



# Student Resources

Funded by the Basic Needs Grant

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## Basic Needs for College Students:

- 1) Having access to nutritious and sufficient food
- 2) Having safe, secure and adequate housing – to sleep, study, cook and shower
- 3) Having access to healthcare to promote sustained mental and physical well-being
- 4) Having access to affordable technology
- 5) Having access to reliable transportation
- 6) Having access to resources for personal hygiene
- 7) Having access to childcare and related needs

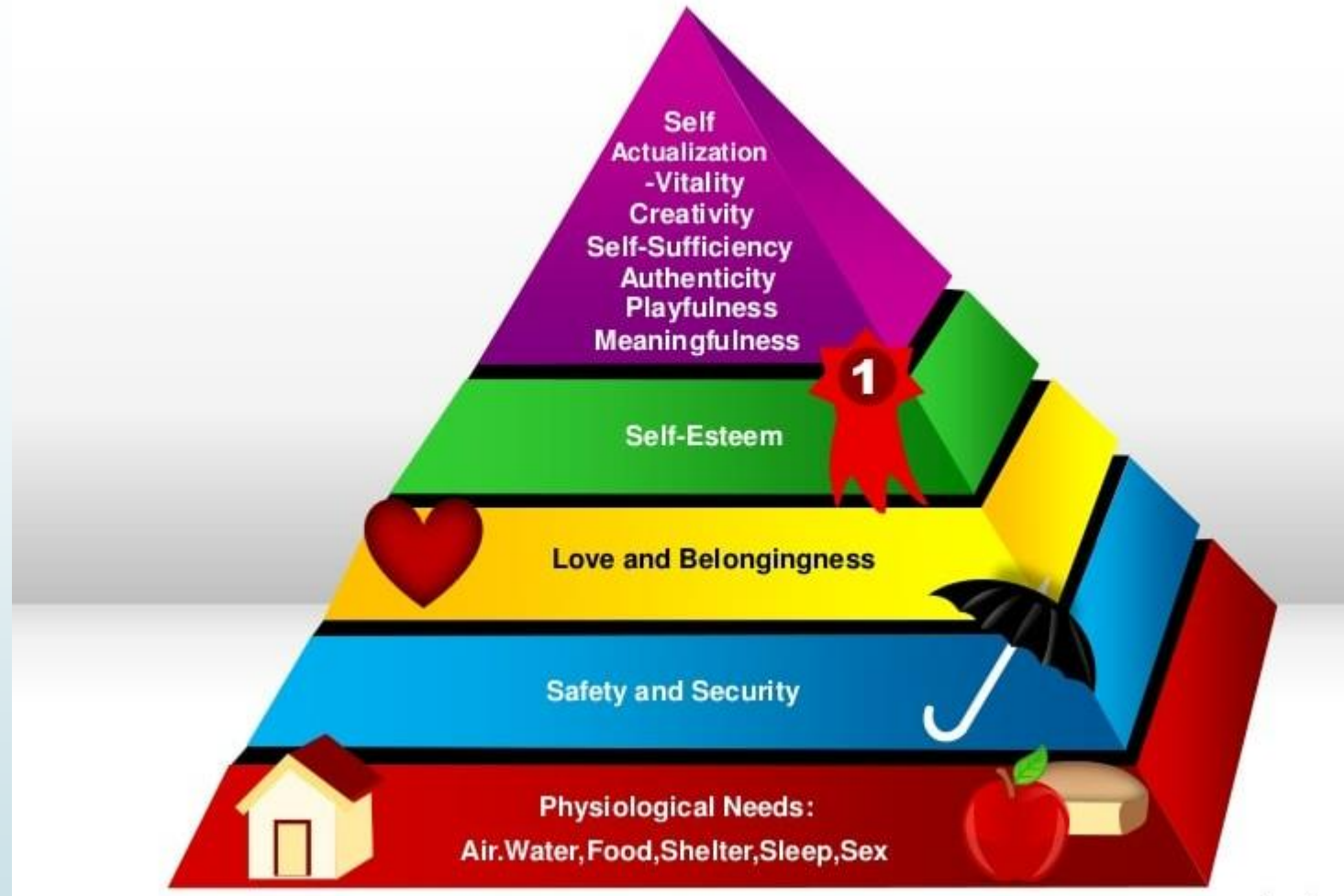
### Basic needs **security**

- This means there is an ecosystem in place to ensure that students' basic needs are met

### Basic needs **insecurity**

- This means there is a structural characteristic affecting students, not an individual characteristic. It means that there is not an ecosystem in place to ensure that students' basic needs are met

# Maslow's Hierarchy of needs 3D



- ✓ What looks like academic shortcomings, often start with struggles over food, housing, health care need, transportation, etc.
- ✓ Just over 4 in 10 students who start at a community college or technical school graduate with a degree in 6 years.
- ✓ Improving students' basic needs securities frees them to devote energy to academic studies.

## McLennan County

**27%** of the population inside Waco city limits lives in **poverty** – higher than the statewide rate of 16% (*US Census Bureau 2017*)

**22.8%** of Waco's population aged 25 or older **have a bachelor's** or post-baccalaureate degree (*US Census Bureau 2017*)

In McLennan County, **less than 60%** of graduating high school seniors immediately matriculate into higher education in Texas (*US Census Bureau 2017*)





## How MCC fits into this narrative...

- ▶ In the Fall of 2021, MCC served **3,473** students who identified as **first-generation** college students and 47% of total enrollment were Pell Grant eligible
- ▶ Almost half of MCC students are either **low food security (24%)** or **very low security (23%)** *(Student financial Wellness Survey designed and administered by Trellis Research, Fall 2020)*
- ▶ **53%** of students showed signs of being **housing insecure** within 12 months prior to the survey *(Student financial Wellness Survey designed and administered by Trellis Research, Fall 2020)*
- ▶ **18%** indicated being **homeless** since starting college or within 12 months prior to the survey *(Student financial Wellness Survey designed and administered by Trellis Research, Fall 2020)*
- ▶ **84%** agreed or strongly agreed that the **covid-19 pandemic added to their mental health struggles** *(Student financial Wellness Survey designed and administered by Trellis Research, Fall 2020)*



# Focus Group Analysis

Consisting of 9 TRIO students and 2 AEL students

- ▶ Students were **not aware of all the services** offered and requested improved communication about available services
- ▶ Students requested **resources to be available after 5pm** to accommodate work schedules
- ▶ **Tutors to be identifiable** in the library and to have knowledge to help in classes outside of math and English
- ▶ Need for **socialization and relationships** in college – through student activities and organizations
- ▶ **Mini seminars** on helpful topics – such as time management, procrastination, financial literacy, etc.
- ▶ **Student housing partnerships** with locations close to MCC
- ▶ **Bus availability after hours** to accommodate evening classes
- ▶ Allow students **more work study hours**
- ▶ Felt **some faculty lacked empathy** and understanding on issues outside academia



# Gap analysis report for MCC

## Resources in Place

- ▶ Emergency fund program
- ▶ Mental health counseling center
- ▶ Food pantry, food truck distribution, and food vouchers
- ▶ Child Development Center and Student Empowerment Program for parenting
- ▶ Free bus transportation and free parking
- ▶ Career clothing program with local store
- ▶ Technology support
- ▶ Financial aid, FAFSA, and career planning
- ▶ On campus public health clinic

## Missing

- ▶ Housing and rent support
- ▶ Subsidized application assistance
- ▶ Legal aid
- ▶ Drop in child care
- ▶ Comprehensive communications of resources
- ▶ Lots of intermittent efforts, but need of a more formalized support structure



# How we move forward...

- Address basic needs insecurities identified for MCC students, focusing on food, housing, transportation, and health care
- Reduce the stigmas behind utilizing these resources
- Explore communication opportunities with students, faculty, and staff
- Develop methods to proactively identify students who might benefit from the resource hub
- Identify and connect with resources in the community and on campus to create a directory for students
- Continue surveys, focus groups and listening sessions for needed improvements