

HB 4162: Student Emergency Needs Package

No student should go hungry, houseless, or be priced out of their education.



College and university students in Oregon are reporting increased rates of food insecurity, housing instability, and challenges affording and accessing textbooks, transportation, childcare, and other basic needs. **The 2024 Student Emergency Needs Package is a bipartisan, student-centered effort to support Oregon's Basic Needs Navigators and Textbook Affordability Program with \$6 million dollars in one-time, emergency funding.**

How will the Student Emergency Package help?

In 2021, the Oregon State Legislature took a critical step in addressing student basic needs insecurities by passing the Benefits Navigator Bill. With most navigator positions now filled on each campus and the formation of the Benefits Navigator Consortia (now Basic Needs Oregon), **the need for funding and resources is timely and urgent.**

Basic needs navigators, especially those at smaller institutions in rural areas, cannot best serve our students without program budgets. The 2024 Student Emergency Needs Package creates a **\$5 million** grant program that colleges and universities can tailor to strengthen student basic needs programs and infrastructure.



The 2024 Student Emergency Needs Package also furthers the legislature's work on textbook affordability. While the cost of textbooks is a small dollar amount compared to the total cost of attendance, research shows that seemingly small, unpredictable expenses can create a **financial emergency for students.** Financial aid rarely stretches to cover course materials, so funding for the Open Oregon Educational Resources program is an essential component of a **comprehensive statewide affordability strategy.**

Open Oregon Educational Resources has a demonstrated track record of leveraging state resources to expand access to no-cost, low-cost course materials and student savings. In the absence of a programmatic budget increase for the 2023-25 biennium, the 2024 Student Emergency Needs Package will allocate **\$1 million** in emergency funding to the Open Oregon Educational Resources program for the remainder of the biennium.

Please support Oregon's students! Enthusiastically endorsed by:

