

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

Increasing Access to the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program

PROBLEM

- The process to become an approved EBT/Cal Fresh vendor is long, bureaucratic and requires approval through county, state and federal agencies.
- Colleges must apply to be a restaurant meals program vendor individually and the process can take over 18 months for approval.
- Over 60 colleges are located in counties that do not have a restaurant meals program and therefore ineligible to provide access to CalFresh to their students.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- Increases access to food financial aid.
- Authorizes the Department of Social Services to enter into a statewide memorandum of understanding with the Chancellor's Office to permit our 114 colleges with eligible facilities to accept CalFresh at their campus restaurants.
- Cuts red tape and significantly expedites the process for a college to become an EBT/CalFresh approved vendor.
- Permits all colleges, including those who are not in a county that offers the program to be eligible.

AFFORDABILITY FACTS

- 22% of California community college students cannot afford food.
- Food insecure students are more likely to drop out of school due to financial concerns.

More Information:

www.ccleague.org/affordability-taskforce