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AFFORDABILITY, FOOD & HOUSING ACCESS TASKFORCE

Real Solutions to Real Challenges

Friday, March 11, 2022
7:30AM – 9:00AM

MEETING SUMMARY

In Attendance: Tom Burke, Rebekah Cearley, Colleen Ganley, Martha Garcia, Tammeil Gilkerson, Adrienne Grey, John Hernandez, Andra Hoffman, Pam Luster, Julia Morrison, Erik Skinner, Paula Umana, Kevin Walthers. **League Staff**: Lisa Mealoy, Ryan McElhinney, Nune Garipian, Sadie Brown.

1. **AGENDA**

   a. **#RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition Update**
      i. Paula Umana reported that the Hope Center will be offering a new evidence-based model survey that will launch on March 23. The survey will be a package consisting of a survey dashboard with fresh data that colleges can easily access. Additionally, there will be three different tiers that colleges can choose from in terms of their desired engagement with Hope Center training activities. More information to come once the 2022-2023 membership form opens.

   b. **Affordability-Related Legislative Update/Discussion (GR Team)**
      i. Nune Garipian and Ryan McElhinney provided an update on the below bills.
         1. Student Services
            a. AB 102 (Holden) Dual Enrollment
               i. Would make dual enrollment programs permanent. The League is strongly in support of the bill.
            b. SB 885 (Laird) Foster Youth
               i. Would expand NextUP programs and would remove the cap and allow all colleges to apply (currently only 20 districts are authorized to have these programs). There is no additional funding attached to the bill currently. Colleen Ganley commented that the Chancellor's Office wouldn't support expanding the program without additional funding.
            c. AB 1919 (Holden) Youth Transit Passes
               i. The bill has been amended to include a policy change and would require transit agencies to offer free transit passes to all people 25 years of age and younger with California residency regardless of immigration status.

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2. Housing
    a. AB 1602 (McCarty) Revolving Loan Funding
        i. Would appropriate $5 billion to create a revolving loan fund that would have zero interest loans for affordable student housing at the UC, CSU and community colleges.
        ii. The committee expressed concern that all the money would be allocated to a revolving loan fund and none to construction grants. Additionally, they discussed doing a collaborative advocacy effort (taskforce, CCLC, FCCC, individual colleges) to request additional one-time funds to help colleges support building their housing.
    b. AB 1719 (Ward) Community College Employee Housing
        i. Would permit community colleges to build affordable housing for faculty and classified employees.
    c. AB 1764 (Medina) Student Housing
        i. Would require exempt student housing projects at community colleges from Department of State Architect oversight and require the UC, CSU and community colleges to collect information on housing needs of their students.
        ii. Tammeil Gilkerson added that Medina's office would like the taskforce to testify in support of the bill as the committee is in favor advocating for a two prong option for local review or DSA review, depending on what fits the district/college.
        iii. [Section 1 of AB 1764](#) provides specifics on the data collection requirements of districts/colleges.
        iv. Rebekah Cearley provided the below overview of what DSA is saying about AB 306, which AB 1764 builds upon:
            1. Requires employee and teacher housing projects to be reviewed by the local jurisdiction; Projects are "public housing" and "housing at a place of education" for faculty or public housing for employees under the California Building Code, including single-family. Use only CBC 11B; DSA may still provide oversight to ensure housing projects when on a school campus do not conflict with site accessibility and life safety requirements.
    d. SB 886 (Wiener) CEQA Exemption
        i. Would streamline student housing throughout the state by exempting UC, CSU, and community college housing projects from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review.
3. Food Insecurity
    a. SB 20 (Dodd) CalFresh Eligibility
        i. Would require the Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to provide written notice to students who qualify for a waiver of the community college enrollment fee that they qualify, or may qualify, for CalFresh; and requires the Chancellor's Office to create a form

that can be used by students and administrators to verify that a student qualifies for an exemption from the CalFresh program.

    b. SB 641 (Skinner) CalFresh for College Students

        i. Requires the Department of Social Services (CDSS) to convene a workgroup to submit a legislative report on how to improve the CalFresh application process for college students; and to issue instructions about how county welfare departments are to process applications.

        ii. Colleen Ganley added the importance of the taskforce and other advocates to keep pressure on CDSS in providing data for CalFresh recipients/applicants.

        iii. Keith Curry provided the below CalFresh student data as an example of benefits utilized by Compton College students:

            1. Data Analysis Results- Eligible to CalFreshOf the 507 students who have agreed to allow Compton College to share data with DPSS:• 156 students are receiving CalFresh• 351 students are not receiving CalFreshData Analysis Results- Detailed AnalysisA detailed breakdown of the 507 students revealed the following:• 185 receive no DPSS benefits• 162 students are receiving Medi-Cal only• 7 students are receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs, and Medi-Cal• 23 students are receiving CalFresh, General Relief, and Medi-Cal• 29 students are receiving CalFresh and CalWORKs• 53 students are receiving CalFresh and Medi-Cal• 5 students are receiving CalFresh and General Relief• 2 students are receiving CalFresh Transitional Benefits• 37 students are receiving CalFresh only• 3 students are receiving Medi-Cal and General Relief• 1 student is receiving General Relief only

    c. AB 2810 (Arambula) CalFresh: FAFSA Data

        i. States the intent of the legislature to codify the federal administrative guidance encouraging colleges to use FAFSA data to inform students of eligibility for CalFresh. Would require each CC district to email those students to inform them that they may qualify for CalFresh.

4. Financial Aid

    a. AB 1746 (Medina) Cal Grant Reform

        i. Would reform the state's Cal Grant system by matching eligibility requirements with Pell Grants, make it easier for non-traditional students to qualify for financial aid and simplify the process in which students apply for Cal Grants.

5. Bills for Discussion: Tuition Assistance

    a. AB 2266 (Santiago) CA College Promise

        i. Would remove, for the purpose of eligibility for the CA Promise,

the qualification that students be first-time students and the exclusion of students who have previously earned a degree or certificate.

    b. SB 1141 (Limon) Non-Resident Tuition

        i. Would expand AB 540 eligibility from 3 years of full-time high school coursework or community college attendance, to 2 years of attendance.

    c. AB 1606 (Irwin) Tuition Waiver: Veterans

        i. Would waive tuition/fees for the spouse of any US veteran who has a service-connected disability, has been killed in service, or has died of a service-connected disability.

    d. AB 1232 (McCarty) Tuition Exemption: English as a Second Language (ESL)

        i. Establishes a nonresident tuition exemption for recent immigrants, refugees, and asylees to enroll in credit-bearing ESL courses at CCCs within the first year of their arrival in the US.

c. **CalFresh Discussion**

    i. Kevin Walthers shared that is has been a struggle to get students to enroll in CalFresh and mentioned that it might be a good idea to uplift this topic an an upcoming event - such as the Annual Trustees Conference - and provide training on how to get students enrolled in the program such as determining which students have zero EFC and reach out to them. Martha Garcia mentioned that food pantries serve as a direct pathway and opportunity to make sure that students are connected and apply for CalFresh. The committee discussed best practices for reaching out to students, alerting them of resources available without waiting for the student to ask for help. Colleen Ganley provided a few suggestions that colleges can do on their campus to increase outreach such as pushing notifications through student portals and or having the basic needs contact reach out to their CalFresh agency - as well as other community based organizations that provide assistance on CalFresh applications - in order to open up clear lines of communication and establish positive relationships.

d. **Food Insecurity Brief and Discussion on Advocacy**

    i. Publication Release

        1. Tammeil shared that all edits to the brief have been incorporated into the final draft. Tammeil is working with Laura Murrell on the layout of the publication and should have a final draft (with graphics and title pages) by March 21.

    ii. Opportunities to Share/Advocacy

        1. The brief will be disseminated to the League's listserv and will be highlighted at the Annual Trustees Conference. Sadie Brown will reach out to Larry Galizio to invite a representative from the taskforce to speak on his podcast about the brief and other basic needs efforts championed by the taskforce.

    iii. Annual Trustees Conference Presentation (April)

        1. Nune shared that there is an opening to present at the Trustees Conference on Saturday, April 30, 9:45am - 10:30am. The committee decided that they would pull

together a panel to discuss CalFresh and other food insecurity topics. Tammeil will coordinate with Tom and Martha for the session panel.

    e.   Taskforce Goals Review

        i.   [Click here](#) to view full list of goals.

        ii. The taskforce reviewed the above goals from the 2021-2022 year and determined that most goals have been met. The taskforce will review the last incomplete goals at the April committee meeting.