



# Food & Shelter Task Force

El Camino College  
16007 CRENSHAW BLVD.  
TORRANCE, CA 90506  
(310) 660-6057 | [elcamino.edu](http://elcamino.edu)

## Who is Serving on the Task Force?

The El Camino Food & Shelter Task Force was created in 2017 in a response to the growing need to address food and housing insecurity throughout our campus. There are currently 31 members serving on Task Force, which consist of faculty, staff, and managers from many areas of campus community. Complete list of members are on page 5.

## What is the purpose of the Task Force?

The purpose and intent of the El Camino Food & Shelter Task Force is to address basic needs, especially food and housing insecurity, for students at our campus. Our goal is to offer guidance and support for fellow faculty and staff working with students facing food and housing insecurity, and aid with referrals. Ultimately, we want to ensure that no member of our staff feel they have nothing to offer a student who might be in desperate need of support. Students who are facing these challenges (especially homeless) are among the most vulnerable individuals served by El Camino College

## Task Force Accomplishments

The following is a list of the projects that have resulted as a combined effort through the Food & Shelter Task Force:

1. **Warrior Pantry** - The Warrior Food Pantry was officially opened at El Camino College in the fall of 2017, providing non-perishable food items to any current ECC student needing to utilize the pantry. The pantry operates through local community donations and purchases from the Los Angeles Food Bank.
2. **Metro U-Pass** - In an effort to address affordable transportation for our students, the Metro U-Pass was made available to El Camino students in the fall of 2017. The current Metro U-Pass is valid for up to five months and gives students' unlimited rides on nine major transit lines for one low price. Continued support from Associated Student Organization (ASO) has also provided U-Pass subsidies to make the pass even more affordable for our students.
3. **Basic Needs & Financial Aid Fair** - In an effort to help students apply for Financial Aid and address basic needs, an annual fair is held during the fall semester. The DPSS CalFresh Mobile Unit is also onsite to approve students for CalFresh, Medi-Cal and General Relief which is a process that normally takes weeks.
4. **Student Guide to Free and Low Cost Resources** - The student resource guidebook was created by the Division of Student Support Services in collaboration with the Task Force to provide students referrals for multiple free or low cost resources including clinics, shelters, food banks, laundry facilities, mental health counseling, substance abuse, legal support, and employment assistance. The guidebook will be available online by summer of 2019 and accessible through the Student Support Services website.



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5. **FFY 2019-21 CalFresh Outreach (CFO) program** - El Camino was recently approved to participate in the federal CalFresh Outreach (CFO) program offered through CSU Chico's Center for Healthy Communities (CHC). As a campus performing CalFresh eligibility, outreach, activities and general programming, we are eligible for reimbursement for costs incurred in working to reduce student hunger. Implementation of our CalFresh outreach campaign will begin during summer and fall 2019 to prescreen and assist students with enrollment into CalFresh.
6. **Warrior Closet** - The Warrior Closet was created in the fall of 2018 in an effort to increase the employability of our students who may not have access to professional attire for job interviews or work. Pop-up closet events have been hosted a couple times this semester, and have been well attended by our students. Donations by our staff have also been generous and help us keep the closet full.
7. **Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 South Bay** - A combined effort between our Foster Youth & Homeless Liaison and the LA Homeless Services Authority's Coordinated Entry System (CES), brings together numerous regional programs aimed at connecting youth, adults and families experiencing homelessness to the best resources available to meet their needs. This service also provides 24-hour emergency housing and bridges housing for people transitioning into permanent housing. Crisis housing is also available for those with a history of domestic violence and/or human trafficking.

### Task Force Recommendations:

1. **EBT Approval: Pacific Dining** - A Memorandum of Understanding is currently pending approval with Los Angeles County to allow Pacific Dining to be an approved vendor to accept EBT payments. This approval would allow homeless, elderly and disabled individuals to use their EBT card to purchase hot, prepared meals on campus. The Task Force is in support of this effort and receives an update each month.
2. **Storage** - The Task Force has recognized the need for a storage locations on campus for numerous departments and programs. This is especially true since the current storage areas in Student Services and Student Development will no longer be available once the new building is completed. Storage for the Warrior Pantry will be extremely limited once Student Development relocates. The Warrior Pantry will require a temperature controlled space to store inventory, since canned foods must be stored in a cool, dry place. Additionally, with the expanding number of students using the pantry, there is a need for additional space not only to store food, but also to distribute food.

The conference room adjoining the current pantry location in PHYS 116 would be the ideal place. It would provide a larger space for distributing food to students, and allow additional inventory to be stored right next door. The Warrior Closet will also need a place for clothing once Financial Aid vacates the Communications Building this summer. Though Alexander Cook from Pacific Dining was generous and offered to store a pallet of food for the Warrior Pantry, additional storage space is needed.





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3. **Housing** - One of the reasons we see so many students facing housing insecurity is due to the high cost of living in our region. The average price for rent in Torrance, CA is \$1,980 and only 1% of the market offers rents less than \$1,000 per month. Santa Rosa Junior College recently approved a \$42 million on-campus student housing project to house 360 students at affordable rates starting at \$750 per month. While this is a unique decision for a community college, they are addressing their students' housing insecurity and estimate they will see a return revenue of \$3 million by 2031. Seeing the need for affordable housing, the Task Force supports any efforts to create housing on-campus or in finding local affordable alternatives to assist our students with their housing needs. The Task Force is willing to work and serve as a resource to the President's Office in exploring ways to serve our students with housing options.

### Task Force Legislative Feedback:

1. **AB302 Parking: Homeless Students** - Introduced by Assembly Member Marc Berman on January 29, 2019. The Task Force is willing to work with the President's Office and in collaboration with other college committees to review options for students as it relates to AB302. Some considerations the Task Force has discussed are the following:
  - a. Designating one parking lot as the overnight parking lot for our homeless students, recommending that we use Lot J, K or L since these lots close to the campus police station and probably the safest parking lots on campus.
  - b. Consideration of bathroom facilities be made available late evenings near Lot J or K for students and their families.
  - c. Having homeless students who choose to park overnight sign an agreement outlining the rules for parking overnight on campus. The Task Force would be happy to assist with the creation of the agreement to provide students guidance and resources.
2. **AB1995 Implementation** – The Task Force is working with the Health Sciences & Athletics Division to implement a process of allowing students who are homeless to shower in the new locker room facilities where towels and toiletries are provided, no questions asked.
3. **SB 568 College-Focused Rapid Rehousing Program** - Colleges receiving this funding will be required to partner with local homeless service agencies to implement a college-focused rapid-rehousing program, facilitate access by students to available local housing resources, and ensure that homeless students are receiving all available financial aid.

Fortunately, our ECC Foster Youth & Homeless Liaison already attends the monthly Coordinated Entry System (CES) case conferencing meetings for the SPA 8 area. These meetings are used for sharing available housing through the different agencies, as well as, discuss specific referrals, and challenges faced by the students. As a result, we have been able to build relationships with the three main agencies servicing the South Bay area. This allows our Foster Youth & Homeless Liaison to refer our students to their agencies for housing assistance. We have successfully worked in partnership, resulting in several of our students being placed in various types of housing options. Ongoing work continues today with multiple community based organizations to ensure our students are presented with all options available to address their housing concerns and fortify their success.



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### How can the President's Office help with this important work?

President Maloney, your support can be pivotal in terms of marketing and visibility for the work of our campus' Food & Shelter Task Force. Under your direction, the office of Marketing & Communications could support us with an **Outreach Campaign** that could give our task force the visibility needed to inform our students, faculty and staff of resources offered at El Camino College. This would also give us the much needed push to get the CalFresh Outreach Program up and running for the fall 2019 semester. In addition, any support provided for the recommendations above would be greatly appreciated.

We understand that some of the recommendations are dreams that would take incredible amounts of time, energy and investment to achieve. However, we believe that your assistance in bringing awareness to the challenges our students face with housing and food insecurity would garner support from on and off campus resources that could contribute toward strategic partnerships that would help us build capacity for our recommendations in the future.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share the work we are doing as members of the El Camino Food & Shelter Task Force. It has been a very rewarding experience thus far, and we hope to continue our work of addressing the basic needs of our students.



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## Food & Shelter Task Force Members:

1. Allison, Deborah - Student Development Office
2. Aramburo, Julieta - Outreach & School Relations
3. Bailey, Nina – Veterans Resource Center
4. Barksdale, Sharonda - Financial Aid
5. Becka, Roberta - Grants Development & Management
6. Bourlier, Julie - Bookstore
7. Brown, David - EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs & Guardian Scholars
8. Casillas, Veronica - Counseling
9. Dela Cruz, Christopher - Student Development Office
10. Cook, Alexander - Pacific Dining
11. Gonzalez, Ricardo - RISE Center
12. Greco, Gary - SRC
13. Gutierrez, Edith - EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs & Guardian Scholars
14. Hernandez, Arturo - MESA/ASEM
15. Hernandez, Maribel - Puente
16. Hurd, Christopher - KEAS
17. Lopez, Cindy - Library
18. Martinez, Kristina - Financial Aid
19. Mims, Brian - Counselor/ Coordinator, Project Success
20. Min, Sean - ASO Student Representative
21. Nasatir, Andy - Bookstore
22. Navarro Salvador - FYE
23. Nilles, Susan - Student Health Center
24. Poepoe, Julie - Student Health Center
25. Reyes, Idania - Student Support Services Dean/Task Force Chair
26. Soohoo, Erica - Warrior Pantry
27. Toya, Gregory - Student Development Office
28. Trevis, Michael - ECCPD
29. Unger, Steven - ASO Student Representative
30. Wade, Diana - FKCE
31. Williams, Robert – KEAS/MANA

Average Rent in Torrance & Rent Prices by Neighborhood - RENTCafe, <https://www.rentcafe.com/average-rent-market-trends/us/ca/los-angeles-county/torrance/> Accessed 04 Apr. 2019

Minichiello, Susan. "Santa Rosa Junior College advances \$42 million on-campus student housing project" *The Press Democrat*, 04 Apr. 2019, [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_electronic\\_s](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html)  
[ources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_s)





# California Community Colleges

## AB 302 TALKING POINTS

- The most important thing Assemblyman Berman's bill does is underscore that there is a crisis among California Community College students who are facing housing and food and other financial insecurities, and something must be done about it.
- Allowing sleeping in cars is an attempt to address an immediate need, but there is a much larger ill that must be cured. That is the need to help these struggling students with the total costs of college that include housing and food and non-tuition expenses.
- What California needs now is a long-term, meaningful fix that fills the holes of the existing financial aid system that the neediest students continue to fall through.
- Senate Bill 291 by Sen. Connie Leyva is that long-term solution creating a new need-based grant system for community college students.
- Just because students may be able to sleep in their cars on campus if they have one while they are going to college does not mean they should. They need safe, secure housing.
- We are better than this in California. We must provide financial aid for our students to cover the real costs of college, especially those related to housing for the homeless.

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