Building Economic Stability Today

www.michiganbest.org
MCSS Staff

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ECMC Foundation Basic Needs Initiative

• The Basic Needs Initiative (BNI) was created in response to research from the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice (Hope Center), California State University, MDRC and the National Bureau of Economic Research, among others, which found that basic needs insecurity is prevalent among students at two- and four-year campuses and impacts students’ persistence and graduation outcomes. National survey findings reported that 45% of respondents had been food insecure in the past 30 days, 56% had been housing insecure in the previous year and 17% had been homeless during that year.

• Through the BNI, ECMC Foundation made $3.1 million in grants to a national cohort of seven organizations and institutions working with two- and four-year campuses. During the three-year initiative, the cohort of grantees—consisting of postsecondary institutions, community-based organizations and research teams—will undertake a wide array of projects, including launching new initiatives, scaling existing evidence-based programs and conducting research studies, to further the field’s knowledge of supporting students’ basic needs.

• https://www.ecmcfoundation.org/what-we-do/college-success/basic-needs-initiative
MI- BEST Statement of Need

Most Challenging Non-Academic Barriers to Student Success (n=21 institutions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income and Employment</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, Household Goods, and Clothing</td>
<td>5.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>5.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
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<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal and Tax</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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MI BEST Overview

Goal 1: Understand the needs of students and the community
- Self-assessment
- Focus groups
- Survey
- ALICE

Goal 2: Integrate economic stability practices in student supports
- Self-assessment
- MI Bridges
- United Ways and community networks

Goal 3: Share best practices across Michigan
- Student Success Summit
- Convenings
- Coaching and mentoring
- Reports and publications
State Level Transformation

• **Futures for Frontliners:** Free college tuition for COVID-19 frontline workers.
• **Michigan Reconnect:** Free tuition at an in-district community college to earn an associate degree or Pell-eligible skill certificate for Michigan residents 25+.
• **MI Bridges:** Public benefits access portal for state and local basic needs resources.
• **SNAP/Perkins:** Michigan low-income college students enrolled in career and technical education programs can apply for food assistance.
• **ALICE:** Comprehensive depiction of Michigan residents in need from Michigan Association of United Ways.
CBO’s Fostering Local Transformative Change

Provide holistic supports most needed by students

Partnerships with local grocery stores to stock campus food pantries.

Creating college-extension education center sites in downtown areas.

Providing students with free mental health counseling.

Improving city economy with the build of tiny homes for students with families.

Partnerships with community members to stock college clothing closets.

Regularly visit college campus’s (and classrooms) to provide service information to students

Maintain co-location of campus and directly offer services to students on a recurring (e.g., weekly, biweekly) or permanent basis.
Contact Us

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Thank you!
References

MCCA: https://www.mcca.org/events.cfm?filter_eventCategoryID=

ALICE Data: https://www.uwmich.org/alice


Michigan League for Public Policy: https://mlpp.org/basic-needs-security-for-college-students/