

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS SECURITY ECOSYSTEMS TEXAS, 2021-22

The COVID-19 pandemic brought new and heightened challenges when it comes to students' basic needs, and especially their need for support with emergency aid and related services. These services (part of the BMGF Emergency Aid response) will address basic needs insecurity, particularly food and housing insecurity and homelessness, among undergraduates. Basic needs insecurity is a key equity challenge reducing the odds of completion, with disproportionate impacts on Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and low-income students. Institutions seek to address basic needs insecurity in order to promote equity, maintain enrollment, and promote college attainment. We will support building capacity in the areas of advising, emergency aid, institutional research, institutional policy, and state policy to advance an ecosystem of support for students' basic needs.

### KEY OBJECTIVES

To address students' basic needs institutions must develop an ecosystem of support for those needs. The Hope Center outlines a theory of change [leading to such an ecosystem here](#).

As part of this initiative, institutions will build capacity in five areas:

1. Institutions will learn how to assess students' basic needs.
2. Institutions will learn how to analyze basic needs data in ways that connect the dots to students' academic performance.
3. Institutions will understand basic needs security as integral to the institution's financial support and advising work with all students, and know how to implement key practices equitably. This also includes informing decisions about how federal stimulus funds for student support services, including emergency aid, will be deployed. Those practices include:
  - Financial aid (Title IV)
  - Emergency aid (non-Title IV)
  - Public benefits access

4. Institutions will map the student experience of accessing basic needs support services, and how they can assess the extent to which their internal communications/processes support inter-departmental collaboration and alignment in racially equitable ways to meet students' basic needs.
5. Institutions will understand their role in advocating for improved state and federal policies to support students' basic needs security.

## ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

**Welcome and Kickoff** Tuesday, July 13th - 10:00-11:30 am CT

**Topic 1** Wednesday, July 21st - 9:00-10:00 am CT

- Pre-reading will be provided
- Coaching will be available after the session

**Topic 2** Wednesday, August 18th - 9:00-10:00 am CT

- Pre-reading will be provided
- Coaching will be available after the session

### Topic 3

Financial Aid	Tuesday, September 7th - 2:30-3:30 pm CT
Emergency Aid	Tuesday, October 12th - 1:00-2:00 pm CT
Public Benefits	Wednesday, November 10th - 10:30-11:30 am CT

- Pre-reading will be provided
- Coaching will be available after the session

### Topic 4

<b>Mapping Exercise</b>	<b>To be completed by March 1, 2022</b>
Meeting 1	Wednesday, January 26th - 1:30-2:30 pm CT
Meeting 2	Wednesday, March 23rd - 3:00-4:00 pm CT

- Coaching will be available after the session

### Texas Bonus Topic

Parenting Students' Basic Needs	Pre-Institute Session at Texas Pathways Institute
	Wednesday, April 6th - 10:30-1:00 pm CT

**Topic 5: Q&A Session** Tuesday, April 12th - 2:00-3:00 pm CT

- Coaching will be available after the session

**Closing Session** Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 - 11:30am-1:00 pm CT

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND MEETINGS?

Building capacity includes helping institutions create a culture in change at various levels in the institution. We recommend that the following staff participates:

- Office of Institutional research
- Financial aid officers
- Student support services staff, academic advisers, and counselors
- Student life and marketing staff
- Optional: librarians, student leaders, and faculty

## INITIAL MAPPING ACTIVITY PREVIEW

### A Component of the April 2022 Institute Advance Work

A key step in developing a systems approach to basic needs security is to make sense of the institutional existing landscape of services and assets. By mapping and analyzing which services exist, the level of coordination between them, and whether they are aligned with student needs, institutions will be better positioned to identify necessary enhancements.

Whether institution has a tool internally developed or prefer to do this exercise through a team dialogue, having an inventory of services and assets will be helpful to identify the areas where the institution could/ should focus efforts to have the most impact. For considerations on how to approach the design and maintenance of the inventory map, see the [Digital Promise Asset Mapping Guide](#) or this [Asset Mapping Matrix](#).

If you have questions about the initial activity or other parts of this project, please contact The Hope Center's Director of Institutional Transformation, [Paula Umaña](#).