Community and Technical Colleges - HR.1 Implications

Understanding the Impact and System Response

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Basic Needs Among WA College Students

According to 2024 Washington survey data, over half of students reported struggling with housing and food instability:

- 44% experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days.
- 34% experienced housing insecurity in the prior year.
- 11% experienced homelessness in the prior year.

Even higher percentages of basic needs insecurity were reported by students who experienced foster care or homelessness in high school (84%), students with low incomes (70%), students with dependents (68%), students living with a disability (65%), and first-generation students (63%).

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Basic Needs Navigation

Navigators connected 95,111 Washington students to basic needs resources:

- ***94,179 CTC students*** and 932 university students
- Among students served, over half were first-generations students or low-income students

Navigators provided 99,928 referrals to community and campus resources:

- Campus resources: ***55,031 (CTCs)*** and 1,698 (university)
- Community resources: ***42,087 (CTCs)*** and 1,112 (universities)

Most common resource needs include:

- Food assistance and benefits application
- Homelessness services or prevention and utilities assistance
- Financial aid and emergency assistance
- Childcare, health services, and transportation

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Anticipated Impact of SNAP Changes

- Expanded work requirements and tightened eligibility
- Increased Administrative Burden
  - Students
  - Colleges
- New level of demand with required participation
  - Staggered cycles of increases
  - Disproportionate impacts in rural areas
- Challenges
  - Inappropriate Referrals
  - Errors and Missed Reports
  - Denial of Benefits
  - Closure of Benefits

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WA CTC Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) Program

Key Program Services:

- Tuition & Fees, Books
- Case Management
- Support Services (tools, childcare, transportation, medical, etc.)

Program Highlights:

- Served more than 120,000 students since 2005
- 66% of BFET participants are employed within 1 year of exit
- Median hourly wage of $24.62

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Greater Role for Community and Technical Colleges

- Benefits Navigation and referrals
- Education on SNAP eligibility, rules, and exemptions
- Basic needs integrated into financial advising and planning
- Increased coordination within the campus and community partners