



**To:** Institutions of Higher Education  
**From:** The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education  
**Date:** October 12, 2022  
**Subject:** Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program – Coming Soon

---

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified many of the barriers that students face in the pursuit of higher education, including increased food insecurity.

In response to the realities of food insecurity on campuses, Governor Murphy and the Legislature have appropriated \$1.5 million for the Hunger Free Campus Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2023. This represents a \$500,000 increase over the funding for the previous round of grants. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) intends to utilize the increased funding to extend eligibility for Hunger-Free Campus Grants to public-mission independent institutions.

In order to receive grant funding for this cycle, institutions of higher education must receive a “Hunger-Free Campus” designation, as specified in P.L. 2019, c.89, from the Secretary. Such designation is achieved through satisfaction of all the following criteria during the time period of August 2021 through the grant application submission deadline:

- Establish a hunger task force that meets a minimum of three times per academic year to set at least two goals with action plans;
- Designate a staff member responsible for assisting students with enrollment in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJSNAP);
- Provide options for students to utilize SNAP benefits at campus stores or in the process of providing options/seeking ways to utilize SNAP benefits on-campus;
- Participate in an awareness day campaign activity and planned a campus awareness event during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 12-20, 2022);
- Provide at least one physical food pantry on campus or enable students to receive food through separate, stigma-free arrangement;
- Develop a “Swipe Out Hunger” student meal credit sharing program, or designated a certain amount of funds for free meal vouchers that might otherwise be raised through a “Swipe Out Hunger” program; and
- Annually conduct a student survey on hunger, developed by the Secretary, and submit the survey results and a best practices campus profile to the Secretary at a time prescribed by the Secretary for inclusion in a comparative profile of each campus designated as “hunger-free.”

**While the application for the FY23 grant period is not yet available, institutions of higher education will have until the grant application deadline to qualify for a “Hunger-Free Campus” designation. At this time, the grant application deadline is projected to be at the end of November. Institutions will be notified when the grant application is available via future broadcast.**