



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
BASIC NEEDS COLLECTIVE

2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT



THE
BASIC NEEDS

COLLECTIVE



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Section 1: Executive Summary

Mission Statement

We support student well-being and success. As a coordinated resource referral hub, we educate and connect students to campus and community resources to help them meet their basic needs.

Vision

For students to discover their passion, people and purpose. We support student learning through education, capacity building, and supportive resources so they may achieve their academic potential, complete their degrees, and succeed in their future goals.

Values

Belonging, Care, Integrity, Lifelong Learning, Self-Discovery, and Student-Centeredness.

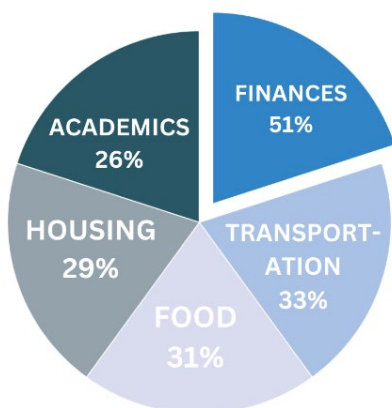
Purpose/Functions

As a central location for resource referrals related to basic needs, we aim to help students attain and sustain optimal physical and mental health, personal connections, meaningful experiences and promote wellness as a key to student success.

By the Numbers

The Basic Needs Collective has seen incredible growth this year in our ability support student success. We saw more than double the number of students that we saw last year, to-date we have served over 2,200 students from various backgrounds.

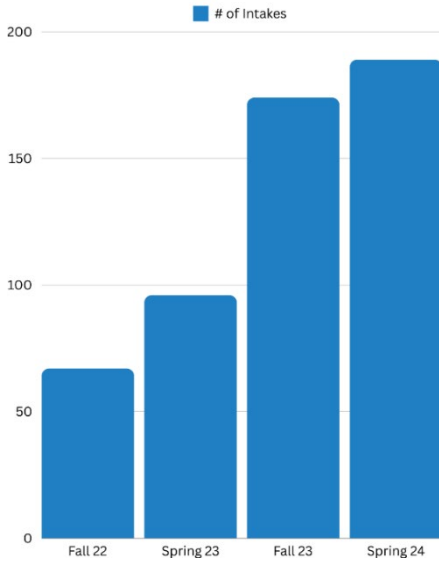
- About 60% of the students served were undergraduates, while the other 40% are pursuing various graduate degrees.
- Roughly 70% of the students that we have met with were employed by the University of Utah.



Resource Categories

Our campus and community database includes ~700 resources. Of the 22 resource categories, the top 5 have remained relatively steady over the past few semesters. **51% of the students we met with last semester endorsed the need for financial resources.** This tends to coincide with other resource categories, such as food and housing, due to the level of overlap between all three.

Transportation is an area of growth with our U in Motion program partnership. Since its inception, we have referred 98 students to receive free bicycles.



Growth Over Time

Since the Fall semester of 2022, the Basic Needs Collective has seen tremendous growth. The number of students that have completed intakes has doubled between the academic years of 2022-23 and 2023-24.



Student Impact at a Glance (23/2024)



Provided nearly \$24,500 in Student Continuation Awards.



Housed 2 students in our Basic Needs Apartment.



100% of the 113 students surveyed about their experiences with our thrift pop-up believed the project was useful, would recommend it to others, and would consider returning!



100% of students who attended our Adulting 101 sessions found them useful and would attend again!



Giving Day

This year's annual giving day was a huge success for our Basic Needs Collective, and donations exceeded \$8,000! Because of the support we received from the community this year, we were able to nearly double our original goal of \$5,000. This allows us to continue to support students in achieving basic needs security and pursuing higher education by providing continuation awards, temporarily housing unsheltered or housing insecure students in our basic needs apartment on campus, and offering our basic needs programming.



Section 2: Major Accomplishments

Served 2,200+ students

- 600 Birthday Party Attendees.
- 401 Resource Sessions, with 120 student cases managed.
- 741 Engaged with our Self-service Form.
- 450+ Students educated in our classroom presentations.
- Many more students reached through tabling, our thrift pop-up, and the EHSEB Food Pantry.

Reached ~700 total resources in our database

- 22 Different categories.

Basic Needs Adulting 101: Success Strategies for College and Life

This year's very successful Adulting 101 series pilot is now a basic needs signature program. Session themes include financial wellness, student health, and healthy relationships. 100% of the survey respondents stated they found the session(s) useful and would attend again!

Adulting 101 was created and led by our graduate social work practicum student, Caysie Bakke. In recognition of her tremendous contributions to our Basic Needs Collective, Caysie was nominated and won Outstanding MSW Generalist Student of the Year!



Basic Needs Thrift Shop

Our basic needs programming lead, Jennifer Rodela, won the 2024 Ivory Community Leadership Award! This is a tremendous recognition of Jennifer's innovative and creative leadership of our basic needs thrift pop-up! As the recipient, Jennifer will receive a \$2,000 award, and \$10,000 will be donated to the Basic Needs Thrift Shop for further investment and development in the organization.





Section 3: Major Challenges

Considering the Basic Needs Collective’s status as a relatively new service area on campus, we have faced and overcome various challenges resulting from a lack of knowledge about who we are and what we do.

Getting the Word Out

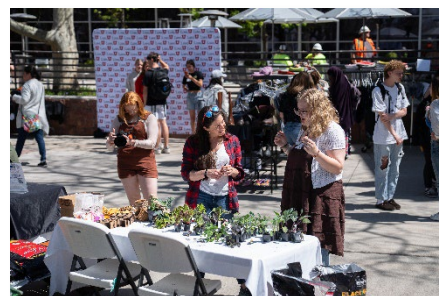
Communication and outreach have been a main priority to increase engagement and contribute to an extraordinary student experience.

- Our Instagram page is one of our most effective marketing strategies. We have increased our following to over 1,400, with an aim to deliver campus and community resources to students.
- In an effort to reach students directly, we partnered with the College of Social Work and led presentations in 29 different classrooms to 450 students.
- We also used our birthday party as a way to get students involved with our service area. We had 600 attendees!



Volunteering

Maintaining services such as the thrift pop-up and organizing the birthday party can be quite difficult with a small team. While at first, we struggled to get consistent volunteers, after partnering with a service-learning course, we had over 30 volunteers committed to helping out, and as it turns out, they were the best hype squad ever!



Section 4: Status of Strategic Initiatives

STUDENT SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY: The BNC has established an ambassador program and has recruited over 30 student volunteers. **Strategic Priority:** Building upon the success of the ambassador program, the BNC developed communities of volunteers to focus on specific outreach efforts and established a for-credit Scholars Program in partnership with the LEAP program as a holistic and engaged service opportunity during the 2023-2024 academic



year. **Results:** Our LEAP partners helped us to keep our thrift pop-up stocked and our front desk staffed, and made our 2nd birthday party a HUGE success.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE: Data from the BNC's first operational year indicates that a higher percentage of international and first-generation college students utilized its programs.

Strategic Priority: The BNC aimed to improve its partnerships with the International Student & Scholar Services Office and Office for First Generation Access to provide timely, customized, and innovative programming for these students for implementation in the 2023-2024 academic year. **Results:** During the year we worked very closely with the new International Student Scholars case manager, Katie DeSau. This new partnership enabled care coordination to better serve international students while also contributing to our meeting with over 200 international students. We have also made efforts to build our relationship with the offices that support first-generation college student access, which has led to nearly half of the students we conducted intakes with being first-generation.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE: The BNC has been successful in fundraising efforts, with support from UFirst Credit Union, The Larry H. and Gail Miller Family Foundation, Pepsi, and over 127 individual donors.

Strategic Priority: The BNC aimed to improve local, regional, and national advocacy to increase sustainable philanthropic relationships, pursue grant funding, and obtain renewable funding from the institution and state in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Results: These efforts were highly successful, as can be seen in our Giving Day campaign that raised over \$8,000. We had two matching gifts for the campaign and established many new donors. Additionally, we also received a special donation from a long-time supporter in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2024 calendar year. As a result of the success of our birthday party, we saw student and community member donations rise in the month of April.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: Strategic Priority: The BNC aimed to improve campus food security by partnering with the UHealth Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to hire a programming intern to focus efforts on building the EHSEB FEED U Pantry satellite and establishing a health campus student council to oversee its service delivery. Additionally, this BNC intern will educate students about other resources, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP). **Results:** In June 2023, we hired Elisa Diaz, our Basic Needs Programming Intern and AmeriCorps service member. Elisa's work over the last year revitalized the EHSEB FEED U Pantry satellite.

Highlights Include:

- Sustaining and staffing a food recovery project with University Hospital Nutrition Care Services. Over **25,000 lbs. of food have been recovered** and redistributed, which is \$67,000 in-kind **or 24,000 meals.**
 - The fresh food items donated through this initiative increase food security among our students, invest in a circular economy on campus, and a sustainable future by reducing food waste.



- Stocking over 2,800 lbs. of food collected through UHealth focused donation drives and from the main campus pantry.

In the Fall of 2023, The Basic Needs Collective administered a survey to assess the needs of students using the pantry. We received 111 survey responses.

Key Findings:

- **63%** Endorsed that a lack of food has affected their academic performance.
- **46%** Endorsed that within the past 12 months, they worried whether their food would run out before having the money to buy more.
- **32%** Endorsed that within the past 12 months, the food they bought didn't last, and they couldn't afford to buy more.
- **67%** of respondents use the pantry at least weekly.

Student Comments:

- “This resource helps my family supplement the food we get from WIC.”
- “It is very much appreciated and has helped me continue to afford food.”
- “The stock is sometimes limited, but I am so happy that this resource is available.”
- “Would love to see pantries in other locations. As a 3rd year, I’m rarely in EHSEB.”



The survey reinforces the need for this vital supplementary food pantry located on the UHealth campus. Also, a BIG congratulations to Elisa Diaz for being selected as a 2023-2024 Utah Higher Education AmeriCorps Network Exemplary Fellow! Elisa was nominated for her enthusiasm and tireless work coordinating our UHealth food pantry. We are beyond proud of her service to our campus community.

Section 4: Continuing Strategic Initiatives

STUDENT SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY: The BNC has established an ambassador program and has recruited over 30 student volunteers. **Strategic Priority:** Building upon the success of our ambassador and community-engaged learning collaboration, the BNC has partnered with the new U Service Corps as a host site. Our service member begins their term in August 2024 and will aid in reducing food insecurity on campus by stocking and maintaining the EHSEB FEED U Pantry satellite, reducing material insecurity by stocking our thrift pop-up, supporting outreach efforts to engage students and staffing our front desk to maintain a warm and welcoming environment. Our U Service member will also have the opportunity to collaborate on a project of their choosing to develop an idea into a programmatic effort within our Basic Needs Collective.