

**Addressing Campus Food Insecurity:
A Conversation with Food Service Providers and Partners**

Meeting Summary

Sunday, September 29, 2019
2:15- 4:00 pm

Houston Community College, West Houston Institute

We discussed two topics: expanding access to SNAP for college students, and expanding the National School Lunch Program to higher education. The group considered the following questions:

- How might these changes affect students?
- How might these changes affect colleges
- How might these changes affect food service providers?
- How can this group effectively make the case for these changes and advocate together for them?

We tried to consider each question from all sides, including both positive and negative implications, in order to understand the necessary attributes of any advocacy efforts.

SNAP Expansion

Common themes:

1. Colleges and universities need incentives identify food as a retention tool rather than a way to generate profit. How might those incentives be developed given that food is currently used by some institutions to attract students and this is a period of declining enrollment?
2. SNAP eligibility rules must be addressed to align with realities facing today's college students. Interactions with meal plans and financial aid must also be addressed.
3. Much more substantial outreach to students about SNAP is necessary.
4. Colleges and universities need information on how to accept EBT on campus.

Questions identified:

1. Can SNAP be integrated into a students' financial package?
2. How can campus stores meet the requirements to 1) accept SNAP dollars 2) restaurant meals?

3. How is summer break handled?
4. What is the role of private colleges?
5. When students are required to purchase a meal plan, what are the impacts on student eligibility for SNAP? On their debt?
6. When students use SNAP, what are the impacts on an institution's bottom line, if those students no longer have to purchase a meal plan?

National School Lunch Program Expansion

Common themes:

1. It is easier to think about this in the context of community colleges than in universities. They tend not to have meal plans and have a higher percentage of low-income students who received FRL in high school. There may be different effective approaches (e.g. Swipes) in different environments.
2. It is important to nudge colleges and universities now to consider ways to address food insecurity in their decisions about contracting with food providers.
3. We need to know more about community college capacity, including how many community colleges currently have food service, how many they currently serve (what fraction of the student body), and for what meals.

Questions identified:

1. Would the supply chain be the same as it is currently?
2. Would a community-wide provision be used?
3. What would be the nutritional requirements?
4. Who are leaders in K-12 with models of producing meals that meet the nutritional requirements and also produce a profit?
5. What lessons should be learned from the existing program in crafting the expansion?
6. What lessons will emerge from the University of Kentucky's new café?

Questions and Next Steps

1. Is there a group interested in working together to try and address the questions in either category? For example, might there be a way to model the impact of SNAP expansion on an institution's bottom line? Or commission a report on lessons from NLSP for an expansion?
2. There is appetite for another meeting with more stakeholders:
 - a. Do we want to have one before next year's #RealCollege – for example in the first half of 2020? Who is interested in helping to plan? In hosting?
 - b. Hope will host a second, longer meeting at #RealCollege 2020. We seek support and sponsorship for that effort.
 - c. Here are the additional stakeholders that participants indicated they would like to have in the room. Who else?

- i. Higher education leaders (those who make contracting decisions?)
- ii. NACUFS
- iii. Students
- iv. Food Banks

Participants

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