

#RealCollegeTX:

Basic Needs Technical
Assistance Topic 1:
Assessing Basic Needs

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Agenda

- Why assess basic needs?
- How do you assess basic needs?
- How do you measure basic needs insecurity?
- Q&A

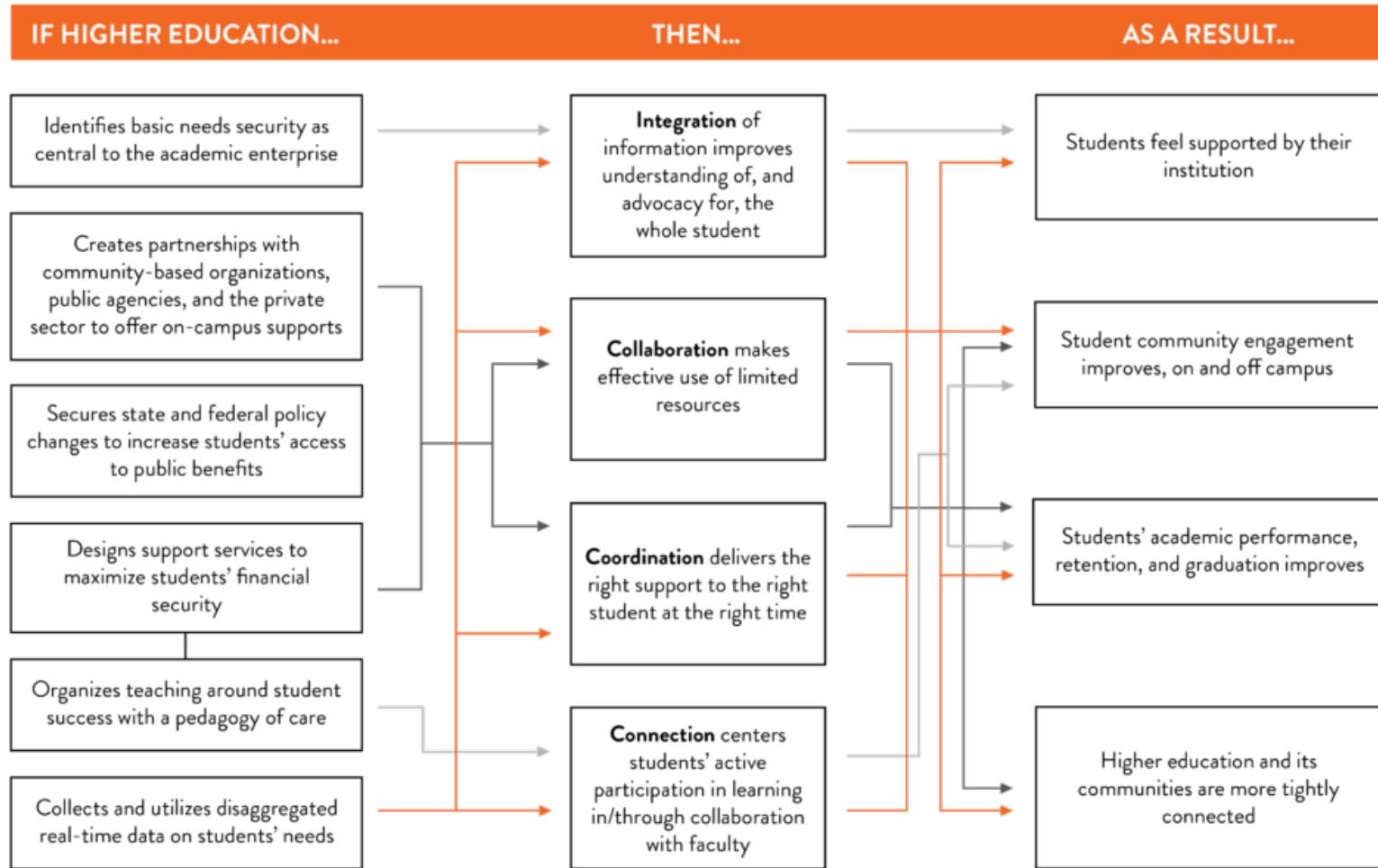


Goals for today's session

1. Provide compelling reasons to assess basic needs;
2. Compile a list of questions to consider before assessing basic needs;
3. Consider the goals for measuring basic needs;
4. Understand approaches to assessing *food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness*

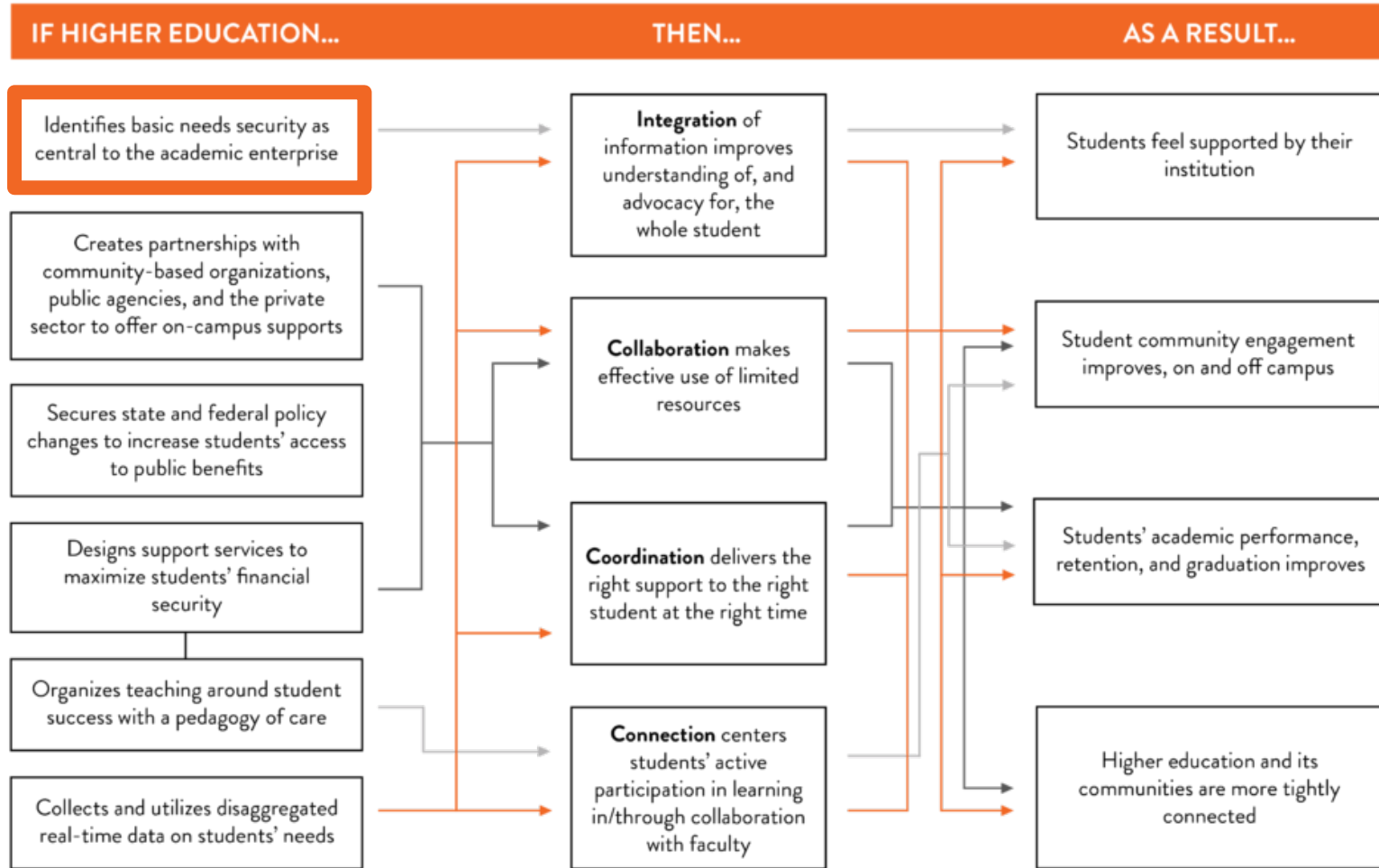
HOPE CENTER THEORY OF CHANGE

VISION: All students receive the basic human needs' supports required for them to succeed.



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Why Assess Basic Needs?

Answer questions like...

1. How many students could benefit from additional resources like campus food pantries, emergency aid, or crisis housing?
2. Which types of students ought to be flagged for additional outreach by early alert systems?
3. To what extent should the security of students' basic needs become a campus priority?
4. How many students who are dealing with basic needs insecurity use resources or supports at your college?

Is there a 'best way' to
assess whether students'
basic needs are being
met?

DEFINING BASIC NEEDS

Students' basic needs include access to nutritious and sufficient food; safe, secure, and adequate housing—to sleep, study, cook, and shower; healthcare to promote sustained mental and physical well-being; affordable technology and transportation; resources for personal hygiene care; and childcare and related needs*.

*The Hope Center's BNI definition

Questions to Consider When Collecting Your Own Data

1. Is your institution ready to collect data on basic needs?
2. Who should collect data?
3. Who should take the survey?
4. How do you recruit students to take the survey?

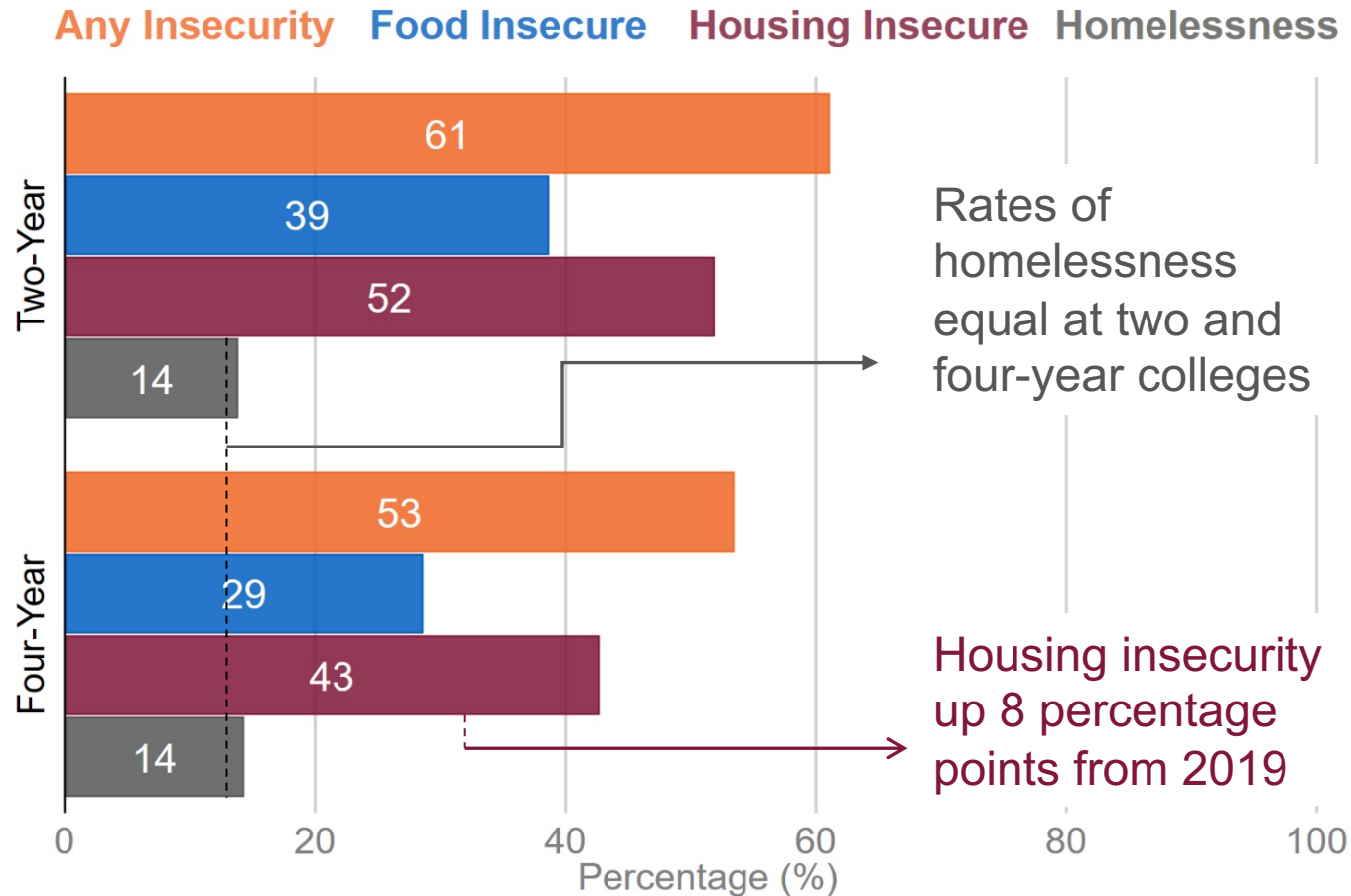
Breakout discussion

What are potential responses to these questions at your institution?



How do you measure whether students' basic needs are being met?

BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY RATES



Food Insecurity



- **Definition:** The limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner.
- **Measurement:** *USDA Food Security Survey Question Module – 6-, 10-, or 18-item versions*

Examples of Questions on USDA Modules

In the last 30 days...

- ...the food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more
- ...did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?
- ...I relied on only a few kinds of low-cost food to feed my children because I was running out of money to buy food.

Housing Insecurity



- **Definition:** encompasses a broad set of challenges that prevent someone from having a safe, affordable, and consistent place to live.
- **Measurement:** Use a nine-item set of questions developed by our team at The Hope Center. It looks at factors such as the ability to pay rent and the need to move frequently.

Examples of Questions on Housing Insecurity

In the past 12 months...

- ...was there a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay?
- ...did you move in with other people, even for a little while, because of financial problems?
- ...did you live with others beyond the expected capacity of the house or apartment?

Homelessness



- **Definition:** A person does not have a fixed, regular, and adequate place to live.
- **Measurement:** In alignment with the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*, students are considered homeless if they identified as experiencing homelessness or signs of homelessness.

Examples of Questions on Experiencing Homelessness

In the past 12 months, have you slept in any of the following places? (*Please check all that apply*)

- Temporarily staying with a relative, friend, or couch surfing until I find other housing
- Temporarily at a hotel or motel without a permanent home to return to (not on vacation or business travel)
- At a shelter
- Outdoor location



QUESTIONS

NEXT SESSION

- Analyzing your data
- Preparing your report
- Dissemination





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