



UCLA BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE  
220 WESTWOOD PLAZA  
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## **UCLA Basic Needs Committee Meeting #1 Spring 2022**

**Spring 2022: May 13, 2022**

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM PDT**

**Student Activities Center Basement Conference Rooms**

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of Agenda
- III. Committee Updates
  - a. Remarks by the Committee Chair
    - i. A lot of changes this year on how to conduct Basic Needs services and programming
      1. Focus on providing resources via electronic means (i.e., in the virtual environment)
      2. Dramatic increase in costs plus shortages of food—acute during Fall months (*Turkey Day Food Box and Winter Holiday Food Box Giveaways*)
      3. Dramatic increase in students utilizing basic needs resources
        - a. Largest populations requiring support: international and graduate/professional students (*make up 40% for CPO's basic needs programming*)
      4. Additional impacts:
        - a. Potential COVID spread has led to students being wary of taking in-person roles, plus need for positions with higher wages
        - b. Roundtable on how it impacts other areas' services:



- a. Reviewing UCLA Basic Needs Spending Plan 2021-2022—how will we approach budget conversations moving forward? (*Accessible via the UCLA Basic Needs Committee website*)
  - i. UCLA Basic Needs Committee Chair will be meeting with Housing & Hospitality Services executives to discuss proposal for “universal access meal plan”
    - 1. Main premise: everyone living on the Hill get 19-meal plan—eliminate 11 and 14 meal plans
    - 2. How do we make sure that the university sets aside resources to ensure there are policies and programs in place to support students’ basic needs? New Meal Plan would be an institutional response to combat food insecurity
  - ii. [FITTED] Eats→serves to ensure students have access to nutrition education and food preparation skills
  - iii. Food Box Giveaways→support students during campus holiday closures
  - iv. ECRT Meal Voucher Program→meeting needs of students facing extraordinary financial distress
  - v. CPO Grocery Bundle Program→this year, 4x the number of applicants compared to pre-pandemic
  - vi. CPO Food Justice Events/Bruin Bites→marketed for students needing additional food; students utilize an app to learn about and stop by an event—no questions asked—and obtain food from an event
  - vii. Basic Needs Initiatives Fund→under consideration for repurposing
  - viii. HCI Special Sessions for Teaching Kitchen→bringing in culturally relevant programming; allows students to learn about foods from diverse culinary background

1. Recently the Teaching Kitchen and FITTED brought a community leader who works to promote indigenous foods
- ix. Housing Grants → Emergency housing support for students whose current aid is not enough to support housing costs
- x. Commuter Van Service → ensuring students living beyond 30 miles have a safe ride home; this in turn allows students to participate in extracurricular activities, focus on scholastic priorities, and engage in student life
- xi. Bruin Hub Development Project Completion →
- xii. 580 Café Equipment → necessary supplies and materials to ensure smooth operations at the Café
- xiii. HCI Garden Project Student Plots →
- xiv. Teaching Kitchen → quickly pivoted to explore how to bring knowledge to students in the remote environment
- xv. Professional Staffing → ECRT and Basic Needs FTEs
- xvi. Basic Needs Student Employment →
- xvii. Financial Wellness Program → AY 22/23 will be having a staff of 8; hired an international student

V. BN Services

- a. 580 Café
- b. Community Programs Office (CPO)
  - i. *Please refer to above notes in "Updates by Basic Needs Operations Team"*
  - ii. Planning to do an assessment project—focus groups, incentives, feedback forum
- c. Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT)
  - i. High Case Volume: averaging at 25/week
  - ii. Extremely High Meal Voucher demand: 1500 - 2000 vouchers issued per week, over the last 2 weeks.

- iii. We are assessing meal voucher criteria, limits and process-consulting with campus partners and Financial Aid on a possible new format.
      - 1. Updates in next couple weeks
    - iv. Expanding access and additional meal voucher distribution location
    - v. Basic Needs Grant as well as the Rapid Rehousing Housing Grant are nearly spent and will be exhausted by 6/30 BN deadline.
    - vi. Financial Aid:
      - 1. All federal COVID relief (HERFF+CARES) are spent.
      - 2. CA state emergency grant spent
      - 3. Students attending summer will need both FAFSA and summer financial aid application on file to be considered for financial aid.
  - d. Semel Healthy Campus Initiative (HCI)
- VI. BN Partner Roundtable
  - a. Swipe Out Hunger
    - i. Pre-pandemic received record number of donations—exception allowed them to distribute meals donated from previous years this academic year (i.e., donation deadline lifted)
    - ii. Reviewing and assessing eligibility requirements to meet demand that exists
    - iii. Dining & Housing→will enforce deadline donations in this academic year (so expired Fall 2022)
    - iv. Surplus→over 130,000 meal swipes
      - 1. Makes up majority of ECRT's vouchers
  - b. Financial Wellness Program
    - i. 15 workshops in Spring 2022 (initiated plus requested from orgs)
      - 1. Over 350 students served
    - ii. 5 upcoming events

1. This Saturday will be outreaching during Bruin Bound (New Transfer Admits)
2. BruinHub (Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>)
- iii. Onboarding new undergraduate
- iv. Center hopefully opening in Summer
- v. 2 MSA Graduate Students → did research on Financial Wellness Program
  1. Findings: discrepancy between financial wellness in students' lives and staff's ability/knowledge to support students through financial wellness
- c. Blood & Platelet Center
  - i. Working with Swipe Out Hunger → if you donate blood, you receive a meal voucher to Reagan or Santa Monica hospital cafeterias
    1. Up to 3 meal vouchers for platelet donors
- d. Teaching Kitchen
  - i. Ensuring students just need to show up and participate
  - ii. Planning more in-person experiences
  - iii. Please contact them for collaborations
  - iv. New work with Athletics, UCLA Veterans, UCLA Apartments
  - v. Hired 2 new videographers to help move classes/materials onto Canvas
- VII. Closing
  - a. Announcements
    - i. Special Announcement: Westside Food Bank
- VIII. Lunch
  - a. Mendocino Farms (Brentwood) and Susie Cakes (Brentwood)