



Fact Sheet: 2026 SUNY Addresses Food Insecurity to Support Student Success

Student hunger and food insecurity are persistent challenges on college campuses across the country, and SUNY is no exception. [Recent data](#) from the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimated 23% of college students (3.8 million) experienced food insecurity, according to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study. A 2019 survey conducted by SUNY found that 54% of community college students and 40% of students from State-operated campuses were sometimes unable to eat because they did not have money for food.

Thanks to the historic investment by Governor Hochul and the Legislature in SUNY's operating budget since 2023-24, SUNY has invested nearly \$2 million to support State-operated campuses in addressing food insecurity. As a result of these resources:

- Governor Hochul announced \$550,000 in emergency funding for SUNY community college food pantries to address food insecurity. This effort also expanded SUNY Empire State Service Corps support for local food banks and launched a [Statewide Day of Hunger Action](#).
- With the expansion of funding in addressing food insecurity, participating SUNY programs reported at least 24,286 pantry visits and at least 33,807 pounds of food and 31,666 essential items ordered or distributed for student access.
- Two campuses received food lockers in 2025, with five more being awarded for 2026 to expand 24/7 access for students to receive nutritious, perishable foods, for a total of 12 food lockers since program implementation.
- At least 11 campuses invested in a meal plan program to provide students with meal swipes that did not have access to dining options.

A total of 63 SUNY campuses will operate food pantries during the current academic year, while one campus will partner with other providers.

These efforts have resulted in SUNY wide initiatives that further support student's basic needs:

- Funding to support incorporating professional attire clothing into the pantries;
- Increasing relationships with farms to provide farm-access foods to students and provide an additional option for students to utilize SNAP;
- Increase SNAP eligible stores on SUNY campuses to provide students with more nutritious food options.

SUNY has also developed a playbook targeting food insecurity among student-parents, in partnership with No Kid Hungry and Hunger Solutions New York. Learn more about the playbook [here](#).

Learn more about SUNY's basic needs support work [here](#).