



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Affordable Student Housing Construction Grant

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Ph.D, Chancellor



California
Community
Colleges

DR. SONYA CHRISTIAN
Chancellor

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2023 Annual Report on Affordable Student Housing Construction Grants

Dear Governor Newsom:

Pursuant to Section 17201(i)(1)(B) of the Budget Act of 2021, please find enclosed the 2023 Annual Progress Report: Affordable Student Housing Construction Grant.

If you have any further questions on this report, please contact Executive Vice Chancellor of Institutional Supports & Success, Lizette Navarette at lnavarette@cccco.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian".

Sonya Christian, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

2023 ANNUAL REPORT: AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION GRANT

Prepared By

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

College Finance and Facilities Planning Division

Annual Progress Report: Affordable Student Housing Construction Grant

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION GRANT BACKGROUND

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, with more than 1.8 million students across 73 districts and 116 colleges. By bringing critical skills, knowledge, and resources, they help communities thrive and support equitable social and economic mobility for all community members. Together, the 116 California Community Colleges serve the largest and most diverse student body in California higher education, making them pivotal in developing California’s workforce and keeping the economy strong. As the state’s primary engine of social and economic mobility, California Community Colleges are critical partners to help the state achieve its goal of 70% of working-aged Californians having a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2030.

Historically, student housing has been scarce among community colleges in California, with only 12 of the 116 colleges in the system offering student housing. In response to California’s shortage of affordable housing and to address housing insecurity for California Community Colleges’ students, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors (Board of Governors) has prioritized the development of a holistic, student-centered, affordability and basic needs infrastructure. This priority includes a focus and strategy that increases the stock of affordable units intended to support persistence and program completion for our low-income students and improves access to higher education for prospective students.

The 2021-22 California Budget package established the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, which was codified in California Education Code sections 17200-17203.5. California Community Colleges refers to the Higher Education Student Housing program as the Affordable Student Housing Grant Program. This program provides community colleges the opportunity to apply for student housing construction grants over a three-year period with three rounds of grant awards.

Pursuant to California Education Code Section 17201(i)(1)(B), this report provides details about progress in the first nine months of the California Community Colleges Affordable Student Housing Program and a preliminary update on construction projects that received state funding in Round One. The content of this report focuses on the following aspects of the projects under development:

- Project cost
- Funding by source
- Number of beds for low-income students
- Rents for low-income student beds
- Number of standard rent beds and their associated rents
- Building square footage
- Project timeline

These data will be reported annually from the time the grant is received through completion of the student housing facility.



Rendering: Sierra College

STUDENTS' NEED FOR AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING

At colleges throughout the country, there is a rapidly growing awareness of the serious challenges that students face meeting basic needs and the consequences on equitable student success of housing insecurity or homelessness. In a 2019 survey, 16% of California Community Colleges' students reported that they experienced homelessness and 60% experienced housing insecurity during the previous year. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated housing insecurity among community college students. A recent fall 2021 survey of roughly 27,000 students found that 54% experienced housing insecurity and 15% experienced homelessness. These data demonstrate that housing insecurity among California Community College students remains an acute challenge. Basic needs insecurity is a multifaceted problem which in California, and for community college students in particular, has been exacerbated by a statewide housing shortage and a Cal Grant financial aid structure which under-resources students served by this system.

Housing shortages have had significant impacts on California Community College students for several reasons:

1. **High cost of housing:** California, particularly in metropolitan areas like the Bay Area and Los Angeles, has some of the highest housing costs in the United States. Rental and housing prices are often unaffordable for many students, especially those with limited financial resources. The high cost of housing makes it difficult for students to find affordable and suitable accommodations near their community colleges.
2. **Limited affordable housing options:** Even if students are willing to pay a significant portion of their income towards housing, they may still struggle to find available and affordable housing options in close proximity to their colleges. This forces some students to commute long distances, leading to additional financial and time burdens.
3. **Increased competition for housing:** The demand for housing in California is high, not only from students but also from other residents, including working professionals. This increased competition further limits the housing options available to community college students. Landlords often prioritize tenants with stable incomes or higher credit scores, making it challenging for students who may have limited financial resources or a lack of credit history.
4. **Financial strain and limited resources:** Housing costs can consume a significant portion of a student's budget, leaving them with less money for other essentials like textbooks, transportation, and food. The financial strain caused by high housing costs

can negatively impact a student's ability to focus on their studies and may lead to increased stress and anxiety.

5. Homelessness and housing insecurity: Housing shortages can contribute to homelessness and housing insecurity among community college students. Some students may not be able to secure stable housing, forcing them to couch surf, live in their cars, or even become homeless. This unstable living situation can have detrimental effects on their overall well-being and academic performance.

The lack of affordable housing places the burden on students to balance basic needs with their pursuit of a quality education, creating a barrier to persistence and program completion. These factors can hinder students' educational pursuits and overall success.

Investments made in the California Community Colleges Affordable Student Housing Program have two primary focus areas: affordability and equitable student success. Studies have shown that providing affordable housing support to community college students can have positive impacts on their academic success. For example, a study conducted by the Community College Equity Assessment Lab at San Diego State University found that students who received housing support had higher rates of persistence and completion compared to those who did not receive such support.



Rendering: Bakersfield College

THE AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING TASKFORCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDENT HOUSING UNIT

California's investment in affordable student housing in the 2021 Budget Act was a celebrated turning point for California Community Colleges. To plan and support the implementation of this consequential investment, the Board of Governors established the Affordable Student Housing Taskforce (Taskforce) in November 2021. Beginning in February 2022, the Chancellor's Office convened the Affordable Student Housing Taskforce in alignment with the goals of the Board of Governors and the *Vision for Success*.

[View the Taskforce Webpage:](#)



The Taskforce was charged with the following:

- Developing a comprehensive student housing framework which addresses both short and long-term needs, policies, and the operational infrastructure necessary to expand affordable student housing at California Community Colleges.
- Engaging and learning from districts participating in the Affordable Student Housing Grant, including reviewing feasibility studies and technical assistance needs, to understand elements that are essential to a robust California Community Colleges student housing program.
- Making preliminary recommendations to the Board of Governors on a broad mission statement for a comprehensive and effectively structured student housing program for California Community Colleges by May 2022.
- Presenting recommendations to the Board of Governors which lay out strategies for maximizing the Affordable Student Housing Grant, identify necessary statewide standards or regulations, maximize flexibility for local planning and decision-making, and create the conditions to support the re-envisioning of a student-centered support ecosystem.

- Making recommendations to define a clear program structure for affordable student housing within the system; create minimum standards for affordable student housing across the system; and identify technical assistance and professional development supports for the successful local implementation of student housing programs.

The Taskforce established the mission and laid the foundation for the administration of the California Community Colleges' Affordable Student Housing. As part of the 2022-23 California Budget Package, Assembly Bill 183 of 2022 (AB 183) transferred the administration of the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program from the Department of Finance to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office). Importantly, the Chancellor's Office formed the Student Housing Unit to advance the affordable student housing strategies and direction set by the Taskforce.

AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING, AND THE WORK AHEAD

Consistent with California Education Code pertaining to Affordable Student Housing reporting, the Chancellor's Office has adapted the Facilities Utilization Space Inventory Options Net (FUSION) database, an existing facilities planning and reporting tool, to allow districts and colleges to report housing information with the relevant data at their fingertips. FUSION now provides districts and colleges the ability to plan, budget, submit applications, manage data, and report in a single location. Using FUSION, districts will be able to refine their strategies and leverage data to support their student housing planning, application development, and project management efforts. Additionally, FUSION allows the Chancellor's Office Student Housing Unit to have a balcony view on the Affordable Student Housing program as well as the ability to extract data for decision-making and required reporting.

California Community Colleges are committed to implementing a student housing program that is grounded in equity, affordability, access, student-centered design, holistic supports, district adaptability to student needs, and being part of a statewide solution to housing shortages. Guided by the mission and direction set by the Board of Governors, Taskforce, and district partners, the Chancellor's Office will continue to advance a direction for student housing by promoting housing affordability, connection to academic and student supports, consideration of liabilities, and evaluates the total cost of ownership.



Rendering: Napa Valley College

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ANALYSIS

Infographic: Round One Projects College Map

Round 1 Projects College Map



PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING SOURCES

Due to historically high inflation and rising construction costs, many projects have faced increased project expenditures. Specifically, rising inflation has introduced uncertainties into the construction process due to fluctuating prices of construction materials, labor, and supply chain disruptions. Districts have leveraged their capital outlay expertise to adapt to changing conditions and adjust project timelines to remain within their budgets. Annual reporting totals show an overall increase of \$218 million for all Round One projects. Faced with increased costs, districts are working collaboratively to identify local funding sources to supplement these differences, ensuring no additional cost to the state. During the initial approval phase, one project included local investment. As construction continues, all approved projects have secured funding or increased investment from local sources. Along with district and college funding, these projects have found more than \$218 million in additional support and investment from local bonds, district general funds, grants, partnerships through local municipalities, and donations (See Table 1).

Table 1: Project Costs and Funding Sources

Round One Awardee	Appropriation Amount	Funding by Local Investments Stated in Application	Annual Report: Funding by Local Investments [†]	Annual Report: Project Cost
Bakersfield College	\$60,245,000	\$2,959,000	\$3,200,000 District & College Reserves	\$63,445,000
College of the Canyons	\$61,858,000	0	0	\$61,858,000
College of the Siskiyous	\$32,613,000	0	\$6,455,836 California School Finance Authority (CSFA)	\$39,068,836
Compton College	\$80,389,000	0	0	\$80,389,000
Cosumnes River College	\$44,144,000	0	0	\$44,144,000
Fresno City College	\$34,080,000	0	\$20,920,000 Local grant opportunities, partnerships with local municipalities for funding, and potential debt.	\$55,000,000

Round One Awardee	Appropriation Amount	Funding by Local Investments Stated in Application	Annual Report: Funding by Local Investments [†]	Annual Report: Project Cost
Imperial Valley College/ CSU San Diego*	\$4,554,000	0	CSU San Diego-IV portion of combined housing \$4,554,000; CSU San Diego \$5,449,950; IVC District \$2,470,050	\$17,028,000
Lake Tahoe Community College	\$39,369,000	0	HEH Grant Interest Earnings: \$100,873.45; Local Measure F: \$1,163,705; Fund 11 Local Contribution: \$206,553.77; Fund 41 Local Contribution: \$620,825.00; Private Donations: \$330,000.00; Unfunded Balance: \$5,310,137.00	\$47,101,094*
Napa Valley College	\$31,000,000	0	Tax Exempt Bonds: \$83,127,677	\$114,127,677
Santa Rosa Junior College	\$15,000,000	0	Tax Exempt bonds: \$60,508,092; donation: \$1,000,000; District contribution: \$1,800,000	\$78,308,092
Sierra College	\$80,497,000	0	Sierra College General Fund \$17,697,583	\$98,194,583
Ventura College	\$62,923,000	0	\$3,000,000 Ventura County ARPA Grant	\$65,923,000
Total	\$546,672,000	\$2,959,000	\$217,915,282*[†]	\$764,587,282*

* includes unfunded balance of \$4,051,236

† original application amount not included in total local funding

Siskiyou Joint CCD is working with the Department of Finance to re-evaluate their budget and has developed a plan that will provide 178 beds on College of the Siskiyous' campus. The district is not requesting additional state funding and will pursue a flexible project delivery method to maintain their commitment to low-income students. Santa Rosa Junior College and Napa Valley Community College are utilizing the approved state funding to increase their affordable student housing project to ensure that a substantial

portion of the housing is dedicated to housing low-income students. Compton College has incurred no increase in total costs, while College of the Canyons saw a nearly \$1 million decrease in costs.



Rendering: Compton College

NUMBER OF BEDS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Due to additional design considerations as well as increased construction costs driven by higher material costs, two of the twelve Round One projects (College of the Siskiyous and Imperial Valley College/CSU San Diego), reduced the number of projected low-income designated beds. As part of the original application, the intersegmental student housing project between Imperial Valley College/CSU San Diego submitted a request for 39 units (for each intersegmental partner) and were approved for 51 (See Table 2). Due to rising construction costs and efforts to ensure the project is completed on time and within budget, current counts place this project at 20 low-income units. Of the remaining projects, five saw no change and five increased the number of low-income beds as their planning evolved. Adding a total of 36 low-income designated beds for an updated total of 2,302.

Table 2: Number of Beds for Low-Income Students

Round One Awardee	Projected Number of Beds in Application	Annual Report: Number of Beds
Bakersfield College	150	154
College of the Canyons	100	220
College of the Siskiyous	252	178
Compton College	250	250
Cosumnes River College	145	147
Fresno City College	360	360
Imperial Valley College/CSU San Diego*	51	20
Lake Tahoe Community College	100	100
Napa Valley College	124	135
Santa Rosa Junior College	70	70
Sierra College	344	348
Ventura College	320	320
Total	2,266	2,302

As outlined in California Education Code section 17201, approved projects may deliver more beds or charge lower rents than assumed in its application if financially feasible. College of the Canyons increased the number of low-income designated beds, without increasing overall costs to keep the project fully self-sustainable. College of the Siskiyous

is working with the Department of Finance to reduce the scale of the project overall. The most recent bed count reflects the number of beds proposed by the completed feasibility study.

RENTS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENT BEDS

Affordability remains a key priority for community college housing projects. Despite increased construction costs, rental rates for low-income designated beds have remained relatively aligned with original projections. Local area medium income rates have risen for counties where numerous planned projects will reside. In response, colleges have adjusted rental rates, with the goal of keeping rental rates well within the 30% of 50% of the area median income (AMI) as prescribed by legislation (See Table 3).

Table 3: Rents for Low-Income Student Beds

Round One Awardee	Projected Low-Income Rent Single Unit in Application	Projected Low-Income Rent Double Unit in Application	Annual Report: Low-Income Rent Single	Annual Report: Low-Income Rent Double Unit
Bakersfield College	\$619	N/A*	\$619	Not Reported
College of the Canyons	\$700	N/A*	N/A	\$500 - 600
College of the Siskiyous	\$619	Double \$354 per student; Triple \$265 per student	\$619	Double \$353.5 per student; Triple \$265.67
Compton College	\$700	\$500 - \$600	\$700	\$500 - \$600
Cosumnes River College	\$794	Double \$453 per student; Triple \$340 per student	\$794	\$417 per student; Triple not reported
Fresno City College	N/A	Studio Double \$375 per student; 2 bd double \$250; 3 bd double \$225.83	N/A	Studio Double \$660 per student; 2 bd Double \$275 per student; 3 bd double \$248
Imperial Valley College/CSU San Diego*	\$618	N/A*	\$733	Not Reported

Round One Awardee	Projected Low-Income Rent Single Unit in Application	Projected Low-Income Rent Double Unit in Application	Annual Report: Low-Income Rent Single	Annual Report: Low-Income Rent Double Unit
Lake Tahoe Community College	\$795	\$500	\$795	\$500
Napa Valley College	\$500	\$400	Pending	Pending
Santa Rosa Junior College	\$789	\$688	\$875	\$775
Sierra College	N/A	\$425	N/A	\$444 per student
Ventura College	N/A	2 bd single occupancy \$864 per student; 2 bd double occupancy \$309 per student; 4 bd single occupancy \$494 per student	N/A	2 bd single occupancy \$864 per student; 2 bd double occupancy \$309 per student; 4 bd single occupancy \$494 per student

* Not available at the time of application.

Rental rates have only slightly increased, reflecting increased housing rates in each county. Average rental rates from initial application until the time of this report saw an increase of approximately \$100, well within the prescribed 30% of 50% of the AMI for a single-room occupancy unit type calculation (AMI computation). For example, Fresno County's AMI has increased 13.5% in the last year, however Fresno City College has only increased the monthly rental rate for low-income student housing by 7.3%. Although not final, Napa Valley College will provide rents for low-income units that are within the AMI computation.

NUMBER OF STANDARD RENT BEDS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED RENTS

Of the 12 funded projects, only three have planned to include standard market rate units. As colleges prioritize housing for low-income students, standard rate units are fewer in number across all projects (See Table 4).

- Santa Rosa Junior College plans to utilize the \$15 million grant to support 70 beds (20%) as part of the 352-bed housing facility.
- Napa Valley College will utilize the \$31 million grant to support 135 low-income beds (23%) within their 4-building housing facility with a total of 588 beds.
- Sierra College will be adding 348 beds to the existing stock of on-campus housing.

Table 4: Number of Standard Rent Beds and Their Associated Rents

Round One Awardee	Projected Number of Standard Rent Beds & Associated Rent in Application	Annual Report: Projected Number of Standard Rent Beds & Associated Rent
Bakersfield College	0	0
College of the Canyons	0	0
College of the Siskiyous	0	0
Compton College	0	0
Cosumnes River College	0	0
Fresno City College	0	0
Imperial Valley College/ CSU San Diego*	0	0
Lake Tahoe Community College	0	0
Napa Valley College	404	453
Santa Rosa Junior College	282, between \$918-\$1,598	282; Traditional Single- \$1,240 Traditional Double- \$990 Semi Suite- \$1,550 Apartment Single- \$1,650
Sierra College	0	0
Ventura College	N/A	0
Total	686	735

The remaining colleges did not offer standard beds and this report reflects no change. Highlighting the need for affordable housing for low-income students, colleges reported plans remain focused on placing low-income students as top priority for housing.

BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE

At the time of this report, College of the Siskiyous, Cosumnes River College, Lake Tahoe Community College and Sierra College saw a reduction in square footage from initial submission (See Table 5). These reductions were deemed necessary to keep the overall project costs within the awarded grant amount. Bakersfield College and College of the Canyons reported increases in square footage for awarded projects in consideration of building design to accommodate increases in low-income units. College of the Siskiyous, in its effort to redesign to remain within project costs, has altered the original design from suites to standard dorm-style units, reducing square footage as well as construction costs and total bed counts. Current estimates place square footage for this project between 37,000 to 42,000 square feet. Square footage for the intersegmental housing project at Imperial Valley College/ CSU San Diego will be determined by the project’s delivery method and will be reported at a later date.

Table 5: Building Square Footage

Round One Awardee	Projected Square Footage in Application	Annual Report: Square Footage
Bakersfield College	98,000 sq ft	108,776 sq ft
College of the Canyons	71,000 sq ft	91,000 sq ft
College of the Siskiyous	63,000 sq. Ft.	37,000–42,000 sq ft
Compton College	86,000 sq ft	86,000 sq ft
Cosumnes River College	90,800 sq ft	64,502 sq ft
Fresno City College	N/A*	101,000 sq ft
Imperial Valley College/ CSU San Diego*	Not Reported	Pending
Lake Tahoe Community College	35,000 sq ft	28,420–32,002 sq ft
Napa Valley College	N/A*	127,628 sq ft
Santa Rosa Junior College	N/A*	95,281 sq ft
Sierra College	131,500 sq ft	122,779 sq ft
Ventura College	N/A*	91,875 sq ft
Total	575,300 sq ft	954,261–962,843 sq ft

* Not available at the time of application.

PROJECT TIMELINES

Santa Rosa Junior College broke ground in fall 2021 and has a projected completion date of August 2023. Napa Valley College broke ground in September 2022 and will see completion in fall 2024. Seven more projects will begin construction within the next year. Napa Valley College and Santa Rosa Junior College began construction prior to the awarding of the housing grant and have adjusted the construction timeline to include construction of low-income student beds into the project’s scope of work. Cosumnes River College has shifted their timeline due to issues with the project site and redesign of the building, reducing square footage to ensure the project stayed within the total approved project cost of \$44,144,000.

Table 6: Project Timelines

Round One Awardee	Construction to Begin	Construction Complete	Annual Report: Begin Construction	Annual Report: Projected Completion
Bakersfield College	December 2022	December 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2026
College of the Canyons	December 2022	N/A*	January 2024	February 2025
College of the Siskiyous	December 2022	August 2023	January 2025	January 2027
Compton College	May 2023	November 2024	February 2024	September 2025
Cosumnes River College	December 2022	Fall 2024	Late 2024	Spring 2026
Fresno City College	N/A*	N/A*	2025	2026
Imperial Valley College/ CSU San Diego*	January 2024	August 2025	Pending	Pending
Lake Tahoe Community College	November 2022	December 2024	Summer 2023	April 2025
Napa Valley College	Fall 2021	Fall 2023	September 2022	Fall 2024
Santa Rosa Junior College	August 2021	Fall 2023	Fall 2021	August 2023
Sierra College	N/A*	N/A*	February 2024	June 2025
Ventura College	March 2023	2024	July 2024	November 2025

* Not available at the time of application.

Multiple projects have faced setbacks and delays. Grant approval, review and approval from the Division of the State Architect, redesign, additional studies, updated codes, and cost reduction efforts have impacted several approved projects. Three funded projects will break ground after 2024. Imperial Valley College/CSU San Diego is currently in the planning and engineering phase of construction. As an intersegmental project, collaboration between both institutions is ongoing. Fresno City College is currently working with prospective third-party development partners to evaluate the current budget and other funding sources. College of the Siskiyous is working through redesign efforts to reduce project costs that have delayed the start of construction.



Photo: Sierra College

Conclusion

The affordable student housing movement is growing across California's community colleges. As implementation evolves, colleges are committed to adapting the program to students' needs. The first round of grant applications were submitted by community college districts to the Department of Finance in October 2021, and following initial review by the Department of Finance the State Legislature selected 12 construction grants and 70 planning grants. Additionally, AB 183 awarded more than \$560 million to implement these projects and it also transferred the administration of the Affordable Student Housing Grant Program from the Department of Finance to the Chancellor's Office. The Chancellor's Office Student Housing Unit will accept all future applications for review.

As this report shows, Round One of the Affordable Student Housing Grant is well underway, with three projects well into construction and four more ready to break ground. Due to historic global inflation, many of our colleges have been impacted by increased costs and have made efforts to redesign facilities to ensure maximization of grant funding. While overall costs have increased, those impacted are working to supplement costs through local resources. Through bonds, grants, district and college general funds, donations, and local partnerships. The additional local resources ensures colleges can construct affordable student housing at no additional cost to the state. Original projected bed counts for low-income designated beds increased from 2,293 to 2,302, providing an additional nine beds. Of the 12 funded projects, all projected rental rates for low-income designated beds reported rental rates within the prescribed 30% of 50% of local AMI computation. With a focus on low-income students, only three colleges plan to offer standard rate beds, totaling 735 beds. Acknowledging the need for affordable housing for all students, colleges that offer standard-rate beds will offer below market-rate rents.

Students attend California's community colleges because they present opportunities for socio-economic advancement and career mobility. This is especially true for students living in poverty. Although California Community Colleges is the most affordable system of higher education in the country, lack of affordable housing is a major hurdle to students, forcing students to make difficult decisions and balancing their education with meeting their basic needs and those of their families. Community Colleges Affordable Student Housing program offers a much-needed opportunity for our system to provide affordable housing to our students, supporting their ability to pursue an education and increase their quality of life.

Affordable student housing plays a critical role in promoting equity and access to higher education. It helps remove barriers for low-income students who may face significant challenges in finding affordable housing options near their community colleges. By

providing affordable housing, community colleges are positioning themselves to create a more inclusive environment that supports students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, and one which provides students with a supportive community and resources that contribute to their personal growth and development.

Housing instability and homelessness can have a detrimental impact on students' educational journeys, leading to higher dropout rates and delayed degree completion. By offering affordable student housing, community colleges can help reduce housing insecurity, improve retention rates, and support students in successfully completing their academic programs.

The Chancellor's Office continues to work collaboratively with community college districts to provide support and advocacy to construct and maintain affordable student housing for our students and their families. The Affordable Student Housing Program advances the *Vision for Success* by building unconditional belonging on our campuses and addressing issues of housing insecurity with long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes that perpetuate inequalities.

Affordable student housing at California Community Colleges should be celebrated as vital for ensuring access, affordability, academic success, and well-being for students. This historic investment promotes equity, reduces financial burdens, and creates a supportive environment that contributes to students' overall educational experiences and success. As demonstrated by the progress made in only nine months, the California Community Colleges is not only ready but committed to lead in affordable student housing.

Front cover photo: Lake Tahoe
Community College.

Photo at right: Sierra College.

Back cover photo: Compton College



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