

# Enable Student Success by Addressing Food Insecurity

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# Food insecurity on every campus matters

**1 in 3**

undergraduate  
students nationwide  
are food insecure

**25%**

of students have  
been forced to drop  
courses due to  
hunger

**55%**

of Pell recipients  
experience food  
insecurity

**Food insecurity is connected to decreased graduation rates and  
lower workforce participation post-graduation**

# Hamline's campus research in 2017

## Hamline Food Access Survey

17% percent of undergraduate students (359) responded

Modified from the 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) food security module and Hope Lab college-specific questions



# Findings showed there was work to do

**70%**

of surveyed  
students qualify as  
food insecure

**39%**

“I was unable to  
focus while  
studying”

**35%**

of respondents  
agreed “I was unable  
to focus in class”

# Some students at greater risk for food insecurity

Students with disabilities or chronic conditions were 3.1 times as likely to have food insecurity due to allergies or food sensitivities.

Odds of food insecurity for students receiving Pell grants was almost twice that for students not receiving Pell grants; but student income a greater determinant of food insecurity.

Hispanic students 4.5 times more likely than white students. Increased odds of food insecurity for Black, African American students, and for students who are more than one race (not statistically significant)



# Students founded 'Feed Your Brain'



# Our road to addressing food insecurity

2017

- Student-driven research project
- Students found “Feed Your Brain”
- Research on resources
- Monthly food pop-ups

2018

- Campus space secured for food distribution
- Partnerships established
- Regular visits from food mobiles

2019

- VISTA volunteer (a Hamline graduate)
- Annual research program; pantry operationalized
- Food resource center opens on September 25, 2019
- 500 visitors in first semester



# Lessons learned

- Student voices have informed progress and programming at the institution
- Our response involved many administrative departments and ranged from small grants to securing a VISTA to developing donors
- Data motivates donors to act on behalf of student well-being. (e.g., donated funds specifically for student support around housing and food insecurity)



# Looking ahead

A change in  
campus culture

