

Proposed Federal Support for Basic Needs:

- Passage of the BASIC Act ([H.R. 4968/S. 2225](#)), which would create a discretionary grant program to help fund and expand resources for basic needs resource centers on college campuses.
- Passage of [H.R. 4297](#), the Enhanced Access to SNAP Act (or EATS Act), which would amend the Food and Nutrition Act to include “attending an institution of higher education” as a form of qualification, thereby expanding SNAP eligibility to millions of college students experiencing hunger on a daily basis.
- Indexing the Federal Pell Grant to inflation to increase its purchasing power from its lowest level in four decades. Whereas the Federal Pell Grant at its peak provided 70 percent of the total cost of attendance, today it provides closer to 29 percent.
- Provide an adjustment to the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines to respond to severe inconsistencies in cost of living in California and across the country.
- Remove the outdated SNAP “student eligibility rule” that causes confusion, higher workloads and keeps students that experience both poverty and food insecurity from applying for SNAP. In addition to the impact on students’ health, it adversely impacts local economies that would benefit from federal SNAP funds used in grocery stores with EBT and the Restaurant Meals Programs.
- Integrate graduate student financial support into the definition of financial aid to keep such aid from being counted as income. Fellowships and graduate student stipends are too often considered income despite the majority of it going to students’ tuition, fees and other materials needed to complete their education.
- Integrate federal financial aid with the SNAP program to proactively award SNAP to students eligible for the benefit.
- Include college students who have unmet basic needs with priority populations and other eligible populations in materials, programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Develop protections for college students from predatory housing practices.