

**TITLE:** Food Security Programs at OSU: Program Implementation Details and Refinements to Reduce Barriers to Access

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** Yes

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** program developers

**ABSTRACT:** University students face a disproportionate burden of food insecurity (39% of college students as opposed to the national average of 10.5%). While many food insecure students have access to SNAP assistance and funding, international students are not eligible and graduate students are often restricted from accessing these resources. The purpose of this presentation is to describe food security strategies implemented at Oregon State University to support SNAP ineligible students. Additionally, recent improvements to the Basic Needs Center's (BNC) Food Assistance Application will be discussed. Informed by ongoing research, program staff reevaluated existing methods to assess food insecurity among students. This presentation will describe the program components, activities, strategies, and timing of this OSU program. The BNC's approach to improve the food security of SNAP ineligible students was to provide funds through two programs: Mealbox and Full Plate Funds. The Mealbox and Full Plate Funds food assistance programs support 300-500 students each term (50-200 during summer term), providing \$100-\$300 each to help support their food security needs. The Basic Needs Center's revised Food Assistance Application shortens the time spent on application processing by providing scoreable application responses and reducing the amount of information solicited. This work provides an opportunity to reconsider how food security is addressed by safety net programs. While OSU's Basic Needs Center has programs to provide support to SNAP ineligible students, there are countless students at other universities struggling to succeed in school while experiencing food insecurity.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe how food insecurity affects students of higher education and the gaps in existing safety net programs. Demonstrate a strategy to alleviate some of this need. Discuss ways this program has been reformatted to simplify the application and screening process.

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