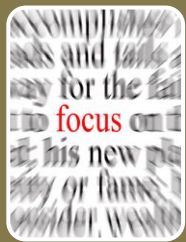


Affordable Housing

Introduction

As student populations become more diverse and include more adult learners, it is essential that higher education institutions take a closer look at how rising college and housing costs are placing an undue financial burden on their students.

“Many college students struggle to find adequate, affordable housing options near their campus, and at least 56,000 college students are homeless.”¹



Focusing on School

- Providing housing supports to students in need can allow them the financial flexibility they need to work less hours and to better afford key resources such as textbooks and computers.



Local Options

- Neighborhoods surrounding colleges often have higher rent prices on housing, making it harder for low-income students to live close to campus¹. Localized housing options could help students live closer and reduce their transportation costs.



A Sense of Community

- Going the extra mile to support students with housing can improve students' sense of belonging toward your school.

Implementation

Some ideas for better addressing the issue of affordable college housing include:

- Provide housing vouchers to students
- Identify the number of students at your college who are homeless or financially at-risk; contact them about available benefits (Section 8 housing)
- Reach out to high school students who are at-risk of homelessness (those in foster care, financially distressed areas, etc.) and invite them to your campus; inform them of what resources you have that can support them if they were to attend
- Contact your local/state housing authority and your local city government officials on developing partnerships to support low-income students with housing payments

Best Practices:

- If using a voucher system, narrow your focus to address a particular sub-population in need; expand if successful and sustainable
- If your school has emergency funding, consider extending those resources to cover housing expenses such as rent, utilities and security deposits
- Provide personal care items (linens, toiletries, towels, blankets, etc.) to help students offset additional costs

Resources

College Programs:

- [Tacoma Community College Housing Assistance Program](#)
- [Kennesaw State University's C.A.R.E. Center/Emergency Housing](#)

State, Federal Resources:

- [Barriers to Success: Housing Insecurity for U.S. College Students](#)
- [Single-Stop USA](#)
- [Tennessee Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education Student Support Services](#)
- [Tennessee Low Income Housing](#)

TBR Resources:

- [Tennessee State University's Shelters and Emergency Housing Contact List](#)
- [University of Memphis Emergency Housing Resources](#)

¹2015 Housing Insecurity Report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.