Basic Needs End of Year Report
2022-2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

QUALITATIVE

"Critical to student success at the CSU, the Basic Needs Initiative (BNI) takes a holistic look at students' well-being both inside and outside the classroom, from housing and food security to mental health. We're working together to find better ways to support our students on their path to graduation," (CSU Basic Needs and Wellness webpage). The Basic Needs Initiative at Sonoma State University (SSU) has been housed in Associated Students since 2018, overseeing Lobo's Food Pantry and working with students' housing and/or financial insecurity.

In March of 2023, the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Gerald Jones, reassigned Edie Brown to a new role as the Basic Needs and Care Team Lead Coordinator. She is responsible for working with students experiencing housing and financial insecurity. The transition out of Associated Students began in March and was complete by June.

The DSA Basic Needs Initiative was moved into the Office of the Dean Of Students, headed by Dr. Ryan Jasen Henne formally in April 2023.

There are plans underway to open a one-stop shop office called Noma Cares Central that will encompass and co-locate the Care Team, Basic Needs Initiative, Confidential Advocate, CalFresh, and a rotating counselor from Counseling and Psych Services. Noma Cares Central is set to open in January 2024 in the Zinfandel Village within the residential campus, which is near to Lobo's Food Pantry.

QUANTITATIVE

The 2022-2023 Academic Year (July 1- June 30) started with 275 cases that dated back to April 1, 2020. Of those, 152 cases were open and unresolved. After going through each case and documenting outcomes based on available case notes, they were resolved in Maxient, with a close date of August 2023. This will appear as a long turnaround time for these cases but it is likely the cases closed or were resolved within 30 days of being created (just not resolved).

The students with concerns can choose from services ranging from DACA Renewal Assistance Request, Emergency Grant Request, Food Assistance Program Request, Short-Term Cash Loan Request, and Short-Term Emergency Housing Request.

BNI cases in AY 2020-2021 began on 4/9/2020 and ended on 6/16/2021. There were a total of 194 individual cases with 169 unique students.

- Top singular concerns for AY 20-21 - Emergency Grants (158/81%), Housing (23/11%) Food (12/6%)
- Cases with 2 or more concerns: 58

BNI cases in AY 2021-2022 - There were a total of 80 individual cases with 73 unique students.

- Top singular concerns for AY 21-22 - Emergency Grants (67/83%), Housing (8/10%)
- Cases with 2 or more concerns: 2

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 there were 62 unique cases with 58 unique students

- Top singular concerns for AY 22-23 - Emergency Grants (56/88%), Housing (4/3%)
- Cases with 2 or more concerns: 2
- 4 students had 2 cases (3-Emergency Grants, 1-Food/Financial)
- DACA Renewal Assistance was not a category used this academic year

It can be hypothesized that the decrease in Basic Needs requests from spring of 2020 until spring of 2023 is directly related to the pandemic and COVID moving into its endemic phase.

The top three academic programs listed for BNI cases - No Academic Major Entered on Case (12), Psychology (6), and Undeclared (4). Academic Programs were noted only for 52 cases and not all majors were noted. Only 23 majors of SSU's 44 majors for undergraduates were identified.

Purpose Statement

Critical to student success at Sonoma State University, the Basic Needs Initiative program provides students who may be experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, or are experiencing homelessness, are encountering an emergency, and/or a crisis, with resources and services that remove barriers and empower students to persist and thrive in their educational journey toward academic success.

DATA

The following sections describe the work completed by the Basic Needs Lead Coordinator Edie Brown and the Associated Students Basic Needs Coordinator, Michaela Bietz, for the Academic Year of 2022/2023. The information is broken down into five sections: Emergency Grants, Short Term Cash Loans, Food Assistance/Lobos Pantry, CalFresh, and Short Term Transitional Housing.

These topics were identified to identify trends that our community may be facing so that the Basic Needs team can adjust to meet those needs. Too, this leaves space to identify emerging themes as student needs evolve.

Cases and Concerns

Maxient is the platform used to hold Basic Needs requests. The language does not accurately reflect how the Office of the Dean of Students refers to students and the situations they face. This document will reflect the language used by the Basic Needs team and may be inconsistent with the language utilized by Maxient.

When a student fills out the form requesting assistance it comes to Maxinent as an incident report (IR). Once the IR is reviewed, a new case is created, and given the label case type *Student Emergency Intervention and Basic Needs.* Lastly, it is assigned to the Basic Needs and Care Team Lead Coordinator.

Basic Needs

It is challenging to compare numbers directly as Basic Needs cases were not all tracked through Maxient, and their avenues for assistance do not correspond with the concern categories we have in Maxient. This section is provided to compare how many cases that concern Financial, Food, and Housing Insecurity come to the Care Team first before being directed to BNI. Note that not all cases that come to the Care Team go to Basic Needs if the issue can be worked out before intervention is needed, and not all BNI cases come to the Care Team as its origin.

Program	Financial Insecurity	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity
Basic Needs	36	19	16
Care Team	18	3	21

Table 1: Basic Needs cases v. Care Team cases

Cases and Concerns for AY 2022-2023

Individual Students	Unique Cases	Unique Concerns
58	62	60

Table 2: Unique Individuals, Unique Cases, and Unique Concerns for the 2022/2023 Academic Year

Concern	22/23	21/22	20/21
DACA Renewal Assistance Request	0	1	3
Emergency Grant Request & Financial Issue	58	67	158
Food Assistance Program Request	2	0	12
Short-Term Cash Loan Request	1	3	10
Short-Term Emergency Housing Request.	1	8	23
Total concerns	62	79	206

Table 3: All concerns for the last three academic years

Classification	Emergency Grant Request	Financial Issue	Housing insecure	Short-Term Cash Loan Request	Total
No Classification Entered on Case	11	0	0	1	12
Freshman	2	0	0	0	2
Sophomore	5	0	0	0	5
Junior	11	0	1	0	12
Senior	18	2	2	0	22
Graduate	1	0	0	0	1
Total	48	2	3	1	54

Table 4: Total of All Concerns by Classification for AY 22/23

EMERGENCY GRANTS

- Number of Cases - 56
- Ethnicity/Race - see Table 5
- Gender - Female 67% (37), Male 22% (12), N/A 11% (6) (55 total)
- Classification -
    - Freshman - 2
    - Sophomore - 7
    - Junior - 12
    - Senior - 22
    - Graduate - 1
    - n/a - 12 (area left blank)
- Cases Turnaround - The average number of days from start to completion
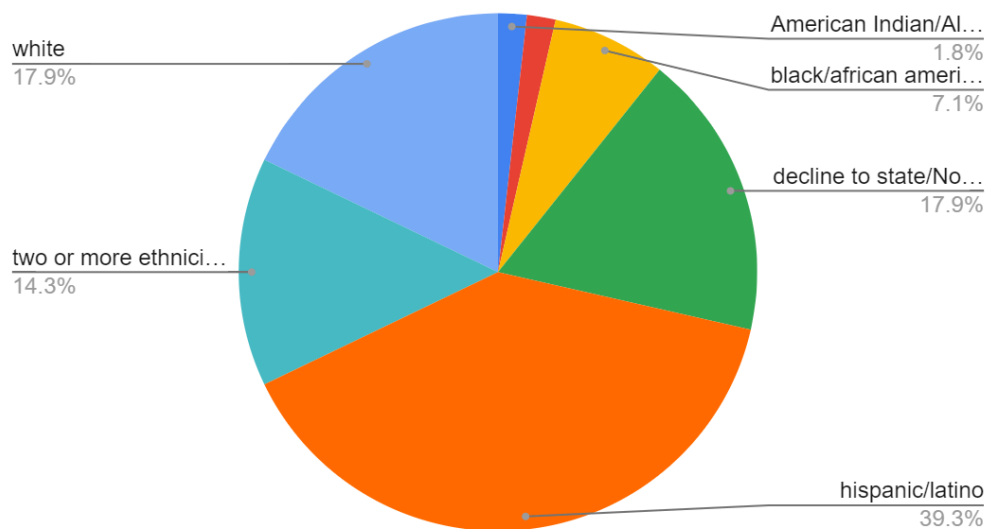
Ethnicity and Emergency Grants

white
17.9%

American Indian/AI…
1.8%

black/african ameri…
7.1%

decline to state/No…
17.9%

two or more ethnici…
14.3%

hispanic/latino
39.3%

Figure 1: Distribution of Ethnicity and Emergency Grant Requests

Ethnicity	Emergency Grant
No Ethnicity Entered on Case/Declined to State	10
American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Asian	1
Black/African American Preference	4
Hispanic/Latino	22
Two or More Ethnicities/Races	8
White	10
Total	56

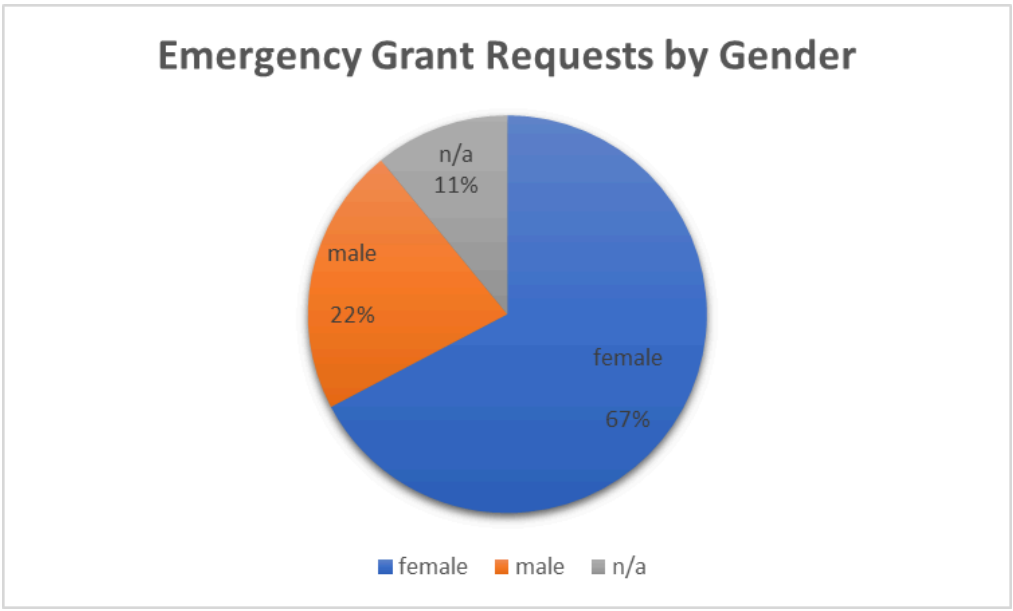*Table 5: Number of Emergency Grants concerns by Ethnicity/Race*

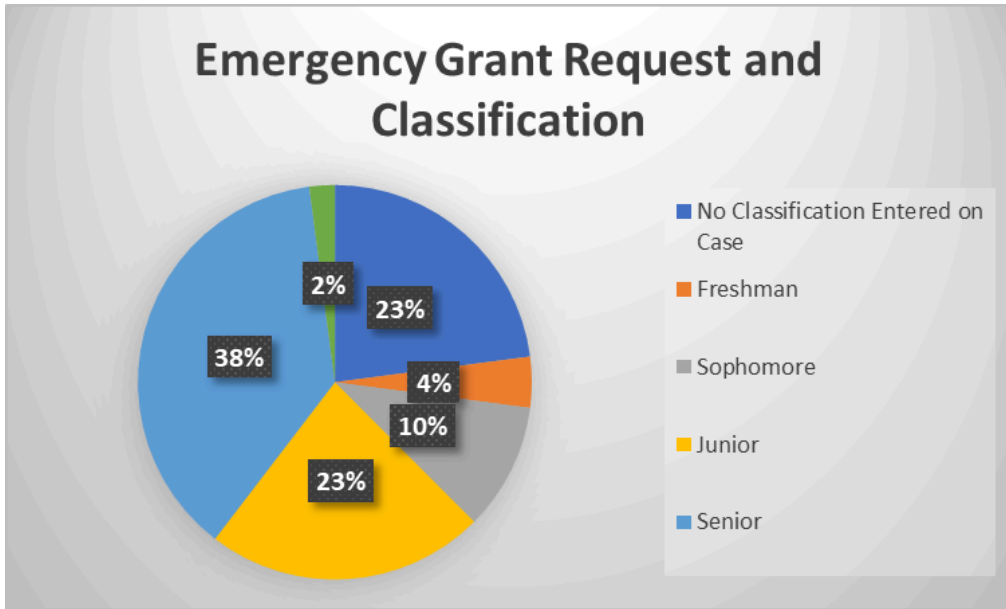*Figure 2: Distribution of Gender and Emergency Grant Requests*

Figure 3: Distribution of Classification and Emergency Grant Requests

FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Number of Cases - 2
- Ethnicity/Race - see Table 6
  - American Indian/Alaska Native
  - 2 or more Ethnicities/Races
- Gender - female (2)
- Classification - Senior (2)
- Cases Turnaround - The average number of days from start to completion
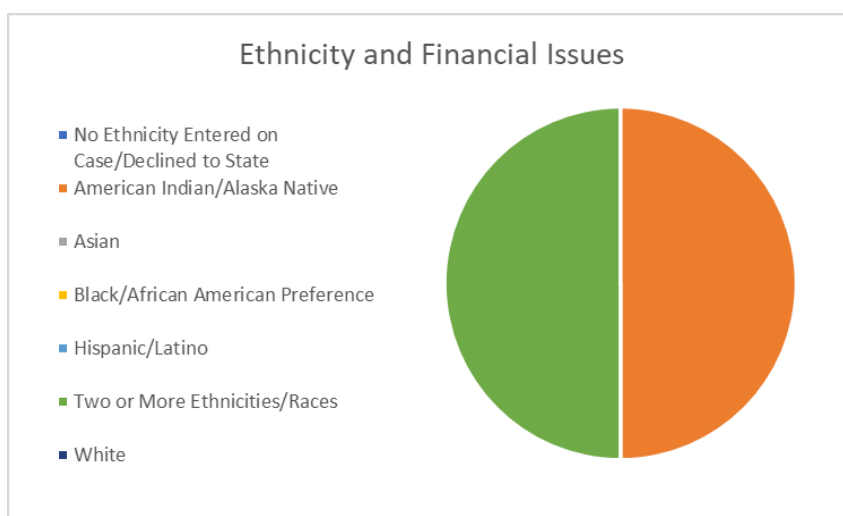 - 7 ½ weeks (54 days)
  - 3 weeks (21 days)

Figure 4: Distribution of Ethnicity and Financial Issues

Ethnicity	Financial Issues
No Ethnicity Entered on Case/Declined to State	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Asian	0
Black/African American Preference	0
Hispanic/Latino	0
Two or More Ethnicities/Races	1
White	0
Total	2

Table 6: Number of Financial Issues concerns by Ethnicity/Race

SHORT-TERM CASH LOAN

- Number of Cases - 1
- Ethnicity/Race - see Table 7
  - No Ethnicity entered on case
- Gender - female
- Classification - senior
- Cases Turnaround - The average number of days from start to completion
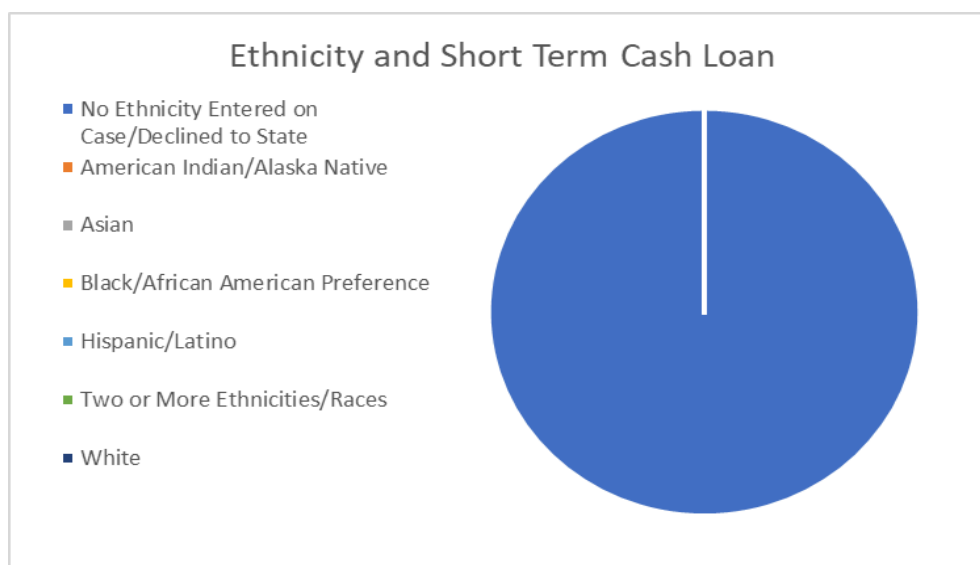 - 8

Figure 5: Distribution of Ethnicity and Short-Term Cash Loan

Ethnicity	Short Term Cash Loan
No Ethnicity Entered on Case/Declined to State	1
American Indian/Alaska Native	0
Asian	0
Black/African American Preference	0
Hispanic/Latino	0
Two or More Ethnicities/Races	0
White	0
Total	1

Table 7: Number of Short-Term Cash Loans concerns by Ethnicity/Race

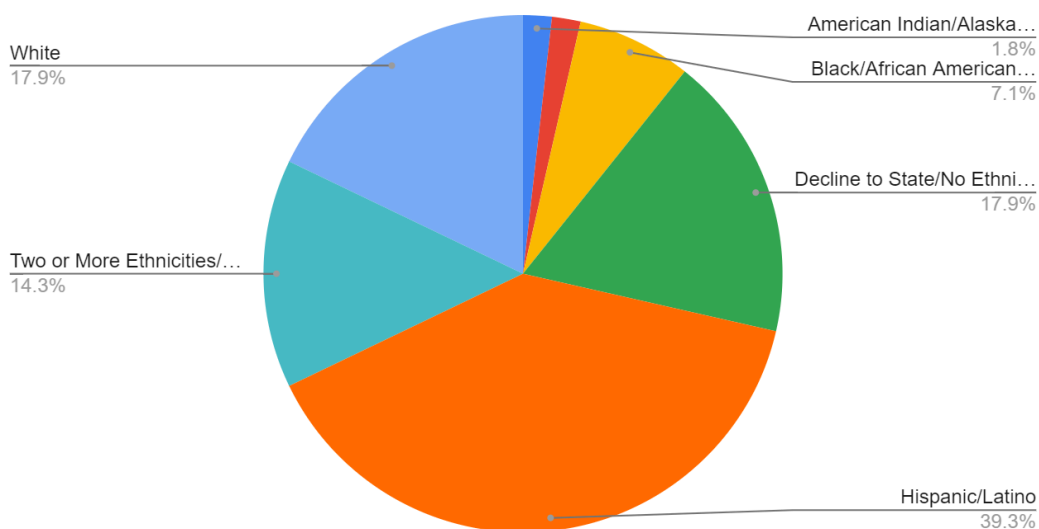## Ethnicity and Total Requests for - Emergency Grant Request, Financial Issue, Short-Term Cash Loan Request

White
17.9%

American Indian/Alaska…
1.8%

Black/African American…
7.1%

Decline to State/No Ethni…
17.9%

Two or More Ethnicities/…
14.3%

Hispanic/Latino
39.3%

Figure 6: Distribution of Financial concerns by Ethnicity/Race

Ethnicity	Emergency Grant Request	Financial Issue	Short-Term Cash Loan Request	Total
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	1	0	2
Asian	1	0	0	1
Black/African American Prefere	4	0	0	4
Decline to State/No Ethnicity Entered on Case	10	0	1	11
Hispanic/Latino	22	0	0	22
Two or More Ethnicities/Races	8	1	0	9
White	10	0	0	10
TOTALS	56	2	1	59

Table 8: Financial Concerns Cases by Ethnicity/Race

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Housing presented 6.5%, or 4 out of 62, of all cases reported through Maxient in AY 22/23. Of the 4 reported cases requesting housing assistance or being housing insecure, none of the students were placed in on or off campus housing. One student marked all boxes (Student Emergency Grant, Short-term Emergency Housing, Food Assistance Program, Short-term Cash Loan) and their real need was emergency grant money to assist in paying rent.

- Number of Cases - 4 or 6.5%
- Ethnicity/Race -
    - Decline to state - 1
    - White - 2
    - Hispanic/Latino - 1
- Gender - female (2), male (1), n/a (1)
- Classification - junior (1), senior (2), n/a (1)
- Cases Turnaround - The average number of days from start to completion
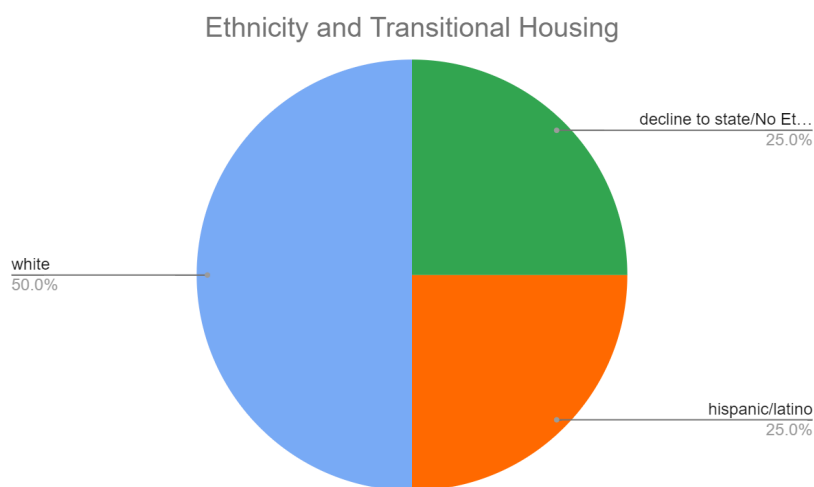   - 2-7 days

Ethnicity and Transitional Housing

decline to state/No Et…
25.0%

white
50.0%

hispanic/latino
25.0%

Figure 7: Distribution of Transitional Housing concerns by Ethnicity/Race
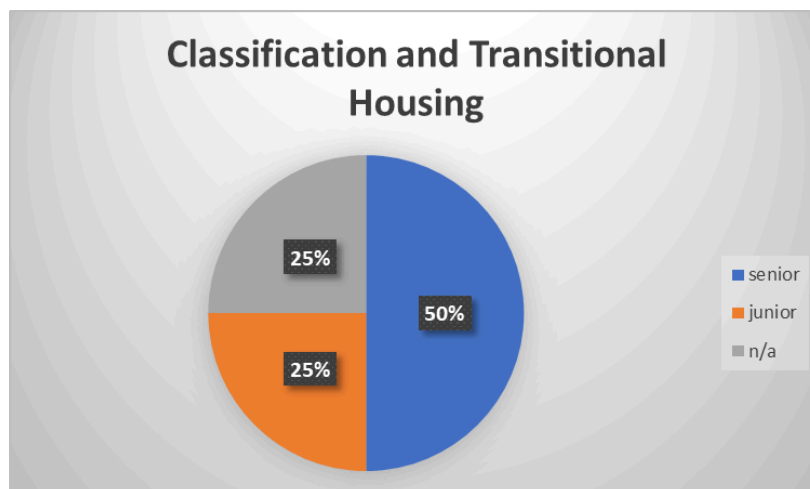
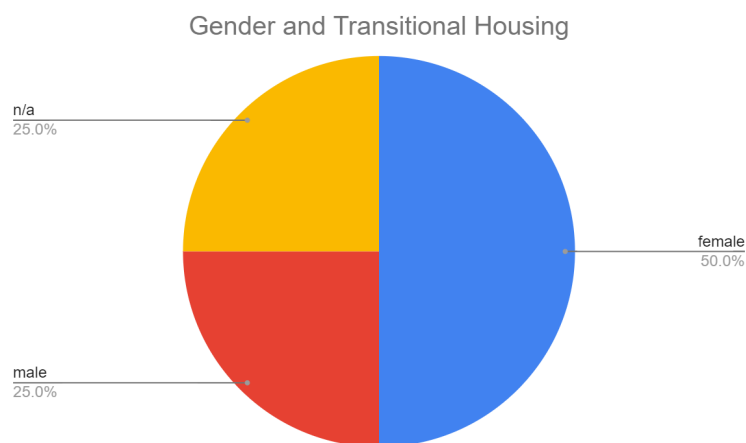*Figure 8: Distribution of Transitional Housing concerns by Classification*

Figure 9: Distribution of Transitional Housing concerns by Gender

Food Pantry

Lobo's Food Pantry and CalFresh data was provided by Michaela Bietz, AS Basic Needs Coordinator. This information is not found in Maxient therefore demographic data is not readily available. Given that students have to swipe their ID cards to use the pantry, that system is one way to gather data such as gender, ethnicity/race, classification, and academic programs.

Lobos Pantry - Fall

Pantry Visits	Perishables & Non-Perishables (Food)	Total Hygiene Items
1,291	6,468	1,574

*Ordered 5,225 pounds of food perishables and nonperishables from REFB (7 orders)

Volunteers

Total Number of Pantry Volunteers	Total Number of Panty Volunteer Hours
16	110.25

Events: Lobo's Pantry Food Drive and Lobo's Schools Supplies Drive

Lobo's Pantry - Spring

Total Number of Visits	Perishables & Non-Perishables (Food)	Total Hygiene Items
1,522	8,218	1,943

*Ordered 6,436 pounds of food perishables and nonperishables from REFB (6 orders)

Volunteers

Total Number of Pantry Volunteers	Total Number of Panty Volunteer Hours
21	132.5

Events: Lobo's Pantry Food Drive, Lobo's Pantry Hygiene Drive, Fashion Swap (Collaboration with ASP), and Volunteer Appreciation Day (Collaboration with JUMP)

CalFresh

Lobo's Pantry YTD Stats:

- 2,813 Visits
- 14,488 Food Items
- 3,342 Hygiene Product
- 11,661 pounds of food

*Popular items were frozen meat, frozen meals, eggs, dairy products (e.g. eggs, yogurt, milk, cream cheese), pasta, cereal, peanut butter, and fruit

*Received food donations from Farm to Pantry and Grocery Outlet

*Received both food and hygiene donations from SSU alumni, Greek Life, Anime Club, and Windsor Community United Methodist Church

CalFresh - Fall

Total Number of Prescreens	Total Applications
199	94

Events: CalFresh Outreach Week

CalFresh - Spring

Total Number of Prescreens	Total Applications
151	50

Events: CalFresh Outreach Week and CalFresh Info. Day

CalFresh YTD Stats

- Prescreens: 350
- Applications: 144