



**CHICO STATE BASIC NEEDS  
HUNGRY WILDCAT FOOD PANTRY**

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- Established in 2016, **Chico State Basic Needs'** mission is to **improve student success** and **positively engage the community** through the provision of healthy food, financial assistance, financial literacy, emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, wellness programming and policy advocacy for students experiencing food insecurity, hunger, disasters, unstable housing, homelessness and poverty.
- Basic Needs is currently a four person, CSU, Chico **essential department**, administered through Student Affairs, funded through **the State of California, foundations** and **philanthropic donations**. This year, **Basic Needs** is providing student and contracted employment for 30 individuals.
- **High food (50%) and housing (20%) insecurity** amongst students are *symptoms* of high levels of **unmet financial need, inadequate financial aid** and **financial stress** resulting in **barriers to degree attainment** and **healthy communities** - *paramount for economic growth*.
- **The Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry**, open weekdays, will serve an estimated **7,000 students this year**. The Pantry distributes enough food to make **144,000 healthy meals** annually with an **estimated student value of \$621,000**. Food partners include, **Feeding America, North State Food Bank**, non-profits, local pantries, student organizations, farmers, businesses and individuals. **The Pantry** contracts 3 acres at the **University Farm** for **organic produce production** through the **Organic Vegetable Project**.
- Basic Needs continues to facilitate, **1 Stop Benefits Assistance** fully integrated with **Financial Aid, Financial Services, Financial Wellness Clinic (College of Business), Butte County** and providers of benefits beyond financial aid (e.g., CalFresh Outreach, MediCal, aid for undocumented students, aid for children). These benefits provide an estimated **\$5 million in local economic impact annually**.
- In collaboration with the **Financial Aid** and **Financial Services**, **Basic Needs** provided **\$141,300** in **basic needs emergency grants** last year retaining **119 students**.
- Through the **Rapid Re-housing Partnership Grant**, **Basic Needs** manages a five-bed, short-term **emergency shelter** and four **community houses** through **University Housing, Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) and True North Housing Alliance** to prevent student homelessness. This year, RRH partners will provide an estimated **\$100,000 in rental assistance** to **house 50 unhoused students**. **Chico State Basic Needs** has **sheltered more than 200 unhoused students** since 2016.
- Basic Needs is **currently seeking additional funding** to **hire and retain professional staff**, grow **programming**, expand needed **facilities** and develop student **employment** and **affordable housing opportunities**, *as nothing stops poverty like a good job!*