

COLLEGE STUDENTS

“Only the food pantry for students advertises it, and even then the university does not advertise the food pantry.”

According to data published by the US Department of Education in 2020, approximately 4 million students nationwide stated that they experienced ‘very low’ or ‘low’ food security during the 2019-20 school year .

More than one-third of college students know someone who dropped out of school during the COVID-19 pandemic due to their struggles with food insecurity.

CAUSES

- Lack of Awareness
- The Work Requirement
- Eligibility Confusion & Application Difficulties

How students learned about SNAP student eligibility (counts):

This survey (Didn't know that students could be eligible for SNAP before completing survey)	14
The food pantry at their college or university	11
Social media	1
Friends or family	15
Other (e.g., neighborhood events, community organizations, etc.)	7



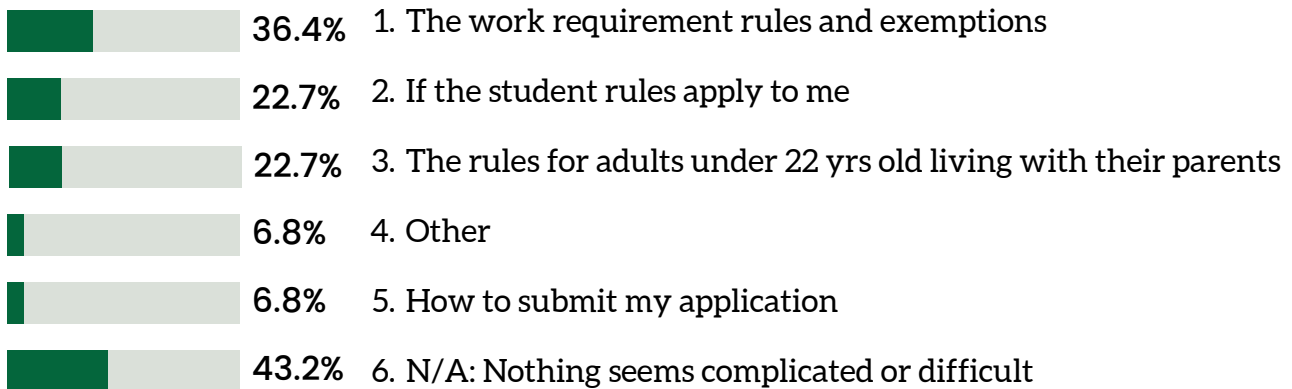
of students were unaware of their potential eligibility for SNAP before the survey.



of students do not think their institution does an adequate job of educating students about SNAP.

“I had to find out from one small independent group, not from any official financial resources the college offers.”

Eligibility rules that are difficult to understand



“They [SNAP forms] were designed for the people who were tasked with designing them. They were not designed for the people who are the end users. And so basically they cover all the bases in terms of having language on them that we're legally required to have, but they are not easy to understand, they're not easy to use, and they are ambiguous.” - CAO employee interviewee

“Didn't know you could get SNAP.”
- Survey respondent

“Never heard of it.”
- Survey respondent

RECOMMENDATIONS

Promote the SNAP for college students webpage through a social media campaign targeted at post-secondary students.

Co-create materials with student groups, faculty, and stakeholders.

Continue to work with schools on improving direct outreach to potentially eligible students.

Ensure that workers are trained and have tools to screen students for all qualifying situations.