



Policy # 60001

A Hunger-Free Campus Taskforce

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Responsible Office: Student Affairs

Division: Student Affairs

I. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

This is a policy based on LA R.S. 17:3138.4 to establish a process for designating a “Hunger-Free Campus Taskforce” at Grambling State University.

[Act 719](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session established criteria for Louisiana higher education institutions to earn a hunger-free campus designation and authorized the Hunger-Free Campus competitive grant program to support the institutions in their efforts.

II. APPLICABILITY

Louisiana college students. A 2020 national study indicated that approximately 29% of students at four-year colleges and 38% at two-year institutions experience food insecurity. The numbers for students of color are even higher. These data are not surprising given Louisiana’s high rate of students living in poverty.

III. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Act 719 established very specific criteria for campuses to receive the **Hunger-Free Campus** designation, therefore, Grambling State University’s Hunger-Free Campus Taskforce is established to do *all of* the following:

- Inform students who receive need-based financial aid of their potential eligibility to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;
- Hold or participate in at least one anti-hunger awareness event per academic year;
- Assess the need to provide access to on-campus food distribution, a local off-campus food pantry or an on-campus food pantry;
- Submit information on where the campus food pantry resides and contact information for the food pantry representative responsible for the management of campus food pantry efforts; and
- Provide a **summary** of campus efforts in the following areas:
 - Hunger-Free Campus Task Force,
 - SNAP benefits communication informing students of potential eligibility,
 - Anti-Hunger campus event (date, time, & location) and
 - Access to charitable food distribution on campus or local community food pantry.

IV. STRATEGIES AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

This policy considered strategies and outreach efforts of the Board of Regents (BoR) outlined below wherein they:

- Surveyed public and private institutions to create a landscape analysis of hunger-free activities at Louisiana institutions;
- Determined exemplary institutions leading this work in Louisiana and met with staff;
- Created the Hunger-Free Campus designation application and distributed it to institutional student affairs teams;
- Worked with Feeding Louisiana, the Louisiana Charitable Food Summit, and the Louisiana Anti-Hunger Coalition to help support on-campus food pantries; and
- Facilitated two rounds of application submission and review.

V. PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS PROGRAM

Recognizing the variability in how well-resourced campus food pantries are related to physical location, personnel, equipment, and funding and the regional challenges posed by under-resourced campuses located in high-need areas, the next step for the Hunger-Free Campus Program coordinated by the Board of Regent includes the following to be provided to the University:

- To develop the grant application format and process for implementation;
- To coordinate with campuses to learn more about specific needs and gaps;
- To create a Hunger Free Task Force listserv;
- To partner Feeding Louisiana with the campuses;
- To develop a BoR Hunger-Free Campus Program landing page containing a Best Practices Tool Kit and resources for campuses and students; and
- To bring in a nationally recognized expert to share trends and best practices with campuses.

VI. HUNGER-FREE TASKFORCE REPRESENTATIVES

Grambling State University's Hunger-Free Campus Taskforce representatives shall consist of:

- a. 2 or more enrolled students at Grambling State University
- b. a representative of the Office of Student Affairs; and
- c. a representative of the Office of Financial Aid;

VII. HUNGER-FREE TASKFORCE GUIDELINES

- Meets a minimum of 3 times per academic year
- Establishes 2 goals with action plans each academic year