



# Basic Assistance for Students in College

# The BASIC Act

Congresswoman Norma Torres and U.S. Senator Alex Padilla

**3 in 5 students in higher education do not have enough to eat or a safe place to live.** The BASIC Act helps community colleges and four-year institutions address the unmet basic needs of their students so they can focus on learning.

## What the Bill Would Do:

**Establishes a \$1 billion competitive grant program** to help institutions of higher education identify and meet the basic needs of students, including food, housing, transportation, child care, health care, and technology. The bill also requires a national report on student basic needs insecurity.

### Planning Grants

(\$40 Million)

Authorizes 2-year planning grants of up to \$200,000 for institutions of higher education to research and develop plans to address unmet basic needs.



### Implementation Grants

(\$960 Million)

Authorizes 5-year implementation grants of up to \$5 million for institutions to implement plans and develop a basic needs infrastructure.



At least 25% of stated grants must go to community colleges, another 25% must go to HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs. Grant priority will also go to institutions with 25% or higher federal Pell Grant enrollment.

## Grantees must use funds to carry out at least two of the following activities:



Provide free or subsidized food, sleeping arrangements, temporary housing, priority access to existing on campus child care, and other basic needs to eligible students.



Conduct outreach to students to encourage participation in basic needs programs and services and help eligible students apply for and enroll in local, state, and federal public assistance programs.



Coordinate and collaborate with government and/or community-based organizations to expand basic needs support.



Purchase materials, equipment, transportation, and facilities; hire personnel to facilitate implementation; or other matters determined by the Secretary.

**Connecting Students with Help:** This Act also requires the Dept. of Education to work with agencies and improve data-sharing **to identify students who may be eligible for federal funded benefit programs and coordinate efforts to help institutions of higher education enroll eligible students.** This includes SNAP, SSI, TANF, WIC, Medicaid, housing, free and reduced price lunch, child care, tax credits (ETC, CTC, AOTC), and other programs; The bill includes guardrails to protect student privacy and sensitive data.