

FY 2025

BASIC NEEDS REPORT

Advancing Student Well-Being



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) has demonstrated a sustained commitment to addressing student basic needs and well-being across the state's three universities. This commitment began in the 2020-21 academic year when student regents initiated a work group, approved by the board, to evaluate student food insecurity and housing needs. A crucial outcome of the original 2020-21 work group was a board-approved mandate requiring each university to submit an annual report detailing their efforts to assess and alleviate basic needs challenges. These efforts encompass a range of activities, including:

- University initiatives such as basic needs committees, special events and research surveys to provide resources.
- Utilization of university blogs or portals with various media to detail basic needs initiatives and their impact, potentially linked through azregents.edu with regular updates.
- Proactive measures to ensure students are aware of available on and off-campus programs.
- Encouraging faculty to list available services in their syllabi each semester, at the discretion of the campus or department.

Under the leadership of Student Regents David Zaragoza and Jaydn Fisher, a statewide gathering on mental health and student wellness was successfully hosted. This initiative, coupled with ongoing student listening sessions at each institution, highlights the profound connection between student success and overall well-being. In recognition of this vital link, ABOR expanded its focus in September 2024 to formally include mental health. This proactive measure aligns with Arizona's participation in the inaugural Student Mental Health and Wellness Learning Community, sponsored by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and The Jed Foundation.

Further solidifying this commitment, ABOR Executive Director Chad Sampson led the effort for Arizona to be selected for SHEEO's Basic Needs Academy in fall 2024. This initiative will concentrate on integrating basic needs into state postsecondary data systems and includes a sub-grant to improve data infrastructure and standardize definitions for basic needs metrics.

These initiatives collectively underscore ABOR's comprehensive approach to fostering a supportive environment that addresses the fundamental needs of students at Arizona's public universities.

ABOUT THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS

The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate institutions; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in education.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

College students nationwide are increasingly grappling with hidden issues of student basic needs, a challenge also evident in Arizona, as revealed by the [Hope Center’s extensive research surveys](#) on basic needs security.

Basic needs are defined as the fundamental resources and conditions essential for students to thrive academically, personally, and socially. These encompass consistent access to adequate and nutritious food (food security), safe, stable, and affordable living arrangements (housing security) and resources and support that promote psychological health, emotional stability, and overall well-being (mental health and well-being). Additionally, basic needs include reliable and affordable transportation to and from campus and essential services (transportation access), availability of comprehensive physical and mental health-care services including preventative care and health education (health-care access) and consistent, reliable access to necessary digital tools, internet connectivity and technical support for academic engagement and university life (access to technology).

A key recommendation from the original work group, approved by the board, mandates that each university submit an annual report detailing their efforts to assess and alleviate basic needs challenges, with examples of such efforts including university-led initiatives by basic needs committees to provide resources, special events and conduct research surveys; utilizing university blogs or portals with various media like videos, articles and testimonials to highlight basic needs initiatives and their impact, potentially linked via [azregents.edu](#); proactive communication to ensure students are aware of available on and off-campus support programs; and encouraging faculty, at their discretion, to list available services in their syllabi each semester.

These comprehensive efforts underscore regents’ dedication to supporting the fundamental needs and overall well-being of its university students.



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY COMMITTED TO STUDENT WELL-BEING AND SUCCESS

SUMMARY

Arizona State University is committed to student well-being and success. The Office of the Dean of Students, specifically Student Advocacy and Assistance (SAA), serves as the lead for supporting and assisting students in need. The student advocacy team links students to basic needs resources on campus and in the community. A university-wide basic needs workgroup meets regularly to identify and advance support for students.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Revised [Dean of Students](#) and [Basic Needs](#) webpages based upon feedback from students and page performance metrics. (See appendix)
- Added Basic Needs webpage to Quick Links on the ASU Mobile App.
- Increased number of unique visitors viewing the Basic Needs landing page in fiscal year 2025 (11,833 to date) by 45% since fiscal year 2024 (8,154) and 211% since fiscal year 2023 (3,800).
- Increased number of page views (total page views including non-unique visitors) to the Basic Needs landing page in fiscal year 2025 (14,919 to date) by 38% since fiscal year 2024 (10,780) and 181% since fiscal year 2023 (5,300).
- Expanded monthly health and wellness surveys to further identify student well-being risks, strengths and opportunities for impact.
- Expanded the focus of the university workgroup, under new leadership, to integrate the basic needs strategy across health, wellness, transportation, technology, housing and food security efforts.
- Advanced collaborative partnerships with key student support units and community partners in support of food, housing and other insecurities, including provision of meal cards and meal swipes.
- Awarded \$282,350 in crisis funds during fiscal year 2025 (to date), which is a 61% increase over fiscal year 2024 (\$175,000) and 215% over fiscal year 2023 (\$89,650). The Student Crisis Fund is available to assist students in need. More information on the fund is described in the [student care form](#).
- Continued promotion of access to student support through flyers (see appendix) and on social media.
- Promoted opportunities for employee and alumni giving to the Student Crisis Fund.
- Awarded a [charter professorship](#) to a faculty member for her work in food literacy and budget-conscious healthy cooking and eating.

UPCOMING PRIORITIES

The following are outlined priorities for the 2025-2026 academic year:

- Construct a basic needs ecosystem to refine primary prevention, emergency interventions and ongoing response for immediate and chronic basic needs insecurity that provides low-stigma, low-friction identification of students whose needs might be most effectively managed through one or more of the following:
 - Student employment
 - Crisis funding
 - Emergency food kits
 - Meal swipes
 - Financial aid adjustments
 - Budgeting tips, including budget-friendly cooking demonstrations (with free or low-cost ingredients provided) and archived videos for viewing and distribution.
- Expand the use of student data to identify students earlier who are at elevated risk for basic needs insecurity.



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE BASIC NEEDS INSECURITIES

SUMMARY

Northern Arizona University supports extensive coordinated efforts to alleviate student food insecurity and continues to explore ways to address housing insecurity. Several university departments partner with student groups, NAU's dining services contractor, and community agencies to promote awareness and use of services, which include a campus food pantry (Louie's Cupboard), emergency meal swipes, screenings during medical and counseling appointments, referrals to city and county resources and more. Through these coordinated activities dedicated to meeting basic needs, over 7,000 unique students were served, screened and/or provided resources during the 2024-25 academic year.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Louie's Cupboard Programming

- o In 2024-25, 1,295 unique students were served through Louie's Cupboard bi-weekly distributions and/or the Grab and Go food bag program. (See appendix)
- o In addition to the Cupboard's primary site, food distributions occurred at other locations, such as the Lumberjack Lounge in the University Union, that may be more attractive to students than accessing the Cupboard itself. During 2024-25 330 sack lunches were provided at secondary locations, up from 145 during 2023-24.
- o With support from St. Mary's Food Bank to purchase and install a commercial freezer, in spring 2025 Louie's Cupboard launched Frozen Fridays, an opportunity for students to access frozen meals on non-distribution weeks. During the pilot semester, 600 frozen meals were distributed.
- o In 2024-25, the Meal Swipes for Jacks program purchased 668 mini meal plans for \$20,040 in order to provide no-cost meals to students. Each mini meal plan consists of six meal swipes.
- o During 2024-25, Louie's Cupboard partnered with the NAU Bookstore to provide 50 boxes of donated unsold apparel to be distributed at the bi-weekly distributions. The apparel included T-shirts, sweatshirts, vests, jackets, shorts and hats.
- o Utilization of Louie's Cupboard Yuma, located in the NAU-Yuma Academic Success Center, has steadily increased.
- o This year, 198 Grab and Go bags were distributed, up from 113 in 2023-24. Grab and Go bags contain enough food for multiple days and/or household members.
- o In spring 2025, the Yuma Brown Bag Lunch Program was launched, with 49 lunches provided to students.

• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Pilot

- o In 2024-25, NAU identified over 7,000 current students who may be eligible for SNAP benefits based on their Pell Grant eligibility. In partnership with the Department of Economic Security (DES) and the director of postsecondary attainment at ABOR, an outreach email was developed and sent encouraging students to explore and apply for SNAP benefits. To assess the impact of this campaign, a follow-up pulse survey was sent to students 45 to 60 days after the initial outreach. Of respondents, nearly 99% reported it to be at least "moderately useful." (Executive summary provided in Appendix)

• The Lumberjack Emergency Assistance Fund (LEAF)

- o LEAF continues to provide emergency grants of up to \$500 to students experiencing unexpected financial need. LEAF grants are available to students once per NAU academic career. In 2024-25, 135 grants were provided for a total of \$62,888, compared to 54 for a total of \$23,358 in 2023-24, representing a 150% increase in number of unique students served. (Distribution of LEAF grants by need type provided in appendix)

• Basic Needs Case Management

- o The Lumberjack CARE Center team responds to requests and referrals related to a variety of extenuating circumstances, including financial stressors. Through wraparound case management, students are referred to university and community housing resources and support. In 2024-25, 7% of CARE referrals involved housing insecurity, up from 3% in 2023-24. (Distribution of financial stressor-related CARE referrals by type provided in appendix)
- o This year, the Lumberjack CARE team increased knowledge of and expertise in basic needs resources outside of Flagstaff in order to better serve NAU Yuma and online students.
- o With one year of funding from the Arizona Innovation Alliance (\$64,500) to pilot the tool, The Lumberjack CARE Center purchased and will implement the Single Stop platform – a quick, 10-minute screening that assesses eligibility for a broad range of federal, state and local resources – in fall 2025. The goals of this pilot initiative include increasing awareness of available public benefits, expanding guided assistance for students, enhancing data reporting, validating the effectiveness of tech-enabled tools and exploring the potential to scale Single Stop across other Arizona institutions.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES ADDRESSING STUDENT BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING COORDINATED SERVICES FOR FOOD INSECURITY AWARENESS AND RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

• Communication and Awareness

- o Whether in person on the Mountain Campus, statewide or online, the Lumberjack CARE Center continues to be the primary point of contact for receiving information regarding students of concern, identifying needs, and promoting and distributing resources. To that end, the Lumberjack CARE Center website serves as the central landing place for basic needs: nau.edu/carecenter and houses a referral form that students, NAU faculty and staff, friends, family and even concerned community members can submit.
- o The Lumberjack CARE Center team continues to regularly present information about its services to units around campus and provides information at a variety of tabling events

including the Alumni Employee Welcome Breakfast, Welcome Week, Discover NAU, Transfer Days, NAU Said Yes, Exploring Honors Day, Indigenous Visit Day, Celebracion de NAU and Transfer Visit Day.

- o Fill the Louie's Cupboard Van canned food drives and donation food bins located around campus continue to help spread the word about Louie's Cupboard. In addition, departments, offices, colleges, and student clubs and organizations hold food drives for the Cupboard throughout the year.
- o During the 2024-25 academic year, Louie's Cupboard was selected as the agency partner for a public health course offered at NAU. While working with Louie's Cupboard, students had the opportunity to engage in a research project focused on pantry awareness and highlighting the value of Louie's Cupboard's volunteers and programs. (See Appendix for project results)
- o In January 2025, the NAU Foundation continued to cultivate donor engagement by sending an online mailer to 1,500 donors to communicate the positive impact of their donations to LEAF grants and Louie's Cupboard. (See appendix)

• **Coordinated Assessment of Student Basic Needs**

- o Medical Services
 - The registered dietitian continued to use the USDA six-question screening tool to screen nutrition patients. (See appendix)
 - The registered dietitian completed 270 nutrition appointments, including 110 first-time visits, during academic year 2024-25.
 - Psychiatric providers continue to ask about food and general financial insecurities during intake appointments. Patients who answer affirmatively are then offered resources or referred to the Lumberjack CARE Center for case management. During academic year 2024-25, psychiatric providers conducted 395 intakes, up from 379 in 2023-24.
- o Counseling Services
 - Questions on the intake paperwork continue to inquire about food and housing insecurity. Depending on responses, students may be referred to resources for lower-level needs or to case management for higher-level concerns. (See appendix)

• **Culture of Giving**

- o In fall 2024, Louie's Cupboard was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Fry's/Kroger to purchase food and other basic needs resources from the local Fry's grocery store.
- o In collaboration with Sodexo, Louie's Leftovers is an ongoing program aimed to reduce food waste by providing a notification through the NAUgo app letting students know when there is free leftover food at campus events. Additionally, NAU Sodexo annually donates 50 mini-meal plans, or 300 meal swipes, to the Meal Swipes for Jacks program.
- o The LEAF NAU Foundation account current balance is \$95,292, with \$9,177 raised during AY24-25 Giving Days, down significantly from the \$30,677 raised during AY23-24 Giving Days.

- o The Louie's Cupboard NAU Foundation account current balance is \$28,099, with \$6,852 raised during AY24-25 Giving Days, down slightly from the \$6,965 raised during AY23-24.
- o Louie's Cupboard provides meaningful volunteer opportunities that are essential to pantry operations.
 - In spring 2025, Louie's Cupboard joined the Axe of Service platform through the NAU Center for Service and Volunteerism (CSV) to track all volunteer hours virtually and to recruit volunteers from the NAU community. In only three months of platform utilization, Louie's Cupboard had 66 unique volunteers and 308 hours of volunteer service. CSV honored Louie's Cupboard with the "Partner Agency Engagement Award for Most Volunteer Hours Recorded."
 - In 2024-25, 365 volunteer shifts were filled in support of Louie's Cupboard programs and services.
 - Louie's Cupboard Club continues to be a student organization that helps facilitate the bi-weekly distributions and consists of eight executive members and 10 general members.
- o Ongoing partnerships with local/regional food banks provide vital support for students. Louie's Cupboard volunteers and staff obtain free products for bi-weekly distributions from the Flagstaff Family Food Center. St. Mary's Food Bank continues as a primary source of discounted food for Louie's Cupboard.

LOOKING AHEAD

- In collaboration with the NAU Foundation, NAU will work to manage the critical funding shortage due to decreased donations for Louie's Cupboard while also seeking ways to meet increasing demands for food, such as shifting from bi-weekly to weekly Friday food distributions beginning in 2025-26.
- As funds are available, Campus Living will work with the foundation to advance housing scholarships.
- The Single Stop platform will be available beginning in fall 2025, supported by professional staff at the Lumberjack CARE Center and a dedicated graduate assistant, and funded through the Arizona Innovation Alliance grant that will assist students in navigating the tool.
- Lumberjack CARE Center Director Shannon Clark and Dean of Students Megan Gavin were invited through ABOR and will participate in a new State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Association Basic Needs Academy initiative. This is a three-year initiative focused on expanding data capacity and developing policy infrastructure for integrating basic needs information in state postsecondary data systems.



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COORDINATES SERVICES FOR STUDENT BASIC NEEDS

SUMMARY

The Basic Needs Center & Services is coordinated within the Dean of Students Office and is comprised of the following units:

Campus Closet

Campus Closet is an on-campus donation-based program offering free clothing ranging from casual to professional wear to students, faculty and staff, free of charge. The Campus Closet makes a continuous effort to minimize clothing insecurity for users and promote a sustainable way of obtaining clothing that can then be used on a day-to-day basis and/or in the professional world.

Campus Pantry

The Campus Pantry is a student-run supplemental grocery program that serves students, faculty, and staff at the University of Arizona. The program is designed to help fill in the gaps and prevent food insecurity. For students, the Campus Pantry works to empower Wildcats to take advantage of the resources that are available, and to not let food insecurity stand in the way of reaching their goals and persisting to graduation. For faculty and staff, the Campus Pantry helps alleviate the physical effects of food insecurity for themselves and their families. The Campus Pantry is open three days a week, and users may visit on any two of those days. During a standard distribution, the Campus Pantry allows students to select their own items up to a set point limit. On the first Tuesday of each month, instead of a standard distribution, students can receive a Tucson Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food box provided by the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

Fostering Success

Fostering Success serves U of A students who have experienced foster care and/or housing insecurity. The program works directly with approximately 100 students who are formally connected to peer mentors and full-time staff support, and approximately 250 additional students who received at least one form of support from a program staff member throughout the calendar year. Some of these students are navigating housing challenges, which are addressed on a case-by-case basis based on their unique needs. While some are experiencing basic needs insecurity, others simply turn to the university as trusted support - especially those eligible for Fostering Success, even if they are not formally enrolled. There are unhoused students at the institution. When available, Campus Housing provides limited short-term housing, and the university also coordinates with community partners and the Dean of Students Student Assistance team to help students secure more stable options. The program awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarships to student participants, increasing their access to basic needs resources such as safe, stable housing.

Richard H. Tyler Student Emergency Fund

The Richard H. Tyler Student Emergency Fund is available to support currently enrolled students who are in need and at risk of having to withdraw from their classes due to an unexpected, temporary financial hardship. Funds are intended to cover temporary costs that may hinder a student from succeeding academically or from meeting their basic needs. In AY24-25, the Dean of Students Office made 194 awards totaling \$94,529.

Student Assistance

Student Assistance provides campus case management responsive to national trends, including standards informed by the Higher Education Case Managers Association (HECMA). This program has evolved to provide compassionate, student-centered crisis response and ongoing support services. Whether in person on the main campus, statewide or online, the Dean of Students Office is the primary point of contact for communicating concerns, identifying needs, and promoting and distributing resources. The Dean of Students website houses a referral form that students, faculty and staff, friends, family and even concerned community members can submit.

HIGHLIGHTS

The University of Arizona Campus Pantry served 4,506 unique individuals over the 24/25 academic year through 56,770 visits and distributed 401,290 pounds of food.

The University of Arizona Campus Closet served 2,041 unique individuals over the 2024-25 academic year through 7,169 visits and distributed 24,303 items of clothing.

- **Basic Needs Coalition**

The U of A coordinates services for food insecurity awareness and resource availability by engaging campus stakeholders to promote resources and increase awareness of what is available to students on campus and in the community.

- o The Basic Needs Coalition relaunched the basicneeds.arizona.edu website where students can find information about on-campus and off-campus resources with options to filter by need.
- o Student basic needs ambassadors gave training presentations to classes throughout campus advertising the relaunched website.
- o Marketing materials advertise basic needs resources and reduce the stigma of accessing these programs.
- o Questions about basic needs are now included in the New Student Interest Form and CatCloud. In fall 2024, outreach to 1,957 incoming students provided them with information on basic needs if they had indicated they needed “some” or “a lot” of support in terms of basic needs..

During your first year at the University of Arizona, how much support do you expect to need in the following areas?

(None, A little, Some, A lot)

- Academic support services (e.g. tutoring, writing center)
- Accessing and managing financial aid and scholarships
- Accessing the technology needed for my courses
- Asking for help when I need it
- Disability accommodations
- Employment on campus
- Finding a social group where I feel like I belong.
- Managing my time
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Meeting basic needs (e.g. food and housing)
- Navigating campus resources and services

- o One Basic Needs Center & Services staff member participated in the ABOR Arizona Innovation Alliance Temporary Financial Hardship Working Group.

• **Strategic Partnerships**

- U of A's basic needs efforts are strengthened by strategic campus and community partnerships and communications.
- o Partnerships with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona were strengthened as the Campus Pantry became a distribution site for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The program was piloted in December 2024 and continues to operate on the first Tuesday of the month. On the first Tuesday of each month, instead of a standard distribution, students can receive a TEFAP food box provided by the food bank.
 - o The University of Arizona Campus Pantry grew the Bulk Foods Program which provides students with free jars to refill with dry goods such as rice, oats, pasta and beans, and seasonings. The Bulk Foods Program now provides 10 dry goods and 13 spice offerings.
 - o In support of BNC&S, the U of A Student Unions donate leftover food from restaurants and catering events that are safely packaged and distributed through the Boxing Up Hunger program.
 - o The Student Unions also continue to steward relationships with partners such as Shamrock Foods and Coca-Cola to receive weekly food allocations.
 - o The U of A Arizona Foundation supports an annual giving drive to the Campus Pantry through donor, alumni, and staff networks. This includes participation in the annual Campus Pantry Benefit Dinner raising more than \$20,000 this year.
 - o Campus Pantry worked with the Office of Government and Community Relations to host the annual Stuff the Cat Tran food drive to raise awareness of food insecurity while also collecting donations. Food collected was evenly split for the Campus Pantry and the Community Food Bank.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26 PRIORITIES

- Fostering Success is re-envisioning their model of student support moving forward. The program will consist of a full-time director, two full-time coordinators and a student team to facilitate intensive case management, skill building, building resource access and individualized support for program participants.
- The Campus Pantry and Campus Closet are focusing on sustaining their programs over the next year using the allocated funding. There have been notifications that some of the nonprofit food bank partners are experiencing budget cuts, which may impact support availability over the next year.

REPORTS & RESEARCH

- Full collection of all [Basic Needs Reports](#)
- [Campus Pantry Impact Report](#)
- A [study measuring the impact on students of utilizing Campus Pantry and other basic needs resources](#) collected data starting in fall 2023 and finished in spring 2024.

- While pantry operation data has been regularly analyzed, the impact of using pantry services on students' college experience has not yet been examined. Thus, a pantry impact study was conducted in spring 2024 to explore the impact of visiting a campus food pantry on college students. Some key results:
 - o Visiting the campus pantry directly addresses food insecurity by providing students with access to nutritious food. More than a third of pantry users (34%) said they would go hungry without the campus pantry, and the percentage is higher among Pell students (46%).
 - o Results show that greater pantry usage among users is associated with a positive effect on their mental and physical health as it relates to food access.
 - o With reliable access to food, students can focus more on academics. Students who self-reported lower overall (no or less stress) levels of stress in relation to accessing food also had higher average term GPAs (3.66) than those who reported higher levels (more or tremendous stress) in relation to accessing food (3.49).
 - o Students who used the pantry more frequently were more likely to report a higher average score (range 0-3) on the sense of belonging statements (2.39) compared to students who used the pantry moderately (2.20) and those who used it infrequently (1.85).
- In AY 2023-24, the student assistance program connected students in the following ways:
 - o 2,368 CARE reports received
 - o 2,004 unique students supported
 - o 274 students submitted multiple reports
 - o 55% of reports related to mental and physical health
 - o 57% of reports are self-reported
- In spring 2023, the Richard H. Tyler Student Emergency Fund application process was transitioned to the UAccess Student Center. When funding is available, enrolled students are eligible to apply and may be awarded once each calendar year. In AY 2023-24, a total of 188 students applied for the fund, with 143 students awarded by the committee, accounting for the total of \$65,950. In AY 2024-25, those numbers increased to 170 total students and \$94,519 awarded.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1: ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

- Dean of Students flyer
- Basic Needs website analysis



Office of the Dean of Students

We are glad you are a part of the Sun Devil Family

The Office of the Dean of Students is dedicated to being a resource to students through support, advocacy, involvement, and accountability. With a goal of nurturing student success for all Sun Devils, we strive to foster a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for learning and achievement in and out of the classroom while setting the standard of excellence in the delivery services for students facing challenges to their success. We are honored to support you in your efforts.

Go Devils!

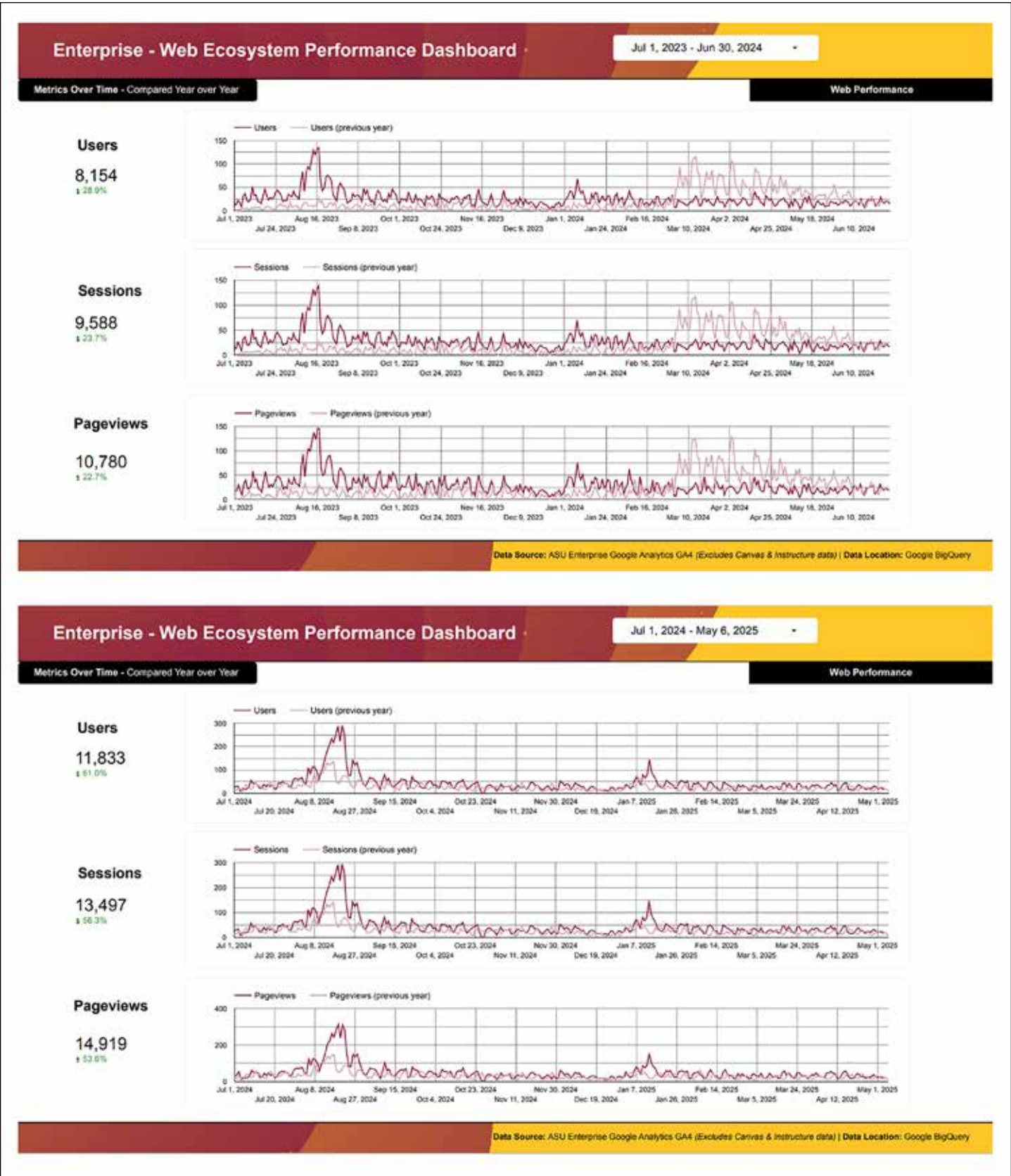
Scan to connect with us



Scan for resources for basic needs



If you have questions, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students
deanofstudents@asu.edu | 480-965-6547



APPENDIX

Louie’s Cupboard Clients Served Through Distribution and/or Grab and Go Food Bag Program

	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Households served	3194	2041	1974	1025
Total clients	8809	6257	5438	2308
Unique NAU Students	1295	935	983	506

SNAP Program Executive Summary

This survey was conducted as part of a pilot partnership between Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to assess the impact and effectiveness of outreach efforts targeting students likely eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. N= 155. Surveys were emailed to students 6-11 weeks after initial outreach: December 2024- January 2025

Key Findings

- **Awareness and Communication**
 - 58% of respondents reported receiving an email from NAU about SNAP benefits, while 23% were unsure and 19% did not receive the communication.
 - The initial email from NAU was the primary source of information for 52% of those who learned about SNAP application processes and requirements.
- **Perceived Usefulness of Information**
 - Among those who received information, 31% found it "extremely useful," 24% "very useful," and 34% "moderately useful".
 - Only 2% found the information "not at all useful," indicating overall positive reception.
- **Application Behavior**
 - 26% of respondents applied for SNAP after receiving the outreach, 39% planned to apply, and 36% did not apply.
 - The main reasons for not applying were doubts about eligibility (69%), perceived complexity of the application process (19%), and lack of need (13%).
- **Barriers and Delays**
 - Key barriers to application included:
 - Concerns about eligibility (46%)
 - Difficulty finding time to apply (63%)
 - Challenges understanding the process (46%)
 - Issues gathering required documents (49%)
 - Students expressed a need for more information about eligibility (69%) and step-by-step application guidance (50%).
- **Application Outcomes and Experience**
 - Of those who applied:
 - 30% were awaiting an interview
 - 4% had completed an interview and were awaiting a decision
 - 13% were approved and receiving benefits
 - 52% were denied, often due to student status or work requirements¹

APPENDIX 2: NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

- The application process was rated as "very easy" or "easy" by 43%, "neutral" by 26%, and "difficult" or "very difficult" by 31%.
 - 78% of applicants received communication from SNAP regarding their application status.
- **Support Needs and Confidence**
 - Preferred supports included one-on-one assistance (46%), online tutorials (31%), and email reminders (40%).
 - 72% of respondents felt "very" or "somewhat" confident in their ability to complete the SNAP application, while 6% felt "not very" or "not at all" confident.
- **Interest in Further Engagement**
 - 84% of those who had not yet applied expressed interest in receiving more information about SNAP benefits.
 - 75% of all respondents wanted additional information or assistance regarding food assistance and SNAP benefits.

Summary of Challenges

- Many students remain uncertain about their eligibility for SNAP, especially due to student-specific restrictions and work requirements.
- The complexity of the application process and documentation requirements are significant deterrents.
- There is strong demand for personalized guidance, clearer eligibility criteria, and ongoing communication.

Recommendations

- Enhance outreach with targeted, clear information about student eligibility for SNAP.
- Provide step-by-step application support, including one-on-one assistance and online resources.
- Address common barriers, such as work requirements for students, through advocacy or partnership with DES.
- Continue follow-up communications to encourage application completion and provide updates.

This pilot survey underscores the importance of proactive, clear, and supportive outreach to ensure that eligible students are aware of and able to access SNAP benefits.

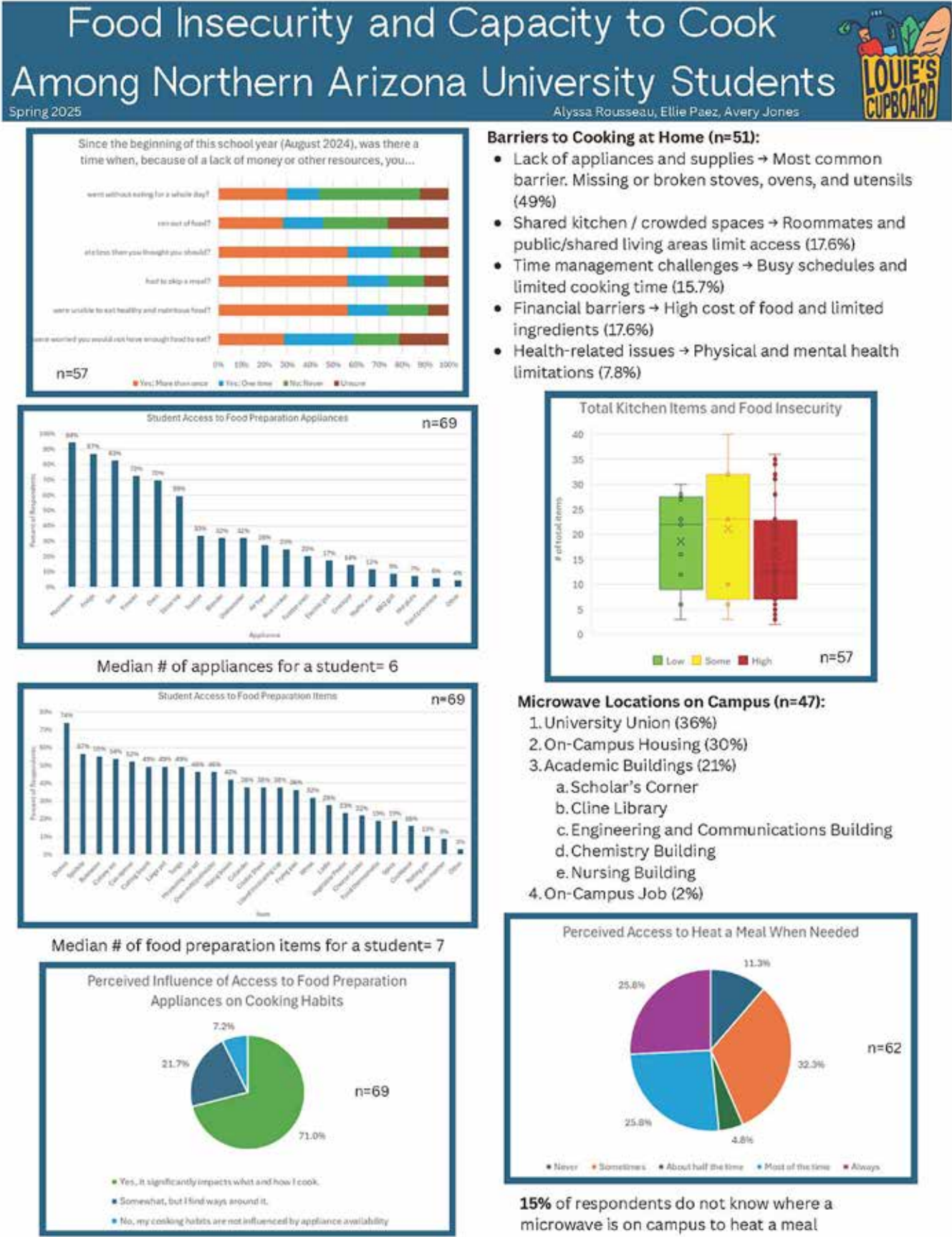
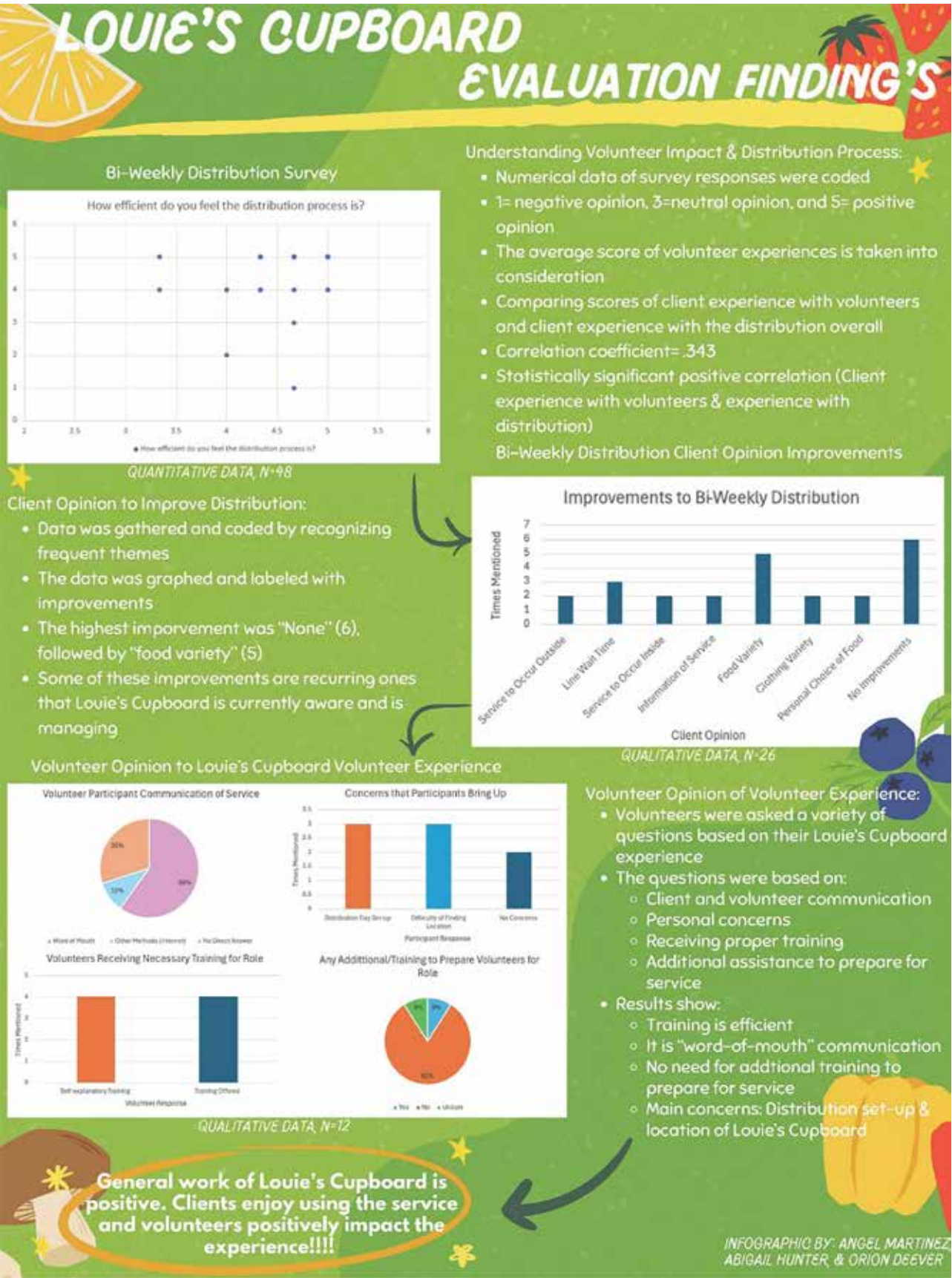
Distribution of LEAF Grants by Need Type*



Assistance Type	% Recipients by need type	
	2024-25 n = 134	2023-24 n = 54
Academic-Related	36%	33%
Housing - Current (Rent/Eviction)	19%	27%
Transportation/Gas	16%	19%
Medical/Dental	15%	15%
Food	13%	19%
Employment – Current (reduction in hours)	13%	10%
Personal Crisis/Emergency	11%	6%
Utilities	8%	4%
Mental Health Access	6%	4%
Family Emergency	4%	6%
Basic Needs - Other	3%	4%
Housing - New (Deposits)	3%	2%
Employment - New (unemployment)	2%	6%
Child/Dependent Related	1%	4%
Change in family contribution	0%	0%
Student Parent Applicant	0%	0%

* Students may select multiple reasons when applying for a LEAF grant.

Financial Stressor-Related CARE Referrals

Assistance Type	% of total CARE Referrals by type							
	2024-25		2023-24		2022-23		2021-22	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Financial Issues	258	18%	198	14%	75	6%	47	5%
Housing Insecurity	96	7%	50	3%	54	5%	24	3%
Food Insecurity	59	4%	43	3%	27	2%	13	1%
Total CARE Referrals – all types	1427		1455		1185		935	






Thank you for transforming lives at NAU

Thanks to you, NAU's culture of care thrives. The Lumberjack community grows stronger with every act of your generosity. Your contributions make an incredible difference in the lives of students, ensuring they succeed academically and feel supported holistically throughout their college journey.

NAU is committed to making post-secondary education more accessible while providing wrap-around services and addressing the essential needs of its students. In fiscal year 2024, your generosity collectively raised \$138,000 to sustain NAU's culture of care, directly impacting thousands of Lumberjacks by providing vital resources.




The Lumberjack CARE Center (Case Management, Advocacy, Resources & Essential Needs Center) serves as a lifeline for students encountering challenges, offering personalized support and critical resources.

Your impact doesn't stop there. NAU has committed nearly \$300,000 to remodel and expand Louie's Cupboard, our campus food pantry. What began as a student-led class project has grown into a beacon of support, serving hundreds of students, staff, and faculty through biweekly food distributions.

Because of you:

43 students received Lumberjack Emergency Assistance Grants (LEAF)

3,039 students were assisted at the Lumberjack CARE Center across all programs



3,834 hot meals were provided through the Meal Swipes for Jacks program

6,304 food distributions were provided to Flagstaff NAU community members

53 students received access to low-cost health care

Your generosity strengthens NAU's culture of care.

939 students accessed food through Louie's Cupboard

434 food distributions were provided to NAU-Yuma community members

145 sack lunches were provided to students in need

"The biggest impact of the LEAF Emergency Fund is being able to focus on my schoolwork and health without worrying about affording basic needs like winter clothing and hygiene products. This fund has been life-changing for me."

– Caleb J. Callan, '28

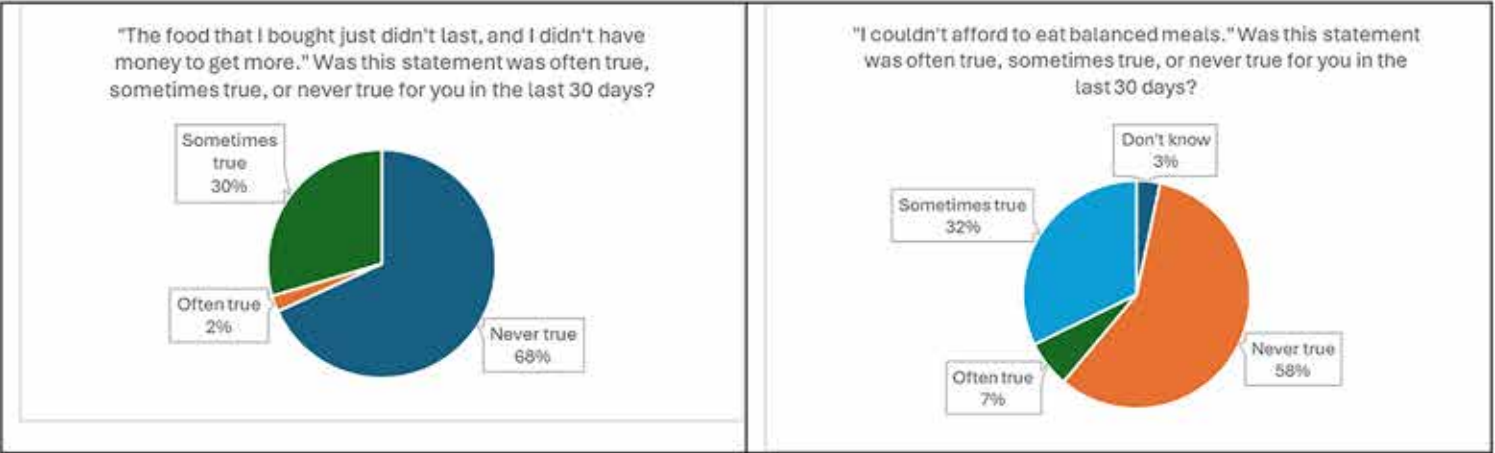


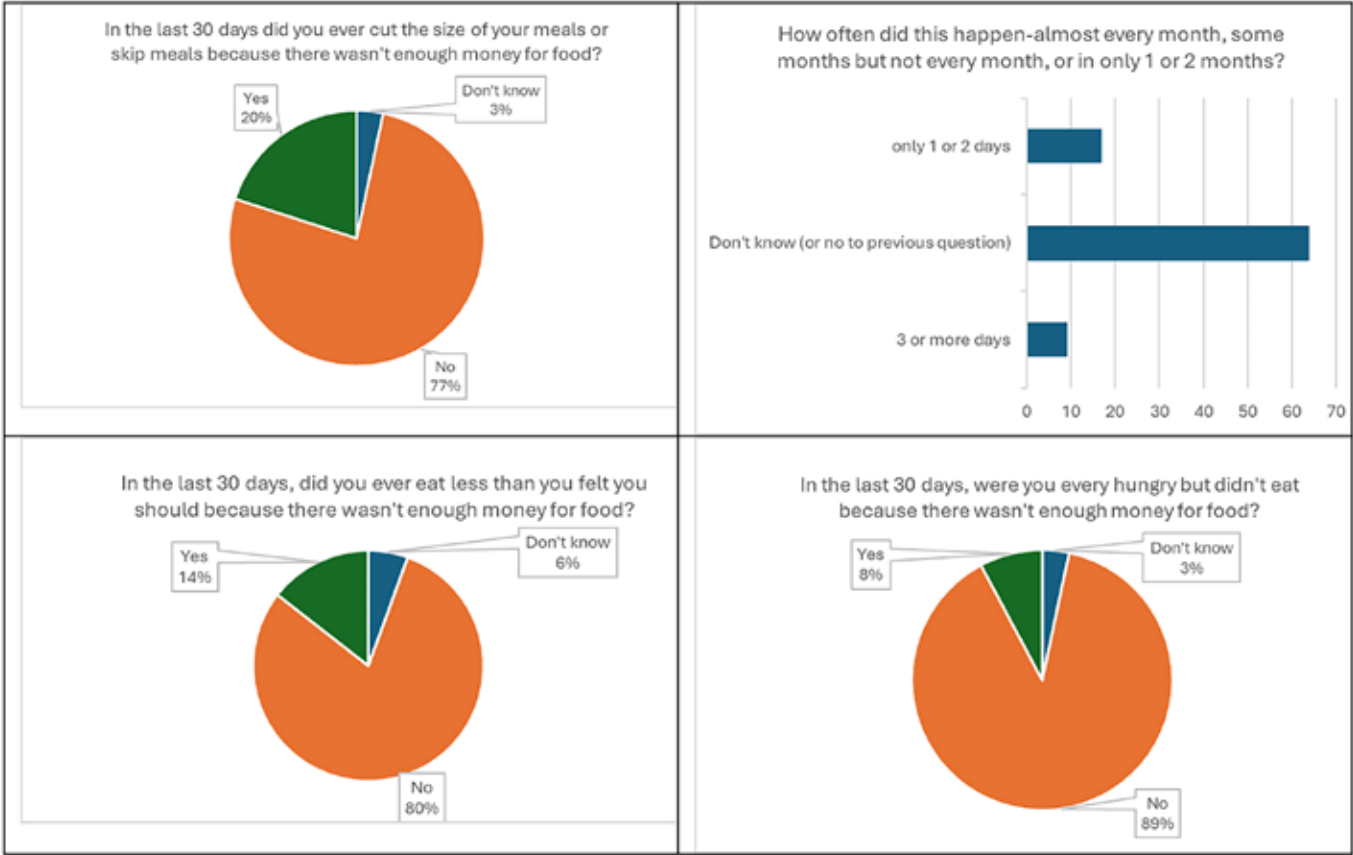
"Louie's Cupboard has been a game-changer for me. By cutting my grocery bill in half, I can worry less about food and focus more on my studies."

– Anonymous, future NAU alumnus

Data Related to Student Basic Needs

USDA 6 Question Screening Tool Fall 2024 - Spring 2025, N= 90





APPENDIX 3: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Counseling Services - Collegiate Center for Mental Health New Standard Data Set questions
2024-25, N = 775

	Are you unable to pay for, or are you having great difficulty paying for enough food to eat
NO	83%
YES	17%
	Are you unable to pay for, or are you having great difficulty paying for housing/utilities
NO	80%
YES	20%

2023-24, N = 749

	Are you unable to pay for, or are you having great difficulty paying for enough food to eat
NO	83%
YES	17%
	Are you unable to pay for, or are you having great difficulty paying for housing/utilities
NO	79%
YES	21%

Basic Needs Coalition flier shared throughout campus

My wifi keeps cutting out when I try to submit assignments.

I have no way of getting to school.

I don't know where I'm living next month.

I don't have the right clothes for my presentation next week.

My water is getting shut off tomorrow.

“I’m fine”

I don't feel safe in my home.

I don't have anyone to watch my kids when I go to class.

I need someone to talk to but have nowhere to go.

I couldn't afford to have dinner last night.

I can't pay for my meds right now.

I'm working three jobs and still can't pay my bills

 **You are not alone. We are here to help.**

Visit basicneeds.arizona.edu for resources and more information.

SPONSORED BY THE BASIC NEEDS COALITION



Current Campus Pantry Space



