

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

College Basic Needs in New Mexico

\$10 million in recurring support
for students' basic needs

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New Mexico Student Basic Needs

2023 statewide survey, experiences during the prior 12 months

58 % food insecurity

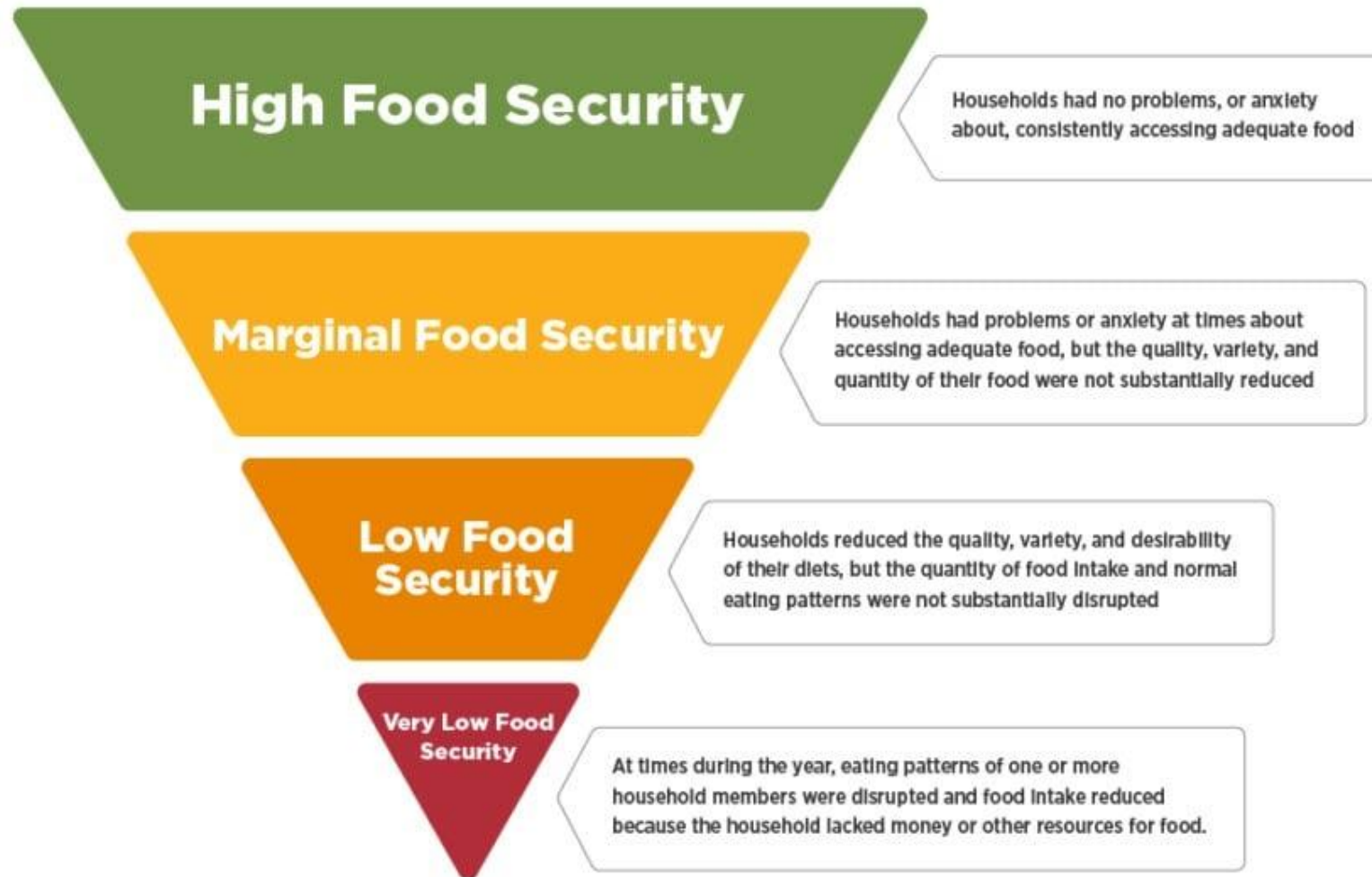
62 % housing insecurity

14 % homelessness



USDA food security levels

Food insecurity includes low and very low food security



39%

of NM survey respondents had very low food security

Most food-insecure respondents had this more severe form.

Building the Conditions for Student Success

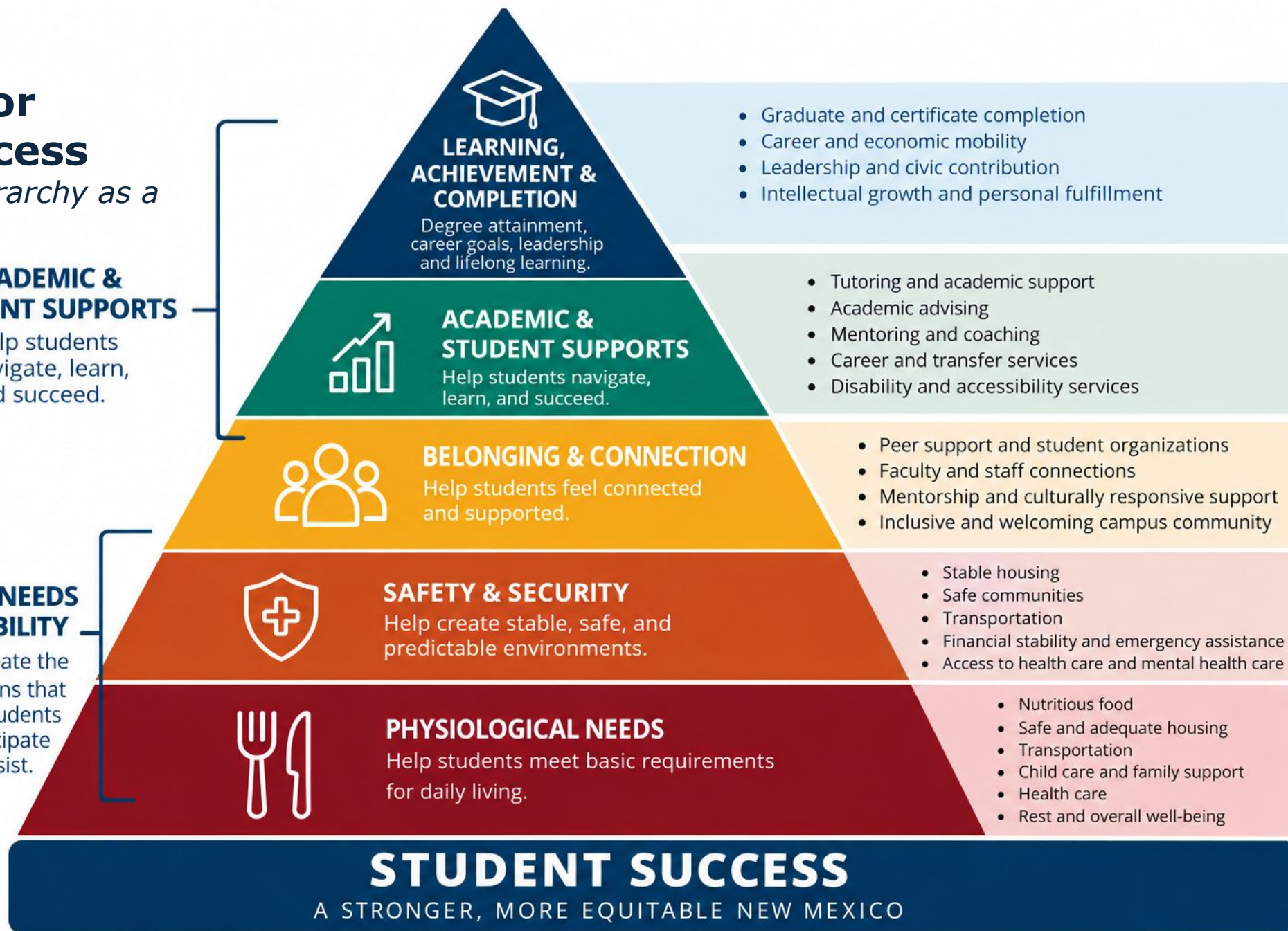
Using Maslow's hierarchy as a framework

ACADEMIC & STUDENT SUPPORTS

Help students navigate, learn, and succeed.

BASIC NEEDS & STABILITY

Help create the conditions that allow students to participate and persist.





STUDENT SUCCESS & GRADUATION

PERSISTENCE • DEGREE ATTAINMENT • BRIGHTER FUTURES

ACADEMIC & STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Help students navigate, learn, and succeed.



Tutoring



Academic advising



Mentoring



Career and transfer services



Academic coaching



Disability and accessibility services

BASIC NEEDS SUPPORTS

Help create the conditions that allow students to participate and persist.



Food access



Stable housing



Transportation



Child care



Health care and mental health support



Emergency financial assistance

TUITION-FREE COLLEGE

ACCESS • AFFORDABILITY • OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL NEW MEXICANS

The New Mexico Basic Needs Consortium

A community of practice across New Mexico campuses



**Research brought
practitioners
together.**

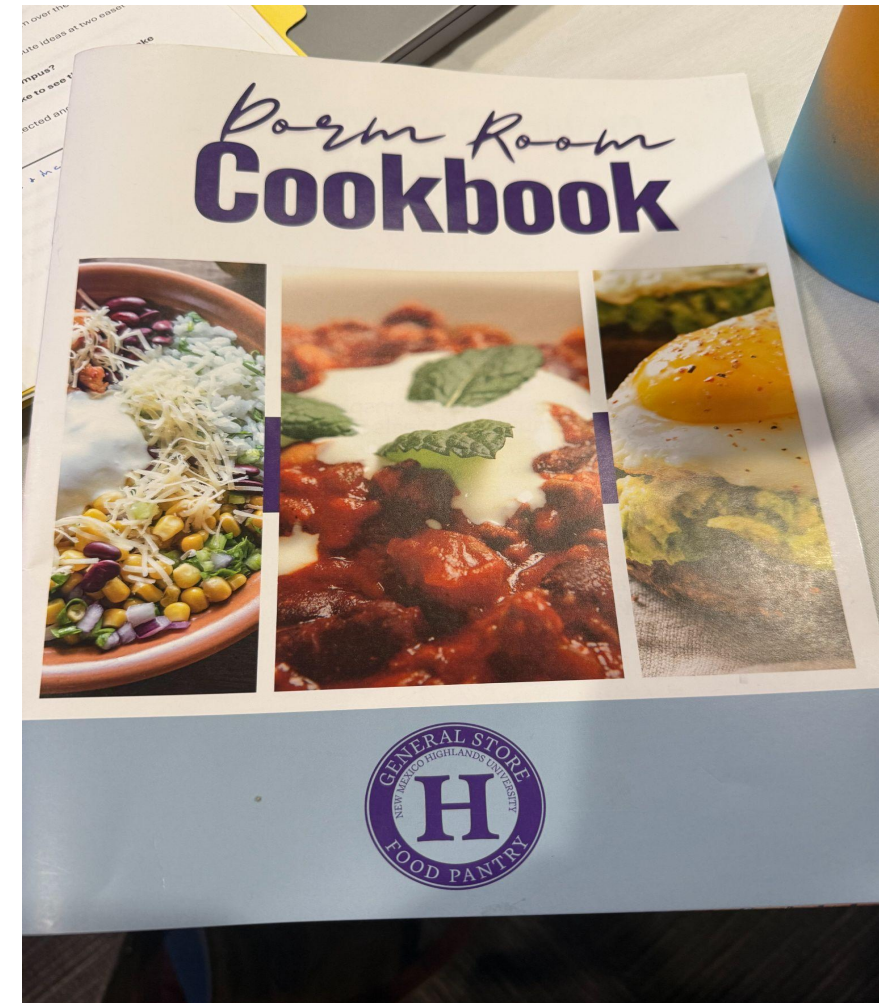
Campus staff meet
regularly to share
approaches and
strengthen
interventions.

Statewide Basic Needs Data Sharing Symposium at UNM, May 5, 2023

The Consortium in Action



Practical support takes many forms



Building on the Opportunity Scholarship

Tuition access and the basic needs that affect continued enrollment

Opportunity Scholarship

Tuition and required fees

A foundational first step

State investment in access

Basic needs support

Food and stable housing

Resources for urgent expenses

Support to stay enrolled



Stable basic needs help students focus on learning and continue toward a degree.

Previous funding and accomplishments

State grants helped campuses establish support. Recurring funding would sustain it.

About \$6 million

Basic needs funding since 2022: supported pantries, food stability initiatives, and mental health initiatives, including peer navigators.



Latest bridge awards

28 campuses × \$20,000

\$560,000 for campuses

Planned campus spending:

63.3% Food and basic needs goods

20.3% Equipment and infrastructure

Basic Needs Services in Higher Ed

Mr. Benjamin Tobias, Manager of Student Basic Needs, CNM



Maddy's story

Mr. Benjamin Tobias, Manager of Student Basic Needs, CNM

- 1 Attended UNM, then CNM**
- 2 Adopted her two younger sisters**
- 3 Relied on the CNM pantry**
- 4 Graduated, now employed in the medical field**



Frontline staff time and follow-up

Mr. Benjamin Tobias, the work behind dependable student services

01 Meet the immediate need

Make food and other support accessible.

02 Navigate resources

Help students move through application steps.

03 Coordinate and follow up

Connect offices and check whether help reached the student.

04 Sustain the service

Keep capacity and resources available for the next student.

Recurring funding would support dedicated staff time and timely assistance.

Highlights

Mr. Benjamin Tobias, Manager of Student Basic Needs, CNM

“I want to express my sincere gratitude for the food pantry which was instrumental my success as a full-time student at CNM. Knowing where my next meal is coming from has reduced my stress significantly, and saves me valuable time, allowing me to focus entirely on my studies. I am deeply grateful for this service. Thank you very much for providing this essential support!”

“The pantry showed me it is ok to accept help sometimes. I really was shy at the beginning but after a while I even encouraged some of my classmates to come and provide their needs as i feel they were in the situation as me.”

“CNM Food pantry has ensured that I get to eat fresh vegetables and fruit this quarter. I really appreciate this, having that extra support has made a huge difference. Now I have snacks to take to class instead of going to class hungry”



Highlights

Mr. Benjamin Tobias, Manager of Student Basic Needs, CNM



“The food pantry has helped me tremendously during a difficult time. It has shown me the power of community, and I can't wait to give back and help others in need in the future, just as I have been helped.”

“Restoring hope and dignity, helping with daily needs, and removing the stress and fear of being hungry.”



The Funding Formula

Dr. Alejandra Villalobos Melendez
UNM Taos



\$10 million in recurring funding

Dr. Alejandra Villalobos Melendez, UNM Taos

Every Higher Education Institution needs:

Stable Operational Support

(staff + resources)

Permanent staff positions

Student resource navigation
with reliable follow-through

Stable available resources

Direct student assistance

Timely emergency help

Emergency housing support

Emergency transportation support

Purpose: sustain basic needs programs so students can continue and complete a degree.

\$10 million in recurring funding

Dr. Alejandra Villalobos Melendez, UNM Taos

Funding Structure

Operational Support

\$175,000 +

Fixed base funding
per institution

Direct Student Assistance

**Basic Needs
Equity Index**

Allocated per
Basic Needs Equity Index

\$10 million in recurring funding

Dr. Alejandra Villalobos Melendez, UNM Taos

Component	Allocation
Institutional Operational Support (\$175,000 x 28)	\$4,900,000
Direct Student Assistance	\$4,800,000
Basic Needs Consortium	\$300,000
TOTAL	\$10,000,000



3% for the Consortium

Allocating funds equitably

Dr. Alejandra Villalobos Melendez, proposed allocation formula

Basic Needs Equity Index inputs	Calculation	Equity rationale
Institutional Headcount		Headcount measures scale
Basic Needs Insecurity Rate	0.6 weight for BNI rate	BNI rate measures the conditions being addressed
Poverty Rate	0.4 weight for Poverty rate	Poverty rate measures community economic conditions

New Mexico Highlands University

Headcount: 2,753
BNI Rate: 70%
Poverty Rate: 26%

\$145,659

2.93%

(\$4,975,000 * 2.93%)

Per Basic Needs Equity Index, NMHU would receive 2.93% of the Direct Student Assistance Allocation

SNAP is underutilized

Help students access SNAP

59%

of food-insecure undergraduates potentially eligible for SNAP did not report receiving benefits.

~\$3 billion

Estimated unused SNAP benefits for eligible college students nationwide (BDT, 2023)



Potential return on investment

Scenario: eliminating basic needs insecurity at New Mexico colleges and universities

3,500+

**additional graduates
each year**

\$7.9 billion

**additional graduate income
over 30 years**

\$25 million

**in added “marginal tax revenue”
annually**

\$651 million

added to NM GDP annually

Help students continue and complete

Request for LESC support

- 1 Build on the Opportunity Scholarship**
- 2 Sustain permanent basic needs staff**
- 3 Provide timely assistance to students**



**Support and advance
\$10 million in recurring funding.**