



Basic Needs

Sonoma State
University

Basic Needs End of Year Report 2023-2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
• Qualitative	
• Quantitative	
BASIC NEEDS PURPOSE STATEMENT	5
• DATA	
• CASES AND CONCERNS	
EMERGENCY GRANTS, FINANCIAL ISSUES, SHORT TERM CASH LOANS & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	9
• ON-CAMPUS HOUSING	
• OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING	
LOBO’S FOOD PANTRY	17
CALFRESH	18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Qualitative

The Basic Needs Initiative (BNI) at Sonoma State University was launched in 2018 under the direction of the CSU and was initially housed among Associated Students. In March 2023, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Gerald Jones, appointed Dr. Edie Brown as the Basic Needs and Care Team Lead Coordinator, with her role centered on assisting students experiencing housing and financial insecurity. By June 2023, these responsibilities were fully transitioned from Associated Students to the Office of the Dean of Students, led by Dr. Ryan Jasen Henne. This reorganization also led to the creation of Noma Cares Central, a centralized support hub that opened on August 26, 2024, in Zinfandel Village. The new office consolidates various services, including the Care Team, Basic Needs Initiative, Confidential Advocate, the Career Closet, CalFresh, and mental health ambassadors from Counseling and Psychological Services, providing a comprehensive resource located near Lobo's Food Pantry.

The Basic Needs Initiative has experienced a growing demand for its services, highlighting the essential support it provides to students. From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, the initiative managed 62 cases, with the vast majority (88%) involving emergency grants, and a smaller number related to housing concerns.

Between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, the number of unique cases rose to 78, with a significant shift in primary concerns. While emergency grants remained a key focus, housing issues surged to 30 cases. During this time, the campus implemented temporary on-campus housing for students experiencing homelessness, a service introduced after the Basic Needs Initiative (BNI) housing program transitioned under the Office of the Dean of Students. With funding from the CSU, BNI secured three on-campus apartments designated for male, female, and non-binary students, respectively.

In addition, the Basic Needs Initiative allocated approximately \$40,000 in emergency grants to address essential expenses such as groceries, gas, medical bills, car repairs, and housing deposits. This expansion highlights the program's critical role in addressing student needs and providing essential support to the campus community.

Quantitative

The 2023-2024 Academic Year (July 1- June 30)

Students with concerns can choose from services such as a DACA Renewal Assistance Request, an Emergency Grant Request, a Food Assistance Program Request, a Short-Term Cash Loan Request, and a Short-Term Emergency Housing Request.

For the second year in a row, DACA Renewal Assistance was not a category used this academic year.

BNI cases in AY 2023-2024 totaled 78 unique cases with 74 unique students

- Top singular concerns for AY 23-24 - Emergency Grants 28/78 (35.89%), Housing 23/78 (29.48%)
- Cases with 2 or more concerns: 27 (34.61%) (Top 2 - Emergency Grants, Housing)
- Students with 2 or more cases - 4
- Emergency Grant/Food = 9
- Emergency Grant/Housing = 7
- Housing/Food = 2
- Emergency Grant/Housing/Food = 1
- Housing/Personal Wellness - 2

The top three academic programs listed for BNI cases - Psychology (14), English (7), and Business Administration (6). Academic Programs were noted for 78 cases. 22 majors of SSU's 44 undergraduate majors were identified. 4 Graduate programs 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. This remains our purpose.

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 2023/2024. The information is divided into five sections: Emergency Grants, Short-Term Cash Loans, Food Assistance/Lobos Pantry, CalFresh, and Short-Term Transitional Housing.

These topics were identified to help recognize trends within our community, enabling the Basic Needs team to adapt and better address those needs. This approach also allows flexibility in identifying emerging themes as students' needs continue to evolve.

Cases and Concerns

Maxient is the platform used to manage Basic Needs requests. However, the language it uses does not always align with how the Office of the Dean of Students refers to students and their circumstances. This document will use the terminology preferred by the Basic Needs team, which may differ from the language used in Maxient.

When a student submits a request for assistance, it is received in Maxient as an incident report (IR). After the IR is reviewed, a new case is created and classified under the case type "Student Emergency Intervention and Basic Needs." The case is then assigned to the Basic Needs and Care Team Lead Coordinator. This process has remained unchanged throughout the past academic year.

Currently, Maxient does not track data for Case Turnaround time for Basic Needs cases. BNI will work with administration to request that information for end of year reporting.

Basic Needs

Direct comparison of numbers is difficult because not all Basic Needs cases were tracked through Maxient, and the pathways for assistance don't align with the concern categories within Maxient. This section aims to compare how many cases related to financial, food, and housing insecurity are initially handled by the Care Team before being referred to Basic Needs Intervention (BNI). It's important to note that not all cases handled by the Care Team are referred to Basic Needs if the issue can be resolved beforehand, and not all BNI cases originate from the Care Team.

The numbers listed in Table 1 are based on single concerns.

Program	Financial Insecurity	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity
Basic Needs	30	0*	22
Care Team	3	0	21

Table 1: Basic Needs cases v. Care Team cases *Combined with other concerns

Cases and Concerns for AY 2023-2024

Unique Students	Unique Cases	Unique Concerns
74	78	77

Table 2: Unique Individuals, Unique Cases, and Unique Concerns

Some cases had 2 or more concerns. This table addresses singular concerns.

Concern	23/24	22/23	21/22	20/21
DACA Renewal Assistance Request	0	0	1	3
Emergency Grant Request & Financial Issue	29	53	67	158
Food Assistance Program Request	11	2	0	12
Short-Term Cash Loan Request	1	1	3	10
Short-Term Emergency Housing Request.	20	1	8	23

Total concerns	61	62	79	206

Table 3: All concerns for the last four academic years

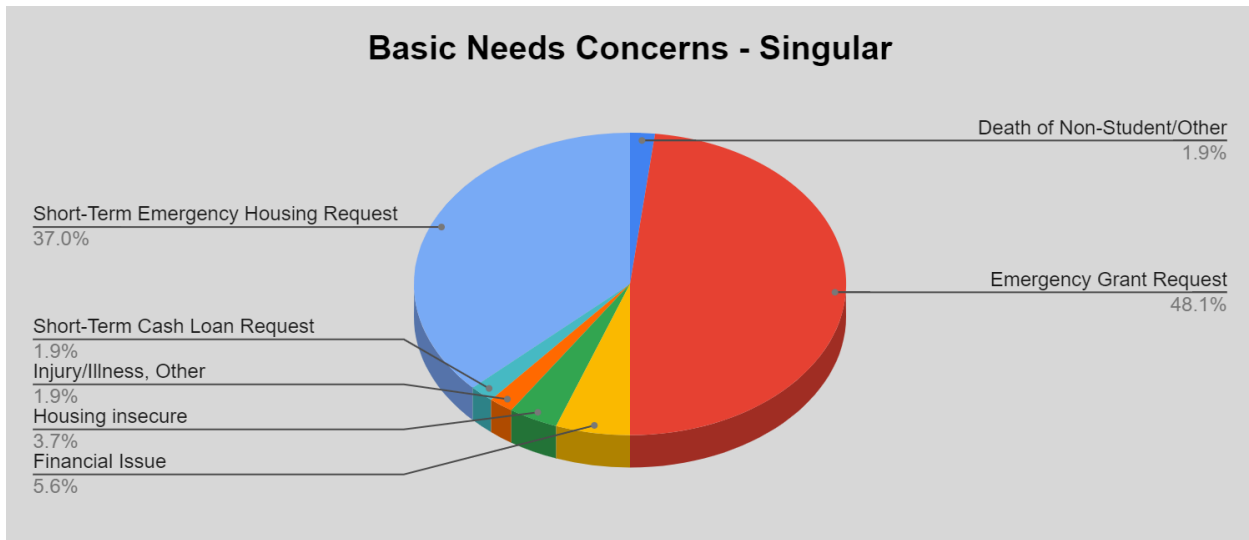


Figure 1: BNI Cases with singular concern

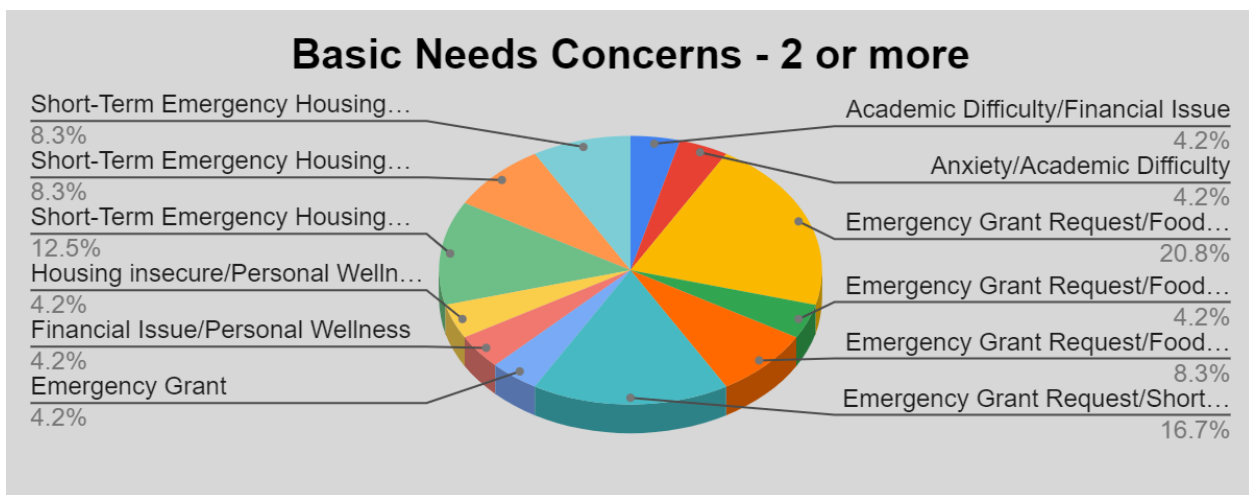


Figure 2: BNI Cases with 2 or more concerns

Concerns	Total
Academic Difficulty/Financial Issue	1

Anxiety/Academic Difficulty	1
Emergency Grant Request/Food Assistance Program Request	5
Emergency Grant Request/Food Assistance Program Request/Short-Term Cash Loan Request	1
Emergency Grant Request/Food insecure	2
Emergency Grant Request/Short-Term Emergency Housing Request	4
Emergency Grant Request/Short-Term Emergency Housing Request Food Assistance Program Request	1
Financial Issue/Personal Wellness	1
Housing insecure/Personal Wellness/Victim	1
Short-Term Emergency Housing Request/Emergency Grant Request	3
Short-Term Emergency Housing Request/Food Assistance Program Request	2
Short-Term Emergency Housing Request/Personal Wellness	2

Table 4: BNI Cases with 2 or more concerns

Classification	Emergency Grant Request	Financial Issue	Housing insecure	Short-Term Cash Loan Request	Total
No Classification Entered on Case	0	0	0	0	0
Freshman	1	3	4	0	8
Sophomore	1	2	2	0	5
Junior	18	0	13	2	12
Senior	19		13	0	32
Graduate	3	0	2	0	1
Total	42	25	34	2	103/58

Table 5: Total of All Concerns by Classification

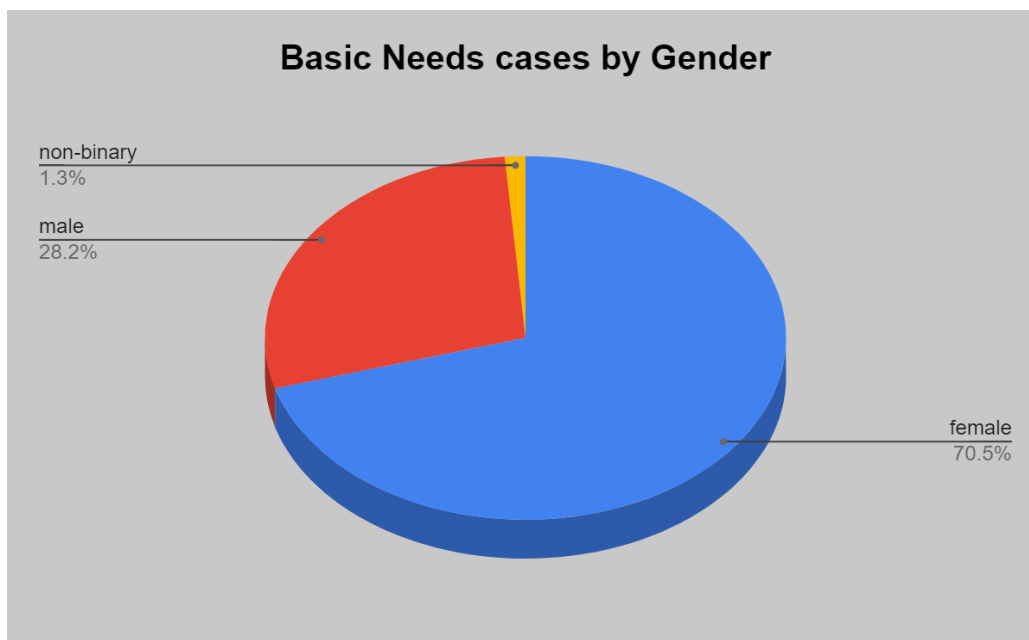


Figure 3: Basic Needs by Gender

Basic Needs Cases by Gender	
female	55
male	22
non-binary	1
declined to state	0
Total	58

Table 6: Basic Needs cases by Gender

Ethnicity/Race

To understand how the Basic Needs program serves the diverse student body, an analysis of cases by self-reported ethnicity/race was conducted to see how it compared to the overall student population of those identities. The intention is to identify if we are underserving any specific population and if there are specific issues that students of a certain population are facing at our university that we may need to address and support.

Student Demographics by Ethnicity	
No ethnicity/decline to state	215
Amerian Indian/Alaska Native	19
Asian	313
Black/African-American	154
Hispanic/Latino	2382
Two or more Ethnicities	324
White	2439
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	21
Total	5867

Table 7: Student Body demographics by self-reported ethnicity

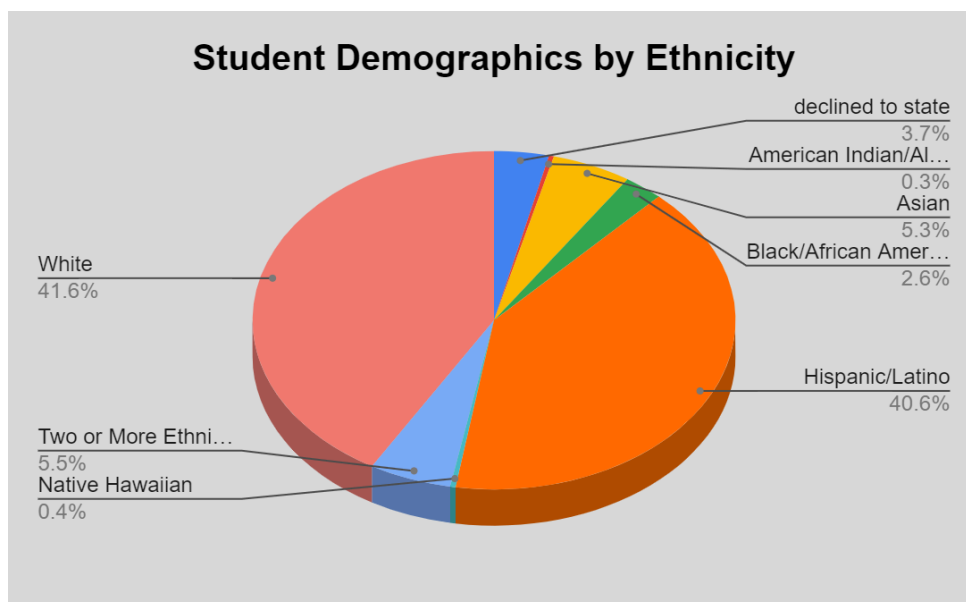


Figure 4: Student Body demographics for the Academic Year of 2023/2024 by self-reported ethnic/racial identities

Basic Needs cases by Ethnicity	
No ethnicity/decline to state	1
Amerian Indian/Alaska Native	5
Asian	2

Table 8: Basic Needs cases by self-reported ethnic/racial Identities

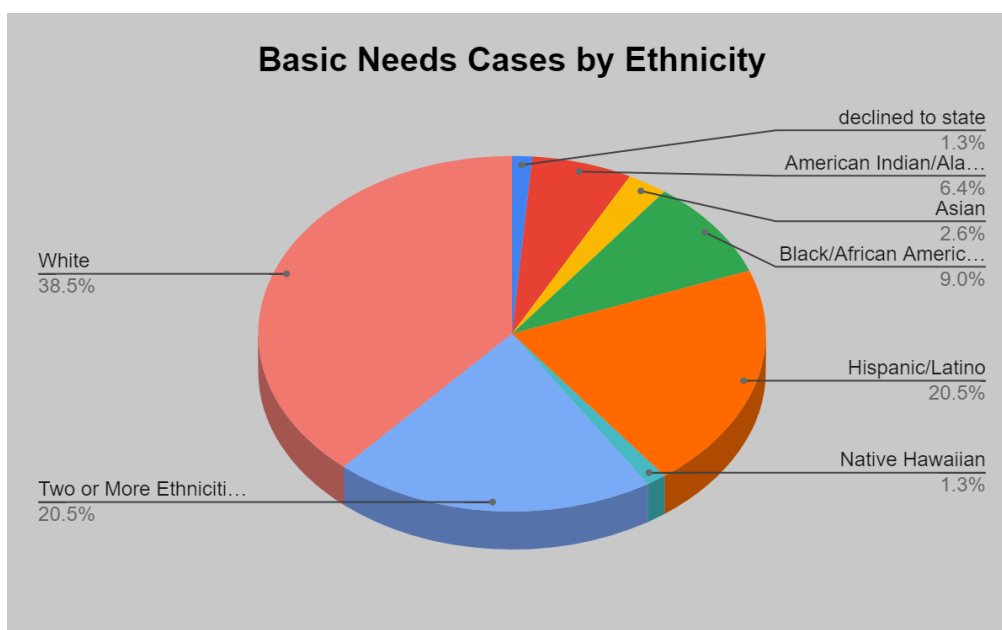


Figure 5: Basic Needs cases by self-reported ethnic/racial Identities

EMERGENCY GRANTS

- Number of Cases - 41 or 52.56%
 - 25 cases are singular concerns
 - 13 cases as primary concern with additional concern (short-term housing, food insecure, food assistance program request)
 - 3 cases as secondary concern (short-term housing primary)
- Ethnicity/Race - see Table 7
- Gender - Female (30), Male (11), Non-Binary (1)
- Classification -
 - Freshman - 8
 - Sophomore - 5

- Junior - 28
- Senior - 33
- Post-BaccGraduate - 4
- n/a - 0 (area left blank)

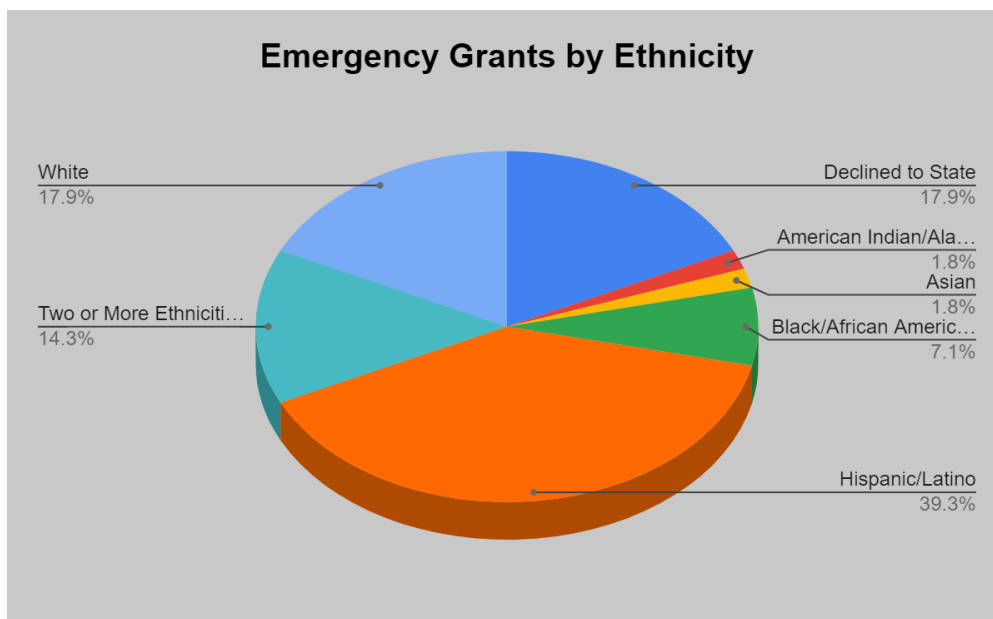


Figure 6: Emergency Grant Requests by Ethnicity

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 7: Emergency Grants by Ethnicity

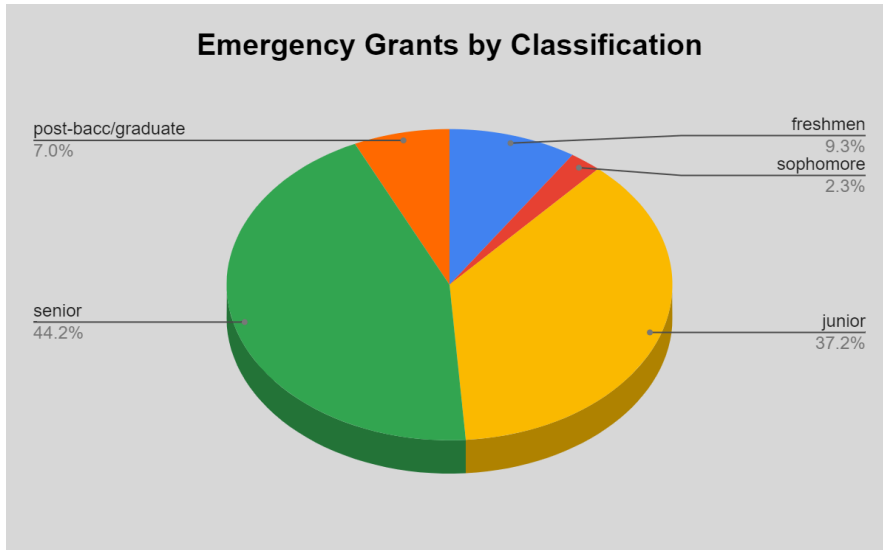


Figure 7: Emergency Grants by Classification

Emergency Grant by Classification	
First Year	8
Sophomore	5
Junior	28
Senior	33
Post-Bacc/Graduate	4

Table 8: Emergency Grants by Classification

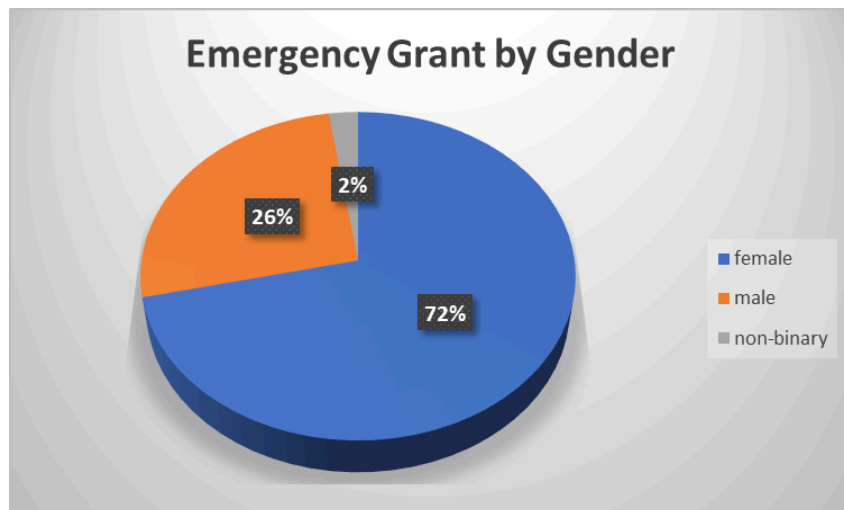


Figure 8: Emergency Grants by Gender

Emergency Grants by Gender	
Female	30
Male	11
Non-Binary	1

Table 9: Emergency Grants by Gender

FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Number of Cases - 5 or 6.41%
- Ethnicity/Race - See Table 10
- Gender - Female (3), Male (1), Non-binary (1)
- Classification - First Year (3), Sophomore (2)

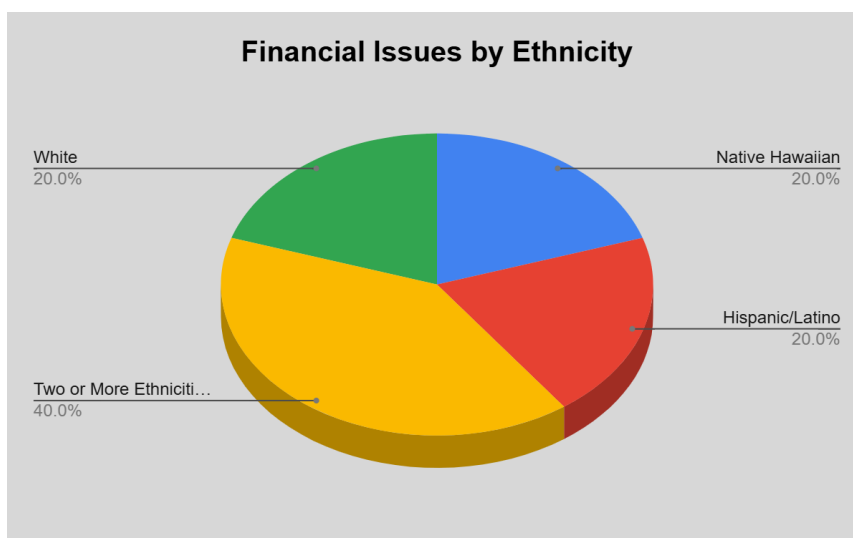


Figure 9: Financial Issues Distribution by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Financial Issues
Native Hawaiian	1
Hispanic/Latino	1
Two or More Ethnicities/Races	2
White	1

Total	5
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Table 10: Number of Financial Issues concerns by Ethnicity

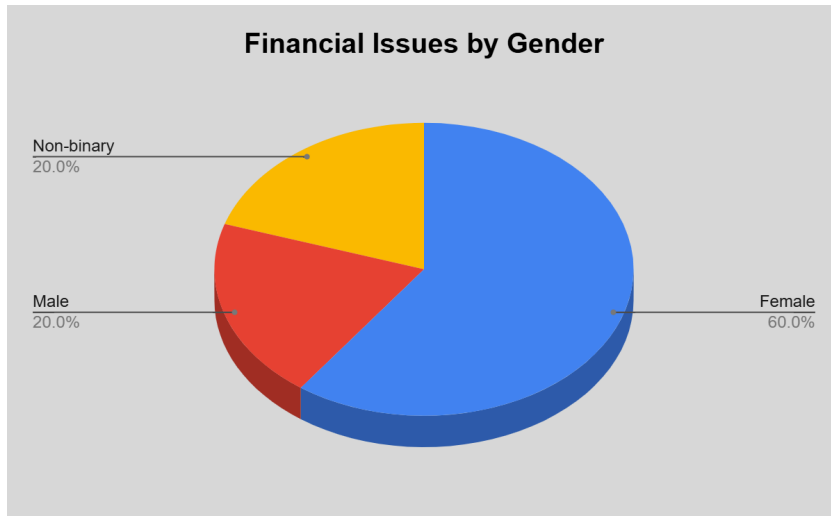


Figure 10: Financial Issues Distribution by Gender

Gender	Financial Issues
Female	3
Male	1
Non-binary	1
Total	5

Table 11: Financial Issues by Gender

SHORT-TERM CASH LOAN

- Number of Cases - 2 or 2.56%
- Ethnicity/Race -
 - 1 Black/African American
 - 1 White
- Gender - female
- Classification - junior

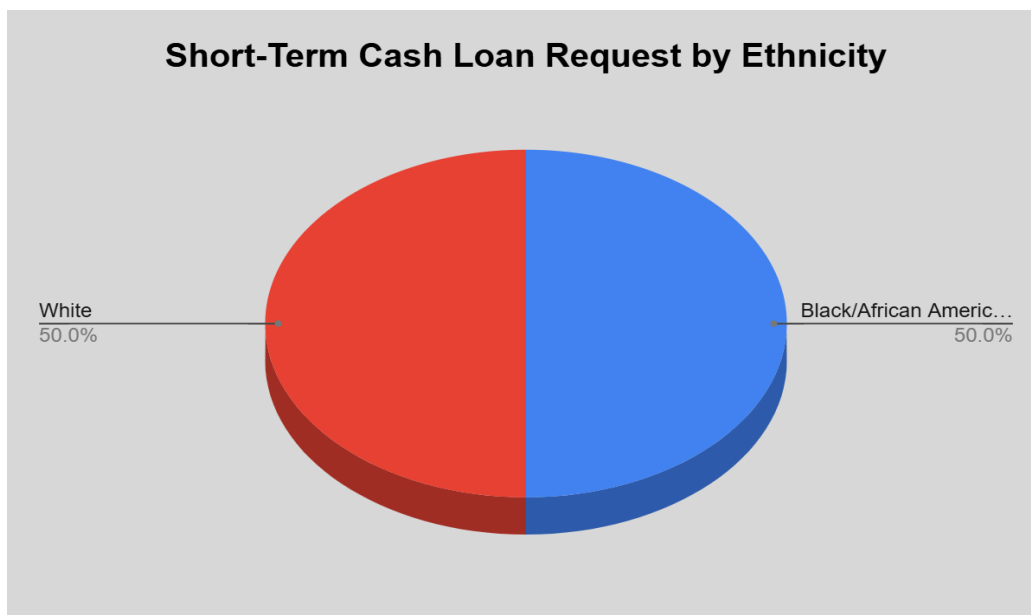


Figure 11: Short-Term Cash Loan Distribution by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Short-Term Cash Loan
Black/African American Preference	1
White	1
Total	2

Table 12: Short-Term Cash Loan Distribution by Ethnicity

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional Housing represents 39.74%, or 31 out of 78, of all cases reported through Maxient in AY 23/24. Of the 31 reported cases requesting housing assistance or being housing insecure, 19 (61.29%) students were provided some type of temporary housing; 14 (2 students twice) on campus and 5 off-campus/hotel.

- Number of Cases - 31 or 39.74%
- Ethnicity/Race -
 - Declined to state - 1
 - American Indian/Alaska Native - 4
 - Asian - 0
 - Black/African American - 1
 - Hispanic/Latino - 9
 - Native Hawaiian - 0
 - Two or More Ethnicities/Races - 6

- White - 14
- Gender - female (25), male (10), non-binary (0)
- Classification - First Year (4), sophomore (2), junior (13), senior (14), post-bacc/graduate (2)

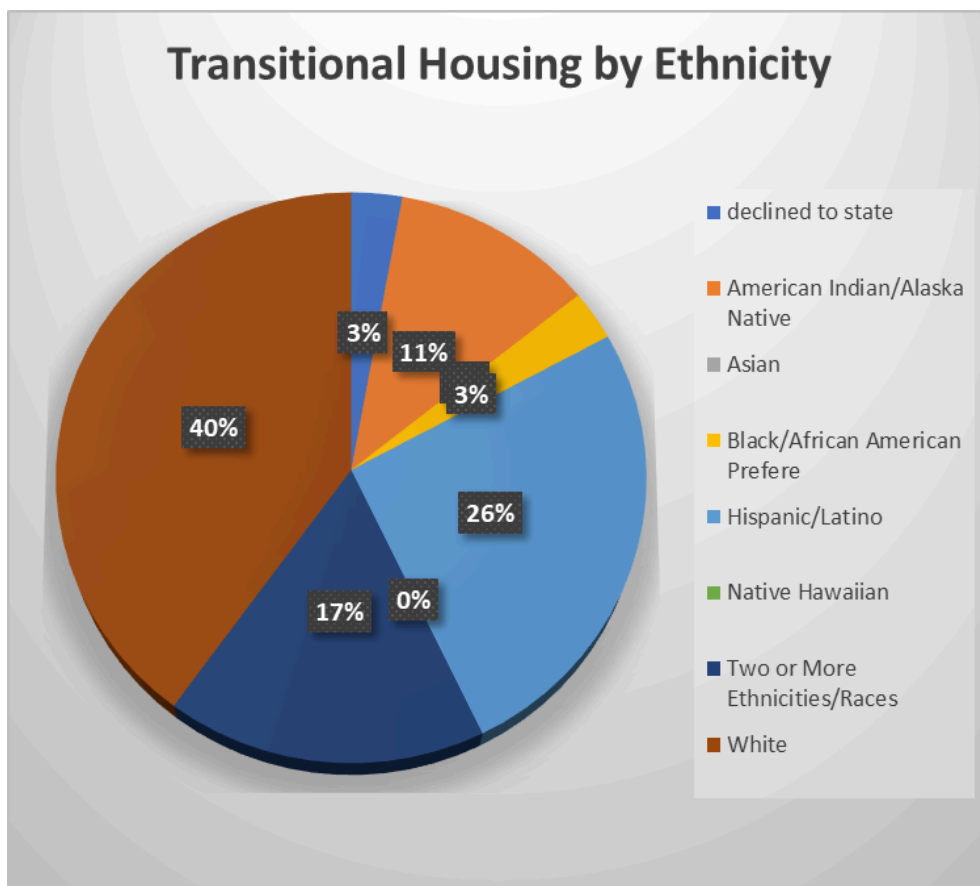


Figure 12: Transitional Housing by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	
Declined to state	1
American Indian/Alaska Native	4
Asian	0
Black/African American	1
Hispanic/Latino	9
Native Hawaiian	0

Two or more ethnicities	6
White	14

Table 13: Transitional Housing by Ethnicity

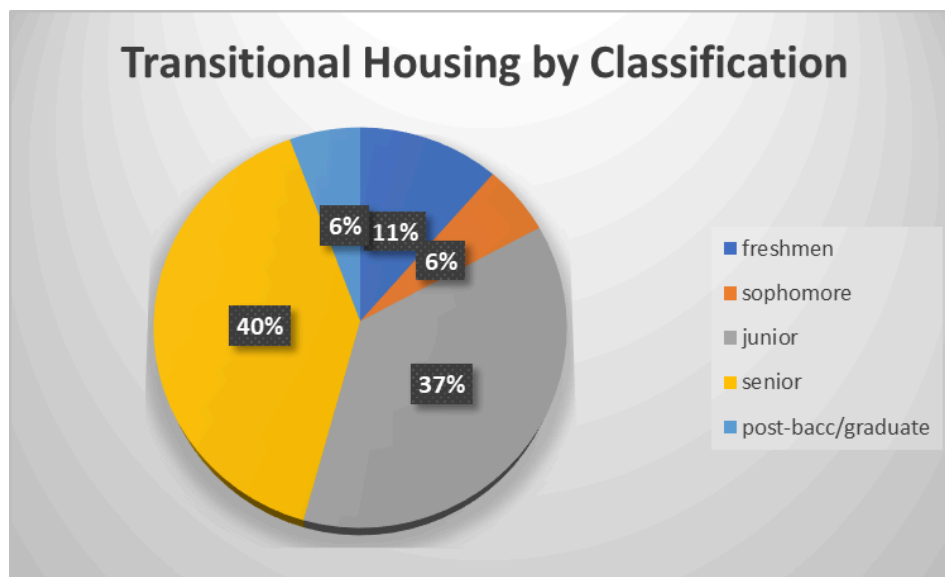


Figure 13: Transitional Housing by Classification

Classification	
First Year	4
Sophomore	2
Junior	13
Senior	14
Post-Bacc/Graduate	2

Table 14: Transitional Housing by Classification

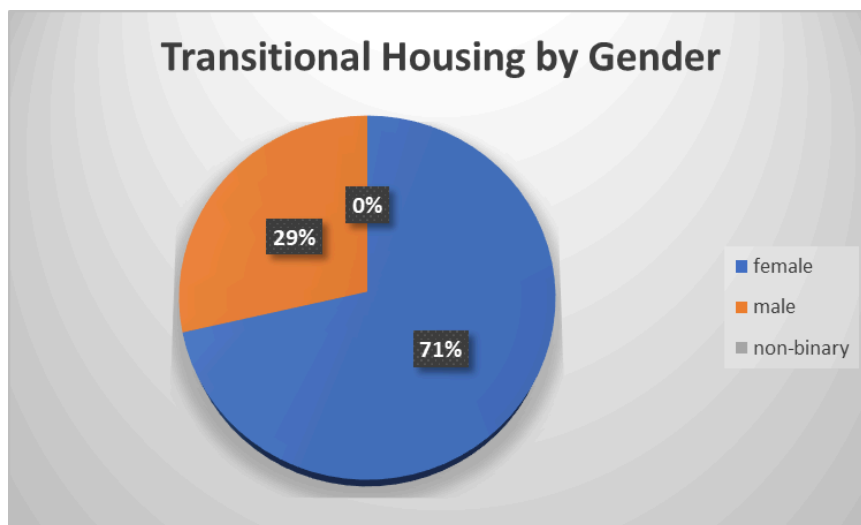


Figure 14: Transitional Housing by Gender

Gender	5
Female	25
Male	10
Non-Binary	0

Table 15: Transitional Housing by Gender

Food Pantry

Lobo’s Food Pantry and CalFresh information was provided by AS Basic Needs data from the shared drive. This information is not found in Maxient therefore demographic data is not readily available.

Lobos Pantry - Fall

Pantry Visits	Unique Users	Students with Meal Plan	Students with No Meal Plan
1625	726	371	355

Lobo's Pantry - Spring

Total Number of Visits	Unique Users	Students with Meal Plan	Students with No Meal Plan
1340	496	N/A	N/A

Lobo's Pantry YTD Stats:

- 2965 Visits
- 10702 Food Items
- 3261 Hygiene Product

*Information on amount of food and hygiene items the pantry gave out in AY 2023-2024 was not available.

CalFresh

CalFresh - Fall 2023-Spring 2024

Total Number of Prescreens	Total Applications
299	402

*Do not have breakdown of fall and spring numbers

CalFresh YTD Stats

- Prescreens: 299
- Applications: 402