

STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Access to affordable housing is essential for supporting college students' educational attainment and success. Housing insecurity and homelessness among college students have become increasingly prevalent issues, jeopardizing academic progress and overall well-being. According to a study by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, approximately 46% of college students experienced housing insecurity in the past year, and 17% were homeless. The high cost of housing, coupled with rising tuition and living expenses, creates significant financial barriers for students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. Affordable housing initiatives, such as campus-based housing assistance programs and partnerships with local housing providers, can help address the housing needs of college students and facilitate academic persistence and completion. Ensuring access to safe, stable housing is essential for promoting educational equity and supporting the success of all students.

WHAT THE DATA SAYS

HOUSING INSECURITY

Of 9,700 WA college students, 34% experienced housing insecurity in 2022.¹

FOOD AND HOUSING

Nearly half of college students experienced either food or housing insecurity.²

LENDING DISPARITIES

Black students in WA are more likely than White students to receive unsubsidized loans for education, which increases the amount of debt that Black college graduates must take on to pursue higher education, which follows them into homeownership.⁷

FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

76% of former foster youth college students experienced basic needs insecurity of housing and food.³

STUDENT PARENTS

Students who were a parent experienced basic needs insecurity at a rate of 61% - 11% higher than the overall population.⁴

CHILDCARE NEEDS

Overall, 18% of respondents reported being a parent or primary caregiver, including 26% of people at 2-year colleges and 11% at 4-year.⁵

CHILDCARE ACCESS

Of those who reported caring for a dependent and needing childcare, 66% said they could not afford it.⁶



SUPPORT HOUSING ACCESS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Creating affordable housing options for students, providing housing assistance programs, and partnering with local housing organizations can address housing insecurity among college students and support academic success.

FIND MORE INFORMATION

- ["Basic Needs Security Among Washington College Students: Washington Student Experience Survey: Findings Report" \(Jan. 2023\).](#)
- [The Hope Center. "Washington State Community and Technical Colleges #RealCollege Survey". \(Feb. 2020\).](#)
- [Bipartisan Policy Center. "Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Among College Students". \(Aug. 2023\).](#)
- [HUD. "Insights into Housing and Community Development Policy. Barriers to Success: Housing Insecurity for U.S. College Students". \(Feb. 2015\).](#)

HOW TO HELP

Advocate for affordable housing solutions on college campuses, support housing assistance programs for students, and engage with higher education institutions to prioritize student housing needs.



PARTNERS SUPPORTING HOUSING ACCESS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSORTIUM

The Affordable Housing Consortium is effecting change through community education, advocacy, and the provision of resources to advance the development and preservation of housing that is affordable, accessible, and free of discrimination. Because everyone deserves a place to call home.



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Washington Student Achievement Council. (2023) Basic Needs Security Among Washington College Students.
7. 2022. Washington State Homeownership Disparities Work Group and the Department of Commerce. "Improving Homeownership Rates for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Washington Recommendations from the Homeownership Disparities Work Group".