



To: New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education
From: New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education
Date: September 3, 2025
Subject: Infographic - Food Security Among New Jersey College Students, Spring 2025

The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education has released findings from the most recent [Spring 2025 Student Food Security Survey](#), conducted in accordance with the Hunger-Free Campus Act (P.L. 2019, C.89). This survey collected 11,877 responses from 32 New Jersey institutions of higher education and is an effort that continues to build on New Jersey's leadership in addressing college student food and resource insecurity.

Key Findings from this Year's Survey:

- **Food insecurity remains widespread:** More than one in three students (36%) reported low or very low food security, reinforcing 2024 findings about the proportion of New Jersey's college students who lack consistent access to adequate food.
- **Affordability is a major barrier:** Nearly half of students (45%) reported difficulty affording balanced meals, showing that challenges are not only about access to food, but also about affording healthy, nutritious options.
- **Federal supports offer a critical lifeline, while need persists among vulnerable populations:** Among students receiving SNAP, TANF, or WIC, 65% experience food insecurity, and nearly half (51%) of Pell recipients also report challenges – underscoring the importance of maintaining and strengthening these supports.

Since the Hunger-Free Campus Act was signed into law in 2019, the State has invested to expand campus-based supports, like food pantries and SNAP outreach. Last year, 34 colleges and universities across New Jersey [received](#) \$1.2 million in Hunger-Free Campus grants, supporting efforts that directly reduce barriers to student success.

The recent survey findings emphasize the importance of continuing to strengthen New Jersey's student support infrastructure and ensure every student has the stability needed to thrive academically and personally.