

July 24, 2024

Njeri Clark  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
Department of Education

Dear Ms. Clark,

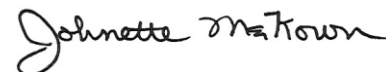
McLennan Community College is pleased to submit a proposal for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program grant from the U. S. Department of Education. As College President, I am committed to our organizational support for this critical effort on our campus and in our community. Helping students succeed in all aspects of their lives is very important to me. My personal commitment caused my husband and me to create an emergency fund on our campus in 1997. That fund has been helpful but does not ensure that students have knowledge of resources available to them and can only help fill small gaps. Assigning the responsibility to educate and intervene for students to advisors and success coaches with their other heavy loads is insufficient to accomplish our goals of reaching our students in need.

This grant is very timely for our institution as we have continued to enhance our dedication to identify more ways to assist students with family changes that keep them from being successful. This grant is consistent with our strategic plan and will provide Student Engagement with the ability to provide community resources staff to act as a hub to connect students with on-campus and off-campus resources by providing connection for academic, social, and basic needs.

We will provide space and support for the Community Resources staff. Participation with this grant has my full support in my role and responsibility as student advocate as well as campus leader.

McLennan Community College is strongly committed to addressing basic students' needs as a critical component to their success, and I support the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program grant.

Sincerely,



Johnette McKown  
President



The  
Shepherd's  
Heart  
*Feeding Families. Changing Lives.*

205 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Waco, TX 76710

July 26, 2024

Dear U.S Department of Postsecondary Education,

It is my pleasure to support McLennan Community College's application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program. This grant will enhance MCC's efforts to improve outcomes for underserved students by connecting students with community organizations that provided needed services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and health care (including mental health).

McLennan Community College is well-positioned to implement this project, as it continues to value and provide critical "life" services for students due to the correlation of academic success with students having their basic needs met. This grant focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in support for underserved MCC students, specifically in the areas of food assistance, housing, transportation, and health (including mental health support), then building sustainable relationships with our partner agencies to improve the academic outcomes of our students.

Hunger is often invisible, but it exists among us. We must address the root causes: lack of opportunity, inadequate education, lack of job training and poverty. For many, especially single parents that are working and attending school, childcare and housing costs leave little money for food, health care, and other vital needs.

Just as it "takes a village to raise a child", it takes a community to serve the families in need. Each month we are able to serve thousands of families because we have a corps of dedicated volunteers, which truly makes what we do, a community effort to serve families in need. The students and faculty at McLennan Community College play an important role in serving the community, while having some of the very same needs.

I fully support the efforts of McLennan Community College as they work to meet the needs of their students and improve student outcomes.

Sincerely,

Robert Gager  
Chief Executive Officer



WACO  
FAMILY  
MEDICINE

July 26, 2024

Dear Dr. McKown,

It is my pleasure write a letter in support of the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program being submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by McLennan Community College (MCC). This grant will enhance MCC's efforts on improving outcomes for underserved students by assisting students in connecting with community organizations that assist student in meeting basic needs such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and health care (including mental health).

Waco Family Medicine (WFM) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing health care to underserved residents of McLennan, Bell, and Hill counties who have historically struggled in a health care system that favors privately-insured patients. Last year, we served over 60,000 patients, providing integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health care across 15 clinic sites. Additionally, WFM addresses social and environmental barriers to wellness through innovative programs and community partnerships.

Waco Family Medicine and MCC have a history of working together in addressing health care needs in the community. WFM operates a community clinic on the MCC campus and utilizes MCC's simulation lab for primary care residency training. WFM is willing to participate in conversations with MCC in helping students navigate access to primary care services. MCC's work in improving student outcomes is important to our community.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of McLennan Community College as they seek external funding to support a program designed to provide basic needs for students.

Sincerely,

Jackson Griggs, MD, FAAFP  
Chief Executive Officer  
Waco Family Medicine

**Waco Family Medicine**



July 26, 2024

Dear U.S Department of Postsecondary Education,

It is my pleasure to support McLennan Community College's application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program. This grant will enhance MCC's efforts to improve outcomes for underserved students by connecting students with community organizations that provide needed services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and health care (including mental health).

McLennan Community College is well-positioned to implement this project, as it continues to value and provide critical "life" services for students due to the correlation of academic success with students having their basic needs met. This grant focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in support for underserved MCC students, specifically in the areas of food assistance, housing, transportation, and health (including mental health support), then building sustainable relationships with our partner agencies to improve the academic outcomes of our students.

The Cooper Foundation is a grantmaking foundation whose mission is to make Waco, Texas a better or more desirable place to live. Over the years, the foundation has worked closely with MCC to support the school's efforts to educate thousands of students while providing them with the necessary supports to ensure their academic success. We look forward to continuing that partnership.

I fully support the efforts of McLennan Community College as they work to meet the needs of their students and improve student outcomes.

Sincerely,

Felicia Chase Goodman  
Executive Director  
Cooper Foundation

**MAKING WACO, TEXAS A BETTER PLACE**

July 29, 2024

Dear U.S Department of Postsecondary Education,

It is my pleasure to support McLennan Community College's application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program. This grant will enhance MCC's efforts to improve outcomes for underserved students by connecting students with community organizations that provided needed services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and health care (including mental health).

McLennan Community College is well-positioned to implement this project, as it continues to value and provide critical "life" services for students due to the correlation of academic success with students having their basic needs met. This grant focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in support for underserved MCC students, specifically in the areas of food assistance, housing, transportation, and health (including mental health support), then building sustainable relationships with our partner agencies to improve the academic outcomes of our students.

Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network has partnered with MCC in many ways, with the primary being to connect students experiencing homelessness between the programs at each entity, as HOTBHN has programming dedicated to unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 25. HOTBHN has partnered with MCC for field trips to MCC for consumers to learn how to engage in school and access the Basic Needs program. MCC's Basic Needs program has assisted consumers of HOTHBN while they pursue their higher education and has been a great support to them.

I fully support the efforts of McLennan Community College as they work to meet the needs of their students and improve student outcomes.

Sincerely,

*Nicole Wiscombe*

Nicole Wiscombe  
Director of Housing and Homeless Services  
Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network



July 29, 2024

Dear Dr. McKown,

McLennan Community College Foundation (MCCF) strongly supports McLennan Community College's grant application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant will provide MCC with the ability to provide community resource staff to act as a hub to connect students with on-campus or off-campus services. Community resource staff would develop strong community ties with pertinent local, state or national organizations and round out student engagement services providing for academic, social and basic needs.

The McLennan Community College Foundation promotes quality higher education that enriches the academic, economic and cultural life of our diverse community. To further this mission, the Foundation acquires financial resources and strengthens support to fund scholarships, professional development and capital improvements for the students, faculty and staff of the College and the broader communities it serves. In so doing, the Foundation hopes to enhance quality of life, encourage success and positively change the futures of students and their families.

MCCF operates the Emergency Aid program for MCC students and provides funding for Paulanne's Pantry (the campus food pantry). MCCF will work closely with staff funded under the Basic Needs grant to help facilitate community and campus partnerships to improve student success.

The Foundation is strongly committed to student success initiative at MCC and strongly supports their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Livesay'.

Wes Livesay  
Executive Director  
McLennan Community College Foundation

July 26, 2024

U.S. Department of Education,

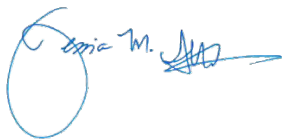
It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program being submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by McLennan Community College (MCC). This grant will enhance MCC's efforts to improve outcomes for underserved students by connecting students with community organizations that provide needed services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and physical and behavioral health care.

Prosper Waco is an innovative approach to community work that consolidates and builds upon the efforts of existing nonprofits and community leaders. Prosper Waco is a Collective Impact organization, where we bring together key leaders and organizations in education, health, and financial security. Our partnership with MCC is important to our community in many aspects, including the Vice President of Instruction and Student Engagement, Fred Hills, is currently serving as chair on the Prosper Waco Board of Directors.

MCC and Prosper Waco's partnership includes working together in many ways including participating in the Hunger Free Community Coalition, being an active partner in our UpSkill Waco Initiative, and partnering with us on our other initiatives that impact the community. This grant opportunity will help further advance efforts as we pursue collective impact to build an environment in which all members of our Waco community are able to measurably improve their education, health, and financial security. Prosper Waco is honored to support MCC in this grant by participating in community discussions regarding innovative ideas to help connect students with available community resources.

I fully support the efforts of McLennan Community College as they work to meet the needs of their students and improve student outcomes. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jessica@prosperwaco.org](mailto:jessica@prosperwaco.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica M. Attas". The signature is stylized and includes a large, circular flourish on the left side.

Jessica Attas  
Chief Executive Officer



254.753.4593  
Fax: 254.752.4434

300 S. 15th Street  
Waco, TX 76701

info@caritas-waco.org  
www.caritas-waco.org

**Board of Directors**

July 31, 2024

Mr. Mark Firmin  
**President**

Dear U.S. Department of Postsecondary Education,

Mr. Hector Sabido  
**Vice President**

It is my pleasure to support McLennan Community College’s application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program. This grant will enhance MCC’s efforts to improve outcomes for underserved students by connecting students with community organizations that provide needed services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and health care (including mental health).

Mr. James Beard  
**Treasurer**

Ms. Gloria Dancer  
**Secretary**

McLennan Community College is well-positioned to implement this project, as it continues to value and provide critical “life” services for students due to the correlation of academic success with students having their basic needs met. This grant focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in support for underserved MCC students, specifically in the areas of food assistance, housing, transportation, and health (including mental health support), then building sustainable relationships with our partner agencies to improve the academic outcomes of our students.

Ms. Angela Ragan  
**Immediate Past President**

Ms. Maria Berry  
Mr. Luis Guevara  
Mr. Charlie Hays  
Ms. Susan Krause  
Ms. Isabel Lozano  
Judge Ryan Luna  
Ms. Shyneka Montgomery  
Ms. April Rosier  
Dr. Jovaster Witcher

Caritas of Waco has been partnering with MCC to address the needs of underserved students for years. We are one of the largest food pantries in McLennan County. Additionally, dependent upon availability of funds, we are able to provide case management services including assistance with tuition and fees for specific certifications at MCC, helping eliminate some of the factors which cause food insecurity. Caritas provides food assistance to students who visit the pantry and refers them to other agencies who may be able to meet their additional needs. Our Director of Programs is currently working with MCC/Tarleton representatives to organize a resource fair that would allow Caritas and other local agencies the opportunity to share information regarding services available to students.

Ms. Ann Owen  
**Executive Director**

Mr. Charles Ray Harris, Jr.  
Assistant Executive Director

I fully support the efforts of McLennan Community College as they work to meet the needs of their students and improve student outcomes.

Sincerely,

Ann Owen  
Executive Director



United Way  
of Waco - McLennan County



August 1, 2024

U. S. Department of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear U.S. Department of Postsecondary Education,

I am delighted to write this letter supporting McLennan Community College's (MCC) application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program. This grant will enhance efforts to improve outcomes for students who are underserved by connecting them with community organizations that provide needed services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and health care (including mental health).

McLennan Community College has a well-established track record for eliminating barriers preventing students in challenging circumstances from accessing and completing higher education. As such, MCC is well positioned to implement this project as it continues to value and provide critical "life" services for students due to the correlation of academic success with students having their basic needs met.

Food insecurity is a significant challenge many college students face, and it can profoundly impact their academic performance and overall well-being. The Central Texas Food Bank has collaborated with McLennan Community College for nearly a decade. Through our partnership, we have been able to provide students in need with access to nutritious food, helping them to focus on their studies and achieve their academic goals.

I enthusiastically support McLennan Community College's efforts to meet the needs of their students and improve student outcomes.

Sincerely,

Earind Jackson  
Chief Impact Officer  
Central Texas Food Bank



July 24, 2024

Dear U.S Department of Postsecondary Education,

It is my pleasure to support McLennan Community College's application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program. This grant will enhance MCC's efforts to improve outcomes for underserved students by connecting students with community organizations that provided needed services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and health care (including mental health).

McLennan Community College is well-positioned to implement this project, as it continues to value and provide critical "life" services for students due to the correlation of academic success with students having their basic needs met. This grant focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in support for underserved MCC students, specifically in the areas of food assistance, housing, transportation, and health (including mental health support), then building sustainable relationships with our partner agencies to improve the academic outcomes of our students.

The City of Waco's Housing and Community Development department is eager to support the work of MCC. Housing insecurity and homelessness continue to plague our community, the students of MCC are not exempt from these challenges. The Trellis Report confirms that over 250 MCC students are housing insecure or homeless. The steps that MCC has taken to support these students and the broader community are not to be overlooked. Our department will continue to support this work by supporting the social services that MCC students rely on. We will continue to look for additional ways to support MCC students and the broader Waco community.

I fully support the efforts of McLennan Community College as they work to meet the needs of their students and improve student outcomes.

Sincerely,

Josh Caballero  
Community Engagement Officer  
City of Waco Housing & Community Development



July 23, 2024

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U.S. Department of Postsecondary Education

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my full support for McLennan Community College's application for the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students program. This grant will significantly bolster MCC's initiatives aimed at enhancing outcomes for underserved students by facilitating connections with community organizations that provide essential services such as food assistance, housing, transportation, and healthcare, including mental health support.

McLennan Community College is exceptionally well-equipped to execute this project due to its ongoing commitment to offering critical support services that are vital for students' academic success. This grant will enable MCC to identify and address existing gaps in support for underserved students, particularly in the areas of food assistance, housing, transportation, and health. Furthermore, it will foster the development of sustainable partnerships with our community agencies to improve the academic performance and overall well-being of our students.

I strongly support McLennan Community College's efforts to address student needs and enhance student outcomes through this important initiative.

Sincerely,

*Milet Hopping*

Milet Hopping, President/CEO  
Waco Housing Authority and Affiliates  
4400 Cobbs Drive/POB 978  
Waco, TX 76703-0978  
(254) 752-0324 ext. 280  
(254) 754-6483  
[mileth@wacopha.org](mailto:mileth@wacopha.org)