

Create a single-stop CARE Center for Campus Advocacy Resource and Education Center that would have a community resource case manager and student interns.

CURRENT CHALLENGE:

In recent studies at Fresno State, approximately 31% of Fresno State students are experiencing food insecurity. We have been fortunate to have the Food Security Project launch on our campus that connects students to food and additional resources, however, several of student's basic needs are still going unmet. Currently, our campus has a BIT Team (behavioral intervention team) which is in search of a case manager with a LCSW in order to help with mental health and clinical case management. While this case manager is assisting students with these important areas of need, we do not have a single location or dedicated staff to assist students who are experiencing economic hardship or economic crisis. There are distinct differences between a clinical case manager and a community resource case manager.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

This BOLD Ideas proposal is to create a single-stop "CARE Center" for Campus Advocacy Resource and Education Center that would have a community resource case manager and student interns that would do the following:

- Case Manger would train and provide support to student interns
- Case Manger would serve as a community liaison for the CARE Center as appropriate
- Peer-to-peer connection with use of student interns
- Student interns would gain meaningful and valuable work experience in their related field of study
- Student interns would be trained and assist students with economic hardship with eligibility for community resources, assist with applying for resources, and advocacy (as appropriate)
- Student interns would provide students with eligibility requirements and assistance with applying to programs like food stamps, WIC, housing assistance, welfare to work, medical, etc.

In addition, the CARE Center could provide:

- Meeting space for support groups, training, and educational workshops
- A washer and dryer for students who don't have access to laundry facilities

We have done research of other campus CARE Center and single-stop models which include:

- New York Single Stop USA
- Humboldt grant to provide student interns who work directly with students teaching them eligibility requirements and assisting them with CalFresh applications
- Chico model with student interns who work directly with students teaching them eligibility requirements and assisting them with CalFresh applications, as well as a CalFresh Day on campus
- Student Advocacy Center at Ohio State University
- Salem State University
- Calhoun Community College Student Advocacy Center
- University of Southern California Student Support and Advocacy.

BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs shows that people are motivated when their basic needs are met. One must satisfy lower level basic needs before progressing on to meet higher level growth needs. With this CARE Center model, the campus is providing connections and support to community resources to help students maximize their resources to have their basic needs met such as housing, food, clothing, and medical assistance to help them succeed in school. The concept of the CARE Center ties into the strategic plan for student success to develop the whole student and life-long success, while also allowing us to grow, develop and engage community partnership to increase support for students. The CARE Center model also fits into the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management strategic themes on student success and promoting safety and wellness. The CARE Center could move one step further and connect with the Food Security Project, particularly the Student Cupboard and Good Samaritan Fund, which provide for students basic needs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: