MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Office of Grants and Strategic Initiatives

HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS GRANT PROGRAM
STANDARDIZED STUDENT HUNGER SURVEY
FY 2027

Annual Student Survey required for Hunger-Free Campus Designation

Revised October 2, 2026 (Amendment 1)

This instrument is issued by the Maryland Higher Education Commission in accordance with Education Article § 11-1702 and § 11-1703, and was informed by feedback gathered through the Maryland Hunger-Free Campus Grant Coalition.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTITUTIONS

Question wording and response options are fixed, with one exception. In Sections One and Three, an institution that embeds this instrument in its own campus survey may omit an MHEC question if the campus survey asks the same question and each campus response fits within one MHEC response option. The institution reports those counts under the MHEC response options and lists the omitted MHEC question numbers on the Annual Student Hunger Survey Aggregate Results Reporting Tool. Section Two, Food Security Assessment, may not be changed: the six questions must appear together, in the order given, with the wording and response options given, and with no other questions inserted between them. All MHEC questions, or the campus questions used in their place, must be asked in a single survey administration to the same respondents.

Institutions may select the delivery platform, adjust layout and visual design, and add supplemental questions of their own before or after the MHEC questions, including by incorporating this instrument into a broader campus assessment. To simplify review by an Institutional Review Board, an institution may omit Question 3 and the Name and Contact Information fields under Consent for Follow-Up. If the contact fields are omitted, the survey must tell students how to request help directly. Every other MHEC question and reporting prompt must be asked.

Administer the survey once per academic year. Distribute it to all enrolled students age 18 or older where feasible; if a sample is used, document how it was drawn. Survey participants must be 18 years of age or older, so exclude students under 18 from the distribution list. If the instrument is embedded in a broader survey that reaches students under 18, limit the MHEC questions to a roster of students 18 or older or place an age screen with skip logic before them, and exclude any response from a student under 18 from all counts.

Reporting. Results are reported to OGSI as aggregate counts using the Annual Student Hunger Survey Aggregate Results Reporting Tool. Individual responses, response-level data files, completed instruments, and free-text entries are never submitted. Section Four is never transmitted to MHEC. Grant recipients submit results with the Final Report. Institutions holding designation without grant funding submit results with the HFC Designation-Only Portfolio. Full requirements appear under Annual Student Survey Reporting in the FY 2027 Request for Proposals.

Retention and privacy. Retain the underlying survey responses for five (5) years after completion of the grant program, in accordance with the RECORDS section of the FY 2027 Request for Proposals. Store the Section Four contact information separately from survey responses, with access limited to the staff conducting follow-up.

INTRODUCTION

This survey asks about students' experiences with food access, basic needs, and the use of campus or community resources. Your responses will help the institution and the Maryland Higher Education Commission better understand student needs and improve support services.

Your participation is voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential and reported only in aggregate. Survey participants must be 18 years of age or older.

SECTION ONE: PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Student enrollment type:

- ☐ Full-time student (12+ credits per semester)
- ☐ Part-time student (under 12 credits per semester)
- ☐ Student enrolled in non-credit program/courses

2. Age Range:

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+

3. (Optional) Please list your program/major of study:

_____

4. Do you currently receive a Federal Pell Grant as part of your financial aid package?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure / I do not know
- ☐ I have not applied for federal financial aid (FAFSA)

5. Are you employed?

- ☐ Yes, full-time paid employment (30+ hours/week)
- ☐ Yes, part-time paid employment (under 30 hours/week)
- ☐ Yes, work study employment
- ☐ Yes, unpaid internship or volunteer position
- ☐ No, currently unemployed

6. If you selected any "Yes" option in Question 5, on average, about how many hours per week do you work?

- ☐ Under 10 hrs/week
- ☐ 10-19 hrs/week
- ☐ 20-29 hrs/week

- ☐ 30-39 hrs/week
- ☐ 40+ hrs/week

7. Please describe your living arrangements. Select all that apply:

- ☐ On-campus housing or apartment
- ☐ Off-campus housing or apartment
- ☐ Living with parents or family
- ☐ Living with roommates
- ☐ Temporary or informal housing (examples: couch surfing, staying in a hotel or motel)
- ☐ Homeless or shelter
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other: _____

8. What is your household size?

A household may be one person, or a group of people who live together and customarily purchase and prepare their food together.

- ☐ 1 person
- ☐ 2 persons
- ☐ 3 persons
- ☐ 4 persons
- ☐ 5 or more persons

9. Are any members of your household dependents?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

SECTION TWO: FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT

The next six questions ask about the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months.

10. "The food that I/we bought just didn't last, and I/we didn't have money to get more." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?

- ☐ Often true
- ☐ Sometimes true
- ☐ Never true

11. "I/we couldn't afford to eat balanced meals." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 12 months?

- ☐ Often true
- ☐ Sometimes true
- ☐ Never true

12. In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (If no, skip to Question 14)

13. (If yes to Question 12) How often did this happen?

- ☐ Almost every month
- ☐ Some months but not every month
- ☐ Only 1 or 2 months

14. In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

SECTION THREE: FOOD ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCE UTILIZATION

16. Have you previously received or applied for any of these state/federal assistance programs? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)
- ☐ Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- ☐ Medicaid
- ☐ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- ☐ Federal work study
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ No, I have not received or applied for any of these

17. If you selected "No, I have not received or applied for any of these" in Question 16, what barriers have prevented you from applying? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Lack of knowledge/understanding about programs or eligibility requirements
- ☐ Embarrassment or stigma
- ☐ Complicated application process
- ☐ Not eligible (income restrictions, work study requirement, etc.)
- ☐ Other: _____

18. Which of the following local services have you accessed? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Food pantry (either on or off campus)

- ☐ Campus contact to assist with connections to food resources
- ☐ Campus contact for SNAP application assistance
- ☐ Meal-sharing program (if there is an on-campus dining and student meal plan option)
- ☐ None of the above

19. If you accessed any resource in Question 18, were the resources available to you on campus able to meet your needs? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Yes, on-campus resources were sufficient
- ☐ Yes, on-campus resources offered dietary and culturally relevant foods
- ☐ No, but nearby community resources were available
- ☐ No, there were not enough available resources on-campus or in the surrounding community to meet my need

20. Where did you learn about the resources listed in Question 18? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Professor or other campus faculty/staff
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Campus website or newsletter
- ☐ Sign/banner/poster on campus
- ☐ I am not aware of any of these resources on my campus
- ☐ Other: _____

SECTION FOUR: OPTIONAL

This section is optional and is used only by your institution to connect you with assistance. It is never sent to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

21. Would you like to be referred to a campus staff member who can help with your application assistance for any of the following programs? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)
- ☐ Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- ☐ Medicaid
- ☐ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- ☐ Federal work study
- ☐ I would like to know more about the programs before selecting
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other: _____

Consent for Follow-Up

If you selected any of the programs above, or "I would like to know more," please provide your contact information below. By doing so, you consent to having a designated campus representative contact you securely. Your contact information is stored separately from your

survey responses, is used only to reach you about the programs you selected, and is not shared with the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Name: _____

Contact Information (Email or Phone): _____

Additional Comments (Optional)

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions for other resources that would be helpful to have on-campus:

Reporting Note to Students: Results of this survey are reported to MHEC as aggregate counts; individual responses are not submitted.