

# BEYOND EMERGENCY AID: PREVENTING FOOD & HOUSING INSECURITY

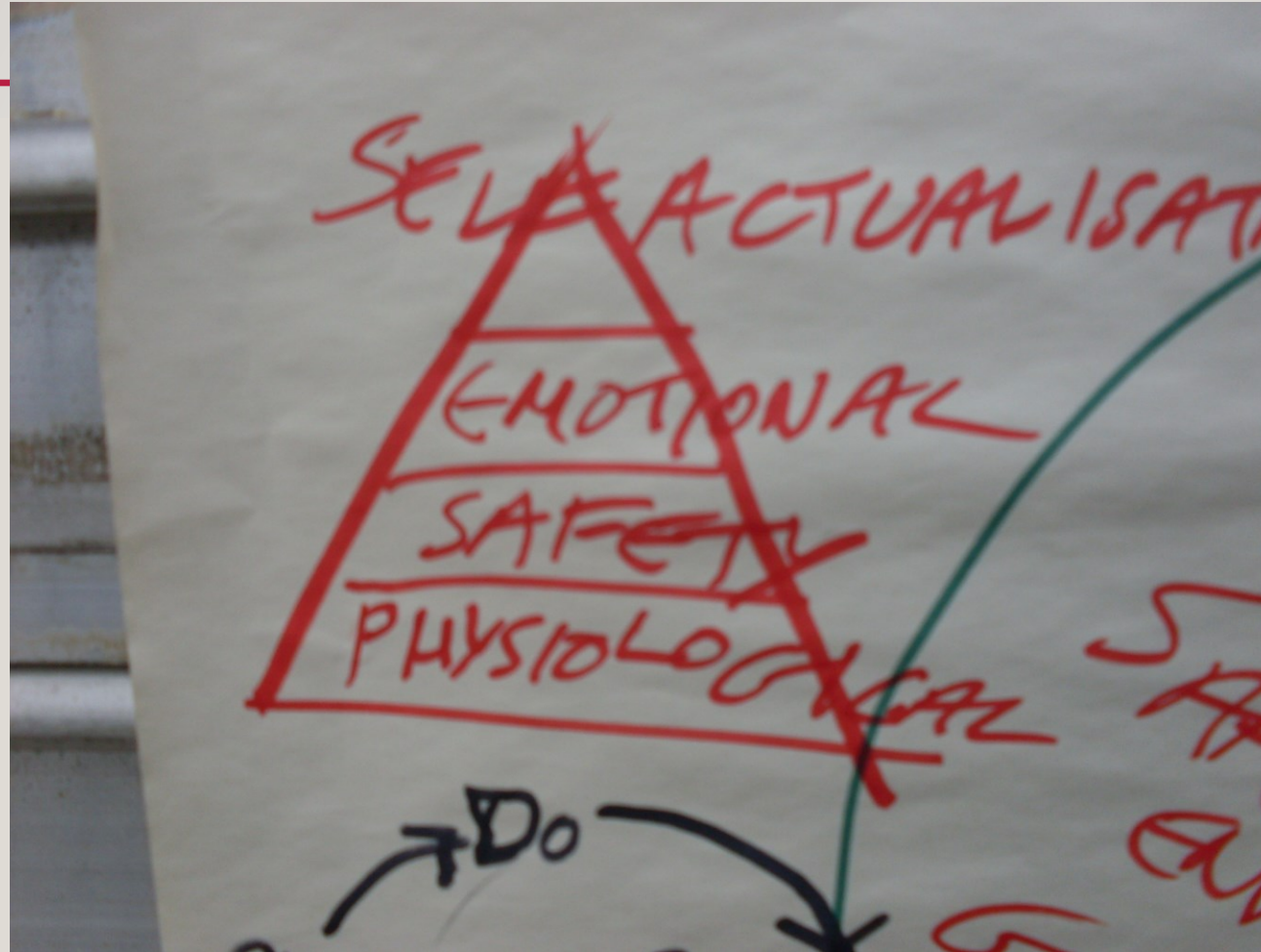
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PREPARED FOR THE TEXAS HIGHER ED COORDINATING  
BOARD- EMERGENCY AID NETWORK

# MASLOW MATTERS

An estimated 50% of undergraduates are food-insecure, with higher rates at community colleges.



Many students also struggle with housing—homelessness appears to affect about 10% of students.

# EMERGENCY AID IS A START

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- IT CAN BE QUICK AND FLEXIBLE
- BUT IT IS A **RESPONSE** TO A PROBLEM, NOT **PREVENTION**
  - *THEREFORE IT MAY ALSO BE COMPARATIVELY EXPENSIVE*

# A PATH TO PREVENTION

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STEP 1. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

STEP 2. PARTNERSHIPS

STEP 3. IMPLEMENTATION

STEP 4. SCALING



# STEP I. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

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- HELP THE COMMUNITIES ON AND OFF-CAMPUS **BECOME AWARE** OF THE PRESENCE OF FOOD AND HOUSING INSECURITY AMONG STUDENTS
  - DATA COLLECTION CAN HELP
  - STORYTELLING IS ESSENTIAL
- CONNECT FOOD AND HOUSING INSECURITY TO **COLLEGE COMPLETION**
  - IT AFFECTS BOTH LOW-INCOME & MIDDLE-CLASS STUDENTS

# STEP I. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

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- **BRING DATA AND EVIDENCE TO FRONT LINE FACULTY & STAFF**
  - CHALLENGE THEM TO RECOGNIZE CONDITIONS OF POVERTY AFFECTING THEIR STUDENTS
  - RECOGNIZE THAT THESE CHALLENGES MAY AFFECT THEM TOO
  - COMMIT TO HELPING THEM DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT
- **CREATE A CULTURE OF CARE AND EMPATHY**

# STEP 2. PARTNERSHIPS

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- SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES (FOOD BANKS, UNITED WAY) & CBOS
- HOUSING AUTHORITIES
- TRANSPORTATION
- HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (DENTISTS AND DOCTORS)
- LAWYERS AND ACCOUNTANTS
- OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
- FAITH BASED COMMUNITIES
- ALUMNI

## STEP 2. PARTNERSHIPS

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- **BE STRATEGIC:**
  - WHILE IT MIGHT SEEM EASIER TO SEND STUDENTS OFF-CAMPUS FOR EXISTING SERVICES, IT MAY BE LESS EFFICIENT FOR THEM AND THEREFORE LESS EFFECTIVE
- **PIGGYBACK** ON PARTNERSHIPS FORMED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS
  - USE LESSONS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO START NEW CONVERSATIONS



# EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIPS

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- HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE + HOUSTON FOOD BANK
  - FOOD SCHOLARSHIPS
- TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE + TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY
  - HOUSING VOUCHERS FOR SECTION 8
- AMARILLO COLLEGE + LOCAL BUSINESSES
  - REDUCED COSTS FOR DENTISTRY, FIXING CARS, PUTTING UP HOMELESS STUDENTS IN HOTELS, ETC.
- SOUTHERN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION + LOCAL COLLEGES
  - RENT-FREE HOUSING FOR TALENTED LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

# STEP 3. IMPLEMENTATION

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- **CRAWL, WALK, RUN** – A FOOD PANTRY ISN'T A BAD START
- FOCUS ON **ACCESSIBILITY**:
  - LOCATION – PUT SERVICES FRONT AND CENTER
  - APPLICATIONS– KEEP THEM TO A MINIMUM
  - NAVIGATION– PROVIDE GUIDANCE

# STEP 3. IMPLEMENTATION

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- **LEVERAGE** EXISTING RESOURCES
  - PUBLIC BENEFITS SHOULD BE DRAWN DOWN BY ALL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS (SNAP, EITC, CHILDCARE, ETC.)
  - WHERE WORK REQUIREMENTS ARE AN ISSUE FOR SNAP, CONSIDER RE-ALLOCATING WORK-STUDY
- **SUPPLEMENT** EXISTING RESOURCES
  - RAMP UP SUPPORT FOR OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS

## STEP 3. IMPLEMENTATION

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- **REACH OUT:** IF STUDENTS DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM, THEN YOU DON'T HAVE A PROGRAM
  - ENLIST MARKETING EXPERTS TO HELP
  - USE STUDENT-CENTERED LANGUAGE AND AVOID WORDS THEY DO NOT USE— “FOOD-INSECURE,” “HOMELESS,” ETC.
  - LIST AVAILABLE RESOURCES ON SYLLABI



# SAMPLE BASIC NEEDS SECURITY STATEMENT

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*“Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess.”*

## STEP 4. SCALING

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- FORMALIZE THIS WORK BY **DESIGNATING LEADERSHIP POSITIONS** TO LEAD AND EXPAND IT
- INCORPORATE COMMITMENTS INTO **JOB DESCRIPTIONS**
- EVALUATE IMPACTS OF THIS WORK ON RETENTION AND GRADUATION AND **ASSESS COST-EFFECTIVENESS**
  - REFINE AS NEEDED
  - INCORPORATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT INTO CORE BUDGET

# INNOVATING ON THE LEADING EDGE

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- DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRY NEW THINGS
- THERE IS A COMMUNITY FORMING NATIONWIDE
  - WE ARE LEARNING TOGETHER
  - FIND US AT #REALCOLLEGE
- SHARE YOUR LESSONS, BOTH GOOD AND BAD
  - **SGR@TEMPLE.EDU**