

HB 3182 + HB 3183

Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act

House Higher
Education Committee

January 28th, 2025





OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE
Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon



COLLEGE HOUSING
NORTHWEST



Growing Need

College and university students in Oregon are reporting increased rates of food insecurity, housing instability, and challenges affording and accessing textbooks, transportation, childcare, and other basic needs.



Student Basic Needs Insecurities

Costly housing, transportation, textbook, healthcare, and other living expenses coupled with the rising cost of tuition have created great financial obstacles for college students, particularly those from non-traditional backgrounds.

Financial aid programs and scholarships designed for low-income students fail to cover the bulk of their needs and working while in school does not eliminate the threat of basic needs insecurity.



Housing Insecurity

Oregon's college students are experiencing housing and basic needs insecurity at all-time highs – with **more than 50%** of college students identifying as **housing insecure**.

Housing insecurity is a significant barrier to student success, negatively affecting academic performance, mental health, and retention rates.





Course Materials

The cost of textbooks is a small dollar amount compared to the total cost of attendance. Yet research shows that seemingly small, unpredictable expenses can create a financial emergency that limits student success and increases student debt.

Financial aid rarely stretches to cover course materials, so funding for affordable textbooks is an essential component of a comprehensive statewide affordability strategy.



Lack of Resources

In 2021, the Oregon State Legislature took a critical step in addressing student basic needs insecurities by passing the Benefits Navigator Bill.

While this allowed for a navigator to be hired on each campus, funding did not extend to providing programmatic budgets. Basic needs navigators cannot best serve our students without programmatic budgets.

Our Solution: HB 3182 + HB 3183



The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act will make targeted and strategic investment in:



**Student Basic Needs
Programming**



**Affordable Student
Housing Initiatives**



**Textbook Affordability
and Open Educational
Resources**









01

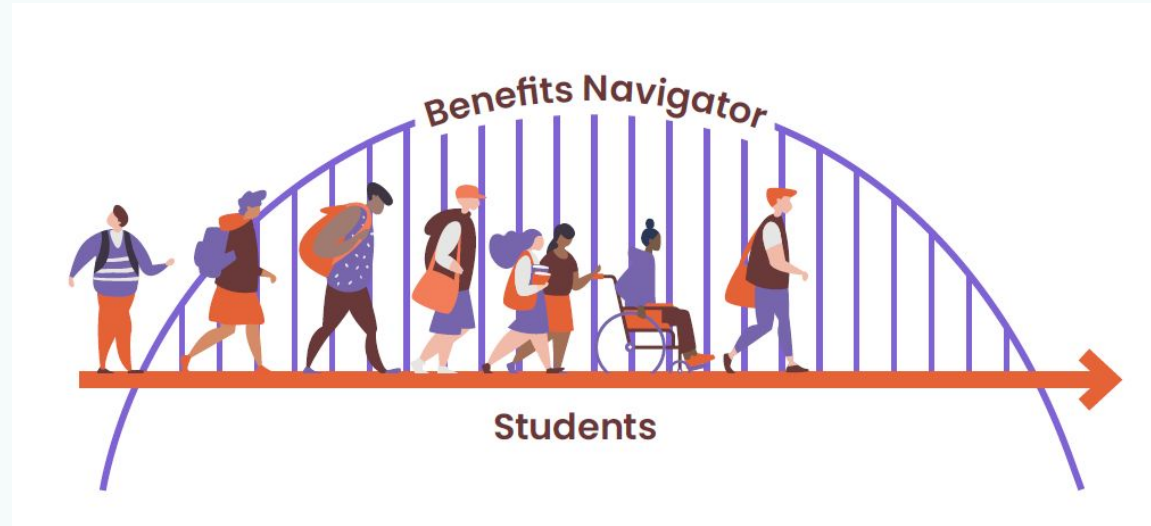
Basic Needs Oregon

How can the state support college benefits navigators and basic needs programs?



Benefits Navigator Programs

-  Food
-  Transportation
-  Housing
-  Financial Assistance
-  Health Care
-  Personal items
-  Technology
-  Child Care



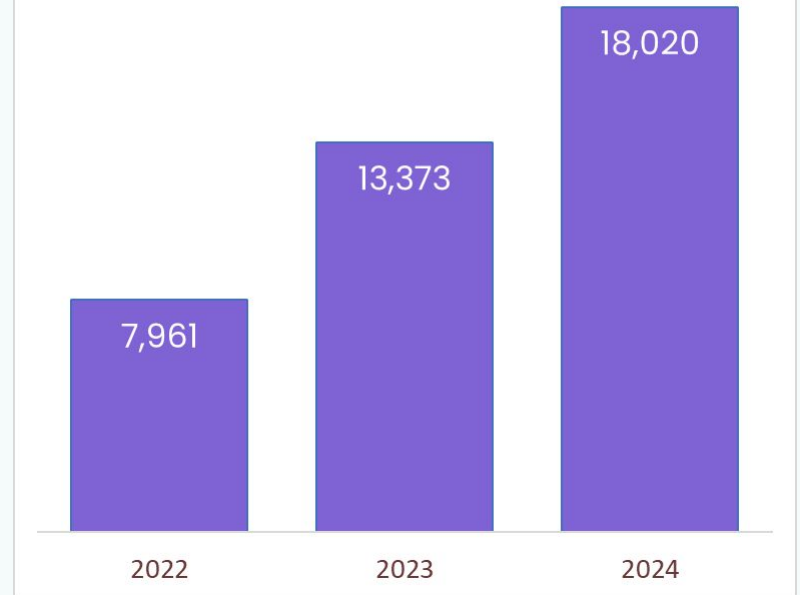
Program Impact

Since inception, Basic Needs Oregon benefits navigators have connected over 39,000 college students to

- Campus Resources
- Community Partners
- Oregon ONE
- Government Resources

"The Benefits Navigator has been incredibly helpful in guiding me through the benefits process. I would give them 5 out of 5 stars. The most significant assistance was in finding rent assistance. Having someone from the university advocate...on my behalf made a difference and got results." - Student from EOU

Students Served Statewide
by Benefits Navigators



Funding Impact



The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act will make a one-time \$10 million dollar investment in:

- **Basic Needs Personnel Support**
 - Funding for personnel costs for benefits navigators
 - Funding to support program administration and/or student employees
- **Basic Needs Programming Support**
 - Funding for direct student aid, such as providing housing/hotel vouchers, grocery store vouchers, transportation subsidies, childcare subsidies, emergency funds, etc.
 - Funding to strengthen resources for building community partnerships and leveraging community resources
- **Basic Needs Infrastructure Support**
 - Funding for the creation of or improvements to campus infrastructure, such as food pantries, community gardens, basic needs centers, ordering systems, refrigeration, safety upgrades, etc.

02

Open Oregon Educational Resources

What can the state do to continue the expansion of affordable textbooks?



THE PROBLEM

Textbooks cost so much that students can't afford to buy them!

THE SOLUTION

Since 2015, Oregon has invested funding for affordable textbooks.

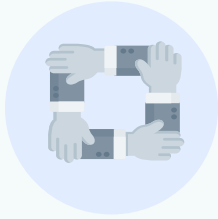


Our grant program have saved students

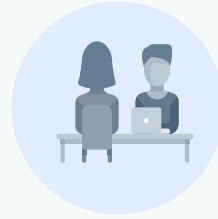
\$25,000,000

since 2015

WHAT WE DO



**Community
of Practice**



**Professional
Development**



**Policy
Support**

FUNDING IMPACT

PERSONNEL
Grow our program to support activities



GRANTS
Expand program at ~\$11 in student savings per \$1 spent

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
Develop textbooks and ancillaries for CCN courses

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Opportunities for faculty at up to ~\$50 in student savings per \$1 spent

03

College Housing Northwest

What can the state do to
provide students with
affordable housing options?



COLLEGE HOUSING
NORTHWEST



COLLEGE HOUSING
NORTHWEST

ADDRESSING THE STUDENT HOUSING CRISIS

*Did You
Know?*

1 in 2

Oregon's college students
are housing insecure

1 in 5

Students experience
homelessness each year



Presenter: Pam Blumenthal, ARCS Program Director



College Housing Northwest (CHNW)

College Housing Northwest (CHNW) remains committed to addressing this crisis of student basic needs security in our work providing affordable housing to Oregonians pursuing the post-secondary education that will allow them to meaningfully contribute to our community's workforce upon graduation.



Student Centered Housing

CHNW has been providing affordable student housing in Oregon for over 55 years



Low Rental Barriers

We are **first-time renter friendly** and offer flexible screening criteria in order to **reduce barriers** to housing for students



226 New Units in 3 Years

We have invested resources from partners throughout the state to acquire/develop **226 new affordable units for students** in 3 years



Supportive Services

Our commitment to residents' holistic wellbeing is reflected in our supportive services & policies, including our **food pantries** and **rent petitions**

2024 OUTCOMES



Over 1,100 Students

CHNW provided affordable student housing and tailored services to more than **1,100 students** in 2024, enhancing these students' basic needs security.



ARCS Program

164 students experiencing housing insecurity received **50-100% rental subsidies** and supportive services through our ARCS program.



66% BIPOC Students

We strive to close equity gaps in housing security, and **66%** of our residents identify as BIPOC. Also, **76%** of ARCS participants are first-gen students and **42%** are LGBTQ+.



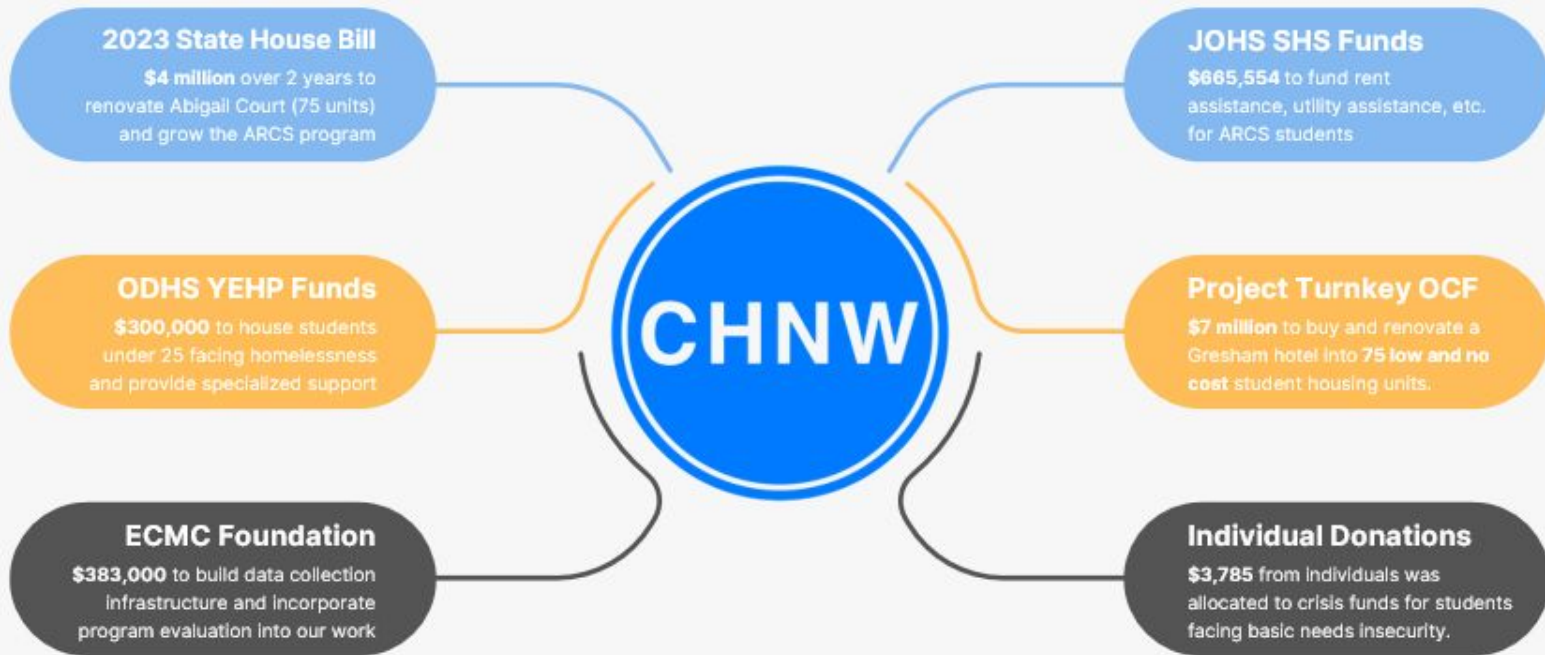
New Building

Through Project Turnkey, OCF, and other partners, we opened Abigail Court, bringing **75 new low and no cost units** of student housing to Gresham, OR.



Strategically Leveraging Investments

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, CHNW has integrated funding and support from partners throughout Oregon in various ways:



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THANKS

Do you have any questions?

Contact: Chris Baker
chris@oregonhunger.org