

Notice of major policy update

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College Students Face Cuts to SNAP/CalFresh

Pre-pandemic policies set to resume; college students face hunger cliff.
Community and college food pantries must fill the gap.

San Diego, July 25, 2023 – Policy changes that made it easier for low-income college students to access federal food assistance during the COVID pandemic will be [reversed and phased out over the next year](#). Many college and university students have already been denied renewal of their CalFresh/SNAP benefits, better known as food stamps. Community and college food pantries must prepare to fill the food gap left by the reversal of these policies during a time of runaway inflation and elevated food prices.

Wesley House Student Residence recently expanded its student food pantry through the generous support of Feeding San Diego, the County of San Diego, and the City of San Diego. The expansion was completed at a critical time as the demand for food assistance has grown tremendously over the past 18 months. Wesley House's client list has grown from 50 college students to over 500 during that period. The expanded pantry offers increased inventory, access to more fresh produce, dairy, and meat, a rotating stock of non-food and hygienic essentials, and access to additional support services.

Wesley House is ready to provide interviews with college students who have been impacted or may be impacted by these policy changes and experts on college food insecurity.

Video/image opportunities are available in the Wesley House Food Pantry and on the SDSU campus.

The Need

The *starving college student* trope masks a systemic and often unseen crisis in higher education: student food insecurity. Money is often tight for students who do not come from well-to-do families and, as the costs of tuition and living rise, the first place they seek to cut expenses is their food budgets. Students who do not have enough to eat have difficulty focusing and a reduced likelihood of persisting in their education.

The Numbers

- According to a [2021 study](#), **43% of community college students** in San Diego experienced food insecurity.
- The same study reports **59% of San Diego college students** experiencing housing insecurity.
- A [5-year study](#) shows that **62% of former foster youth** enrolled in college experience food insecurity.
- According to a [GAO study](#), under pre-pandemic rules, of the 3.3M college students *potentially* eligible for SNAP, less than half participated.

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Please contact Joe Shumate at joseph@sdwesleyhouse.org or 619-616-7600 for more information or to arrange for interviews. Photos available at sdwesleyhouse.org/press-room.

Wesley House Student Residence empowers qualifying students to achieve their goals through affordable housing and support services. Our vision is that every low-income student has access to equitable college experiences.