



## **Hunger Free Campus Grant Fund**

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Working with State Representative Carol Ammons' Office

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The Policy and Research Legislative Fellowship is a non-partisan initiative, supported by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Chancellor's Office of Public Engagement. This initiative is administered by the Center for Social & Behavioral Science (CSBS). This product reflects the views of the authors and not necessarily the views of the University of Illinois.



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**HB 2504: HUNGER FREE CAMPUS GRANT FUND - APPROPRIATIONS**

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TO: State Representative Carol Ammons (D-103)  
FR: Benjamin M Campbell & Martha Jailene Aguirre  
DT: November 6, 2023  
RE: HB 2504: Hunger Free Campus Grant Fund – Appropriations

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**Recommendation: Vote YES on HB 2504, fully fund the Hunger Free Campus Grant Fund - Appropriations**

- According to a 2022 research survey, 46% of college students experienced food insecurity.
  - 1 in 3 college students.

**Financial and Food Insecurity among College Students**

- A majority of respondents to a 2022 survey worried about having enough money to pay for their expenses while enrolled in college or university.
  - Black students were 13% more likely than their White peers to have trouble finding \$500 in case of an emergency while Hispanic students were 8% more likely than their White peers to have trouble finding funds.
    - 59% of Black students were worried about current expenses.
    - 55% of Hispanic students were worried about current expenses.
    - 51% of White students were worried about current expenses.
  - Only 19% of food insecure students reported being able to visit a food pantry on/near their campus.

Those who were...	Non-White	Female	First Gen	Part-Time
All undergraduate Responses	53%	61%	36%	43%
Would have trouble finding \$500 in an emergency	56%	68%	42%	43%
Would not be able to find \$500 in an emergency (from any source)	61%	75%	51%	48%
Experienced Very Low Food Security	56%	57%	46%	42%

**Hunger Free Campuses (HFC) in Illinois**

- In 2023, HB 2528 was passed into law.
  - HB 2528 established “Hunger Free Campus” designation within IBHE.
  - To be designated as a “Hunger Free Campus,” colleges and universities must establish a hunger task force that meets regularly, provide assistance to students registering for SNAP benefits, provide options to use SNAP benefits on or near campus, raise awareness, provide at least one (1) physical food pantry, and conduct an annual student hunger survey, among others.

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Frequently Asked Questions, from Swipe Out Hunger, National HFC Resources:

### **Why do we need to fund Hunger Free Campuses?**

*Funding is where real impacts are made. College campuses are often under resourced, paying out of minimal funds to stock on campus food pantries. Funding anti-hunger programs directly allows them to thrive.*

### **Can we do a study instead?**

*A study is meant to provide data and insight on why/how a program like this would benefit the State, but we already know how big the need is. To support college students and end college student hunger, policy and funding will make the biggest impacts.*

### **Don't institutions already provide funding for anti-hunger programs?**

*Administrators at institutions are already stretched to capacity, and many processes set up by campus administrators do not prioritize getting direct funding to their anti-hunger programs. Any funding that exists is likely to trickle down, making it so that programs like food pantries receive little to none of that funding.*

### **Aren't Food Banks enough?**

*Studies show that if we were to represent the number of students fed by "bags of groceries," then nonprofits and food banks would only be providing about 1 in 20 bags of food to feed our students. Additionally, food banks serve multiple communities and are often stretched to capacity, therefore not guaranteeing a campus pantry can get full support.*

### **How do we get funding once the bill is passed?**

*Funding will be distributed through a state agency, these agencies will follow either their own process/application or utilize bill language that has been passed.*

### **Where has the Hunger Free Campus bill been implemented? What does it look like?**

*Ten States: CA, NJ, MD, MN, MA, PA, OK, LA, IL, WA*

*Funding uses range from: building and staffing a proper food pantry, implementing better technology for meal donation or meal swipe programs, improving SNAP outreach and resources on campus, and much more...the key here is FLEXIBILITY. Campuses can utilize this funding to make the biggest impact on their campuses depending on their needs*