



**MARICOPA**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES



## Cultivating Collaboration to Meet Students' Basic Needs

In 2023, Maricopa Community Colleges participated in the Hope Center #RealCollege Survey, the nation's most well-established assessment of students' basic needs. Maricopa Community Colleges' survey findings revealed concerning statistics about our students:

### STUDENT BASIC NEEDS STATISTICS

- 43%** Faced food insecurity
- 53%** Struggled with housing insecurity
- 14%** Experienced homelessness
- 38%** Battled depression
- 62%** Experienced at least one of these conditions

These statistics demonstrate that many of our students need more than just education, and the question becomes, "**How can we help?**"

### Commitment to Students' Basic Needs

Maricopa Community Colleges has established a Basic Needs Strategy Team to coordinate internal and external efforts and partner with over 75 social service and nonprofit agencies to address basic needs such as food, housing, healthcare, legal assistance, and technology. This approach ensures a holistic response to student needs across all colleges.

### Addressing Food Insecurities

Over the last ten years, Maricopa Community Colleges has prioritized meeting student food insecurity because hungry students cannot focus on learning.

- All colleges have food pantries with convenient hours.
- Phoenix College's Bumstead's Resource Room, powered by Whataburger, offers perishable and non-perishable foods.
- Several colleges host monthly food distributions in partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank and United Food Banks, supporting thousands of students and community members.



## Closing the Technology Gap

The COVID-19 pandemic shed light on the significant challenges our students face in accessing the technology and equipment required for their programs. Here are a few examples of our colleges' efforts to ensure students have what they need to succeed in person and online.

- Several colleges have laptop checkout programs to ensure students have essential tools.
- Mesa Community College partners with Compudopt for free computers and low-cost internet.
- Chandler-Gilbert Community College partners with the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation to provide equipment for the Aviation Maintenance program.

## Affordable Housing

Access to affordable housing is a growing crisis in Maricopa County. Our System is exploring ways to meet the increasing demand for affordable housing, and we cannot do it alone.

- Phoenix College partners with ASU, United Way, Homeward Bound, AZ Career Pathways, and apartment communities to solve student homelessness.
- Partnerships with nonprofits and public services connect students with housing resources.
- Dialogues with developers, cities, and other partners aim to explore other ways to meet this growing need among our students.

---

The generosity of our Foundation's donors allows students to remain in school and become future graduates who can, in turn, have a profound and lasting impact on our community.

---

## Emergency Funding

The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation has emergency funds, including the Greatest Needs Fund, to provide immediate relief to students experiencing hardship and help them get back on their feet.

- The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation awarded nearly \$400,000 to 1,900 students in 2023-2024, helping them stay enrolled and succeed.

## Employment Opportunities

In addition to our System's comprehensive career services centers, we are committed to developing partnerships to ensure our students transition to gainful employment upon program completion or even before.

- JobFest 2024 connected over 200 students and alumni with 40+ employers.
- Community-based organizations at JobFest 2024 provided resources, including professional headshots taken.



The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit: [ww.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination](http://ww.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination).