

Basic Assistance for Students In College Act

Bill S.2004

#SupportOurNeedsNY



Support Basic Needs for College Students

- The pandemic has created new societal changes, including social and economic hardships affecting CUNY and SUNY students.
- The changes include more expenses for food and housing, financial hardship amongst many low and moderate-income families, declining per capita college resources, and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) policies that exclude many college students from participation.



Who is Being Affected and How?

- Students of color who come from low-income families or poverty are more likely to experience basic needs insecurity than their white peers
- Food insecurity can affect an individual's mental and physical health, which can also affect their performance in school, work, and daily life.
- Cost of living is going up, leading to housing insecurity, which includes a broad set of challenges, such as the inability to pay rent or utilities, or the need to move frequently.



Background Information and Statistics

- In a 2019 survey of basic needs conducted by the Hope Center (2019), in which approximately 22,000 students participated,
 - Students who lack resources for housing often also lack resources for food. Nearly **7 in 10 CUNY students** responding to the survey experienced food insecurity or housing insecurity or homelessness during the previous year.
- In a 2019 survey of basic needs conducted by the Hope Center (2019), in which approximately 18,280 students participated,
 - **60% of SUNY students** at two-year institutions experienced food insecurity, housing insecurity, or homelessness during the previous year, whereas **47%** of four-year students did
- Healthy CUNY (2020) has conducted a survey of **34,000 undergraduate students** and compared it to the **16% of students in 2018**,
 - almost **50% of students** reported that they worried they would run out of food in 2020, — **a percentage triple of what it was in 2018.**



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What does the Basic Needs Act Include?

- Planning and implementing grants to institutions of higher education by:
 - Identifying and meeting the basic needs of students, including food, housing, transportation, and health care
 - Enroll students who are eligible for federal benefits programs, such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 - Meeting the needs of students by providing free or subsidized food, offering temporary housing, helping students apply for public assistance



Why should I support the Basic Needs Act ?

- Strives to invest in CUNY and SUNY by establishing an equitable COVID-19 recovery for struggling New York College Students
- Gives students the needed resources to complete their degree, which would allow less worries and expenses among CUNY and SUNY students, providing valuable housing resources and reduce food insecurity
- The BASIC Act is a crucial step to expand higher education access by ensuring that students do not go hungry or struggle to afford basic necessities



Additional Information and how you can be involved:

- Prime Sponsor of the Bill: Senator Alex Padilla
- The BASIC Act would establish a \$1 billion grant program to help institutions of higher education identify and meet the needs of students, including food, housing, transportation, childcare and technology.
- Develop an equitable plan and demand legislators to advocate for new food and housing security resources with clear and achievable accountability measures
- Call your representatives and tell them you support Bill S.2004!
- **Find your representative here**

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

<https://www.mygovnyc.org/>



Our Basic Human Needs Should Be Served!