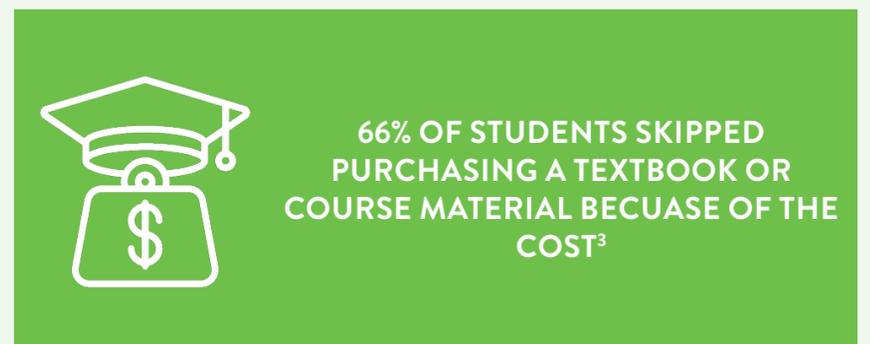


GRANTS TO COLLEGES TO REDUCE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS. Only 57% of community colleges are accessible by transit. Providing grants to colleges to increase the numbers of public transportation stops near colleges, increase frequency of service to better align with class schedules, and help students pay for public transportation would help remove a major barrier for many students.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

From small emergency expenses to the high cost of textbooks, students face major barriers throughout their college journey that can have a serious impact on their ability to be academically successful. The economic impact of the pandemic only exacerbated these issues for many students. Additional support is needed to help students overcome these roadblocks to their future.

EXPANDED INVESTMENT IN OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) Students spend an average of \$1200 a year on textbooks, the largest direct postsecondary cost after tuition. By expanding federal funding of OER programs, students would be able to put their money towards other post-secondary costs like food, housing, and childcare, rather than textbooks, making it more likely that they will remain enrolled.



CREATE A PERMANENT EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM. The CARES Act and subsequent aid packages provided emergency grant funding that supported millions of students during the pandemic. Making these grants permanently available to students for unexpected expenses like a broken-down car, utilities, groceries, or childcare, can have a major impact in mitigating situations that often push students to fall behind or drop out.

¹ Public Transit Map, Seldin Haring-Smith Foundation. <https://www.shs.foundation/shsf-transit-map>

² Baker-Smith, C., Coca, V., Goldrick-Rab, S., Looker, E., Richardson, B., and Williams, T. (2020) #RealCollege 2020: Five Years of Evidence on Campus Basic Needs

³ 2020 NAGLE, C., Vitez, K. (2021) Fixing the Broken Textbook Market, U.S. PIRG.