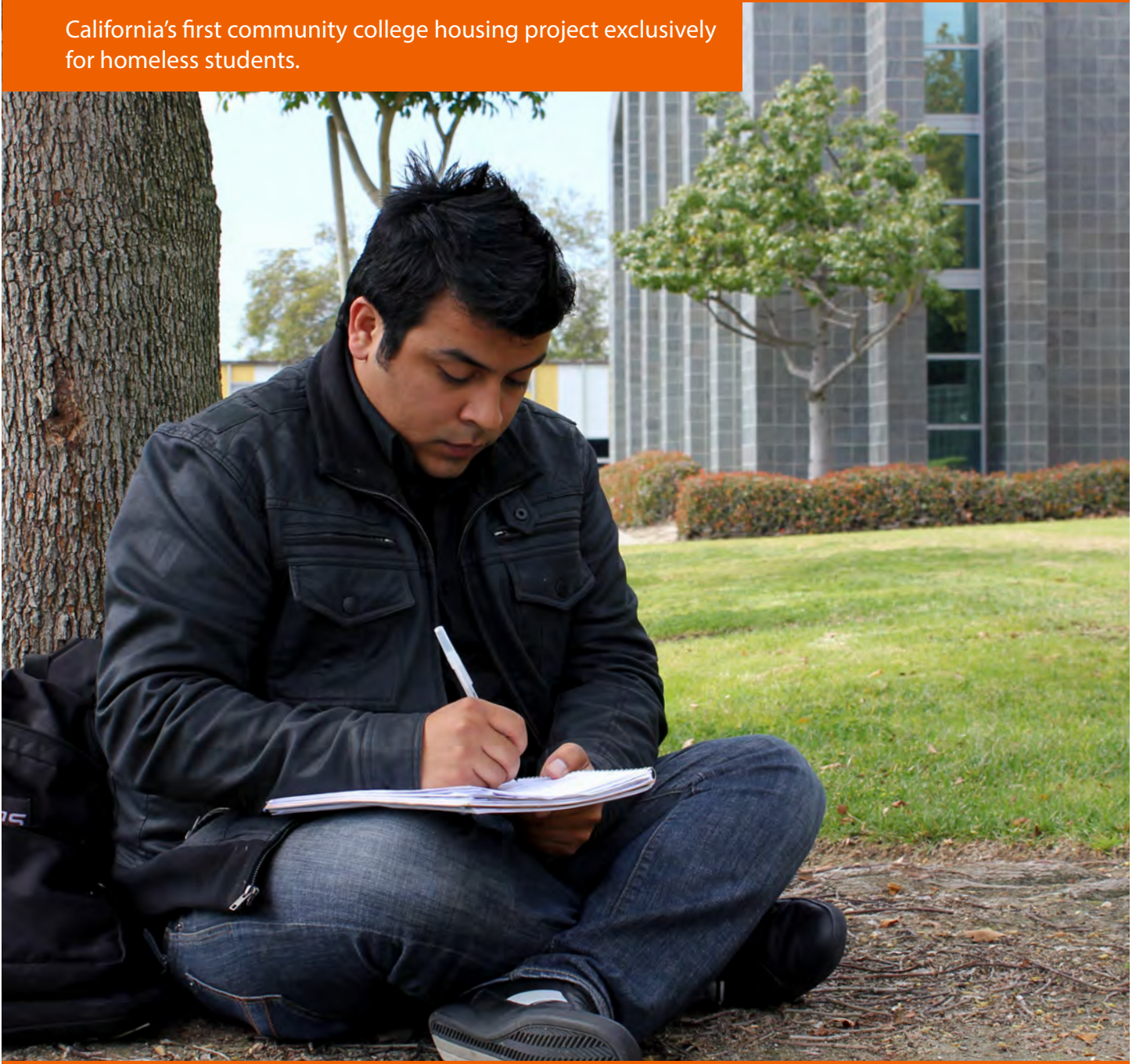


THE VILLAGE at CERRITOS COLLEGE: SUPPORTING STUDENTS FACING HOUSING INSECURITY

California's first community college housing project exclusively for homeless students.



01 OVERVIEW



OVERVIEW

The Village at Cerritos College is California's first community college housing project exclusively for homeless students. In partnership with Jovenes, Inc. – a Los Angeles nonprofit whose mission is to assist homeless and displaced young adults – Cerritos College's new development will provide safe and secure housing and support services to students who face housing insecurity.

Since 2019, the College has collaborated with the City of Norwalk, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn (4th District), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, to establish a housing development to address student homelessness.

Thanks to the leadership and vision of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, President/ Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro, and Jovenes, Inc.'s Executive Director Andrea Marchetti, The Village has grown to become a unique and innovative model.

02 THE FACTS

Facts About Student Homelessness

According to the 2019 #RealCollege Survey Report conducted by the Hope Lab, across California, nearly one in five community college students experience homelessness. As defined by the study, homelessness includes living situations such as couch surfing, living in a car or motel, or living outside. Housing insecurity is a circumstance that makes losing permanent housing more likely, such as missing a rent payment or living in an overcrowded environment.

55% of Cerritos College respondents identified as being housing insecure and had difficulty paying rent or a mortgage. Additional research suggests students who experience homelessness and food insecurity also find it difficult to meet a variety of competing needs, including management of personal and financial responsibilities and navigating college environments.

65% of students at Cerritos College experienced at least one of these forms of basic needs insecurity in the past year.

46% of Cerritos College respondents experienced food insecurity within 30 days prior to taking the survey.

16% of Cerritos College students who responded said they utilize Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Only 6% of homeless students utilize housing benefits.

15% of Cerritos College respondents experienced homelessness in the previous year.

High Risk Student Groups

The 2019 #RealCollege Survey Report identified student populations that are at higher risk for homelessness, including foster youth, African American/Black, Native American, Southwest Asian, Pacific Islander, Asian American, and undocumented students.

Why is Homelessness a Problem?

Homelessness is a persistent problem across California's 115 community college campuses. Several factors make housing and homelessness especially significant, including rising tuition, lack of affordable housing, and financial aid that doesn't cover the costs of food, gas, childcare, etc. Many students are also reluctant to seek help, keeping them from finding stable shelter.

03 THE SOLUTION

Partnering to find a Solution

In 2016, Cerritos College and Jovenes, Inc., formed a partnership to offer The Village as California's first, secure housing development that addresses students facing homelessness. This unique team is the result of an investment in the long-term success of students on all levels.

Jovenes, Inc. will serve as the lead housing service provider. Prior to The Village, students were primarily housed through rental subsidies that allowed them to move into apartments close to campus and receive financial support, along with social and academic services.

Under a new agreement, Jovenes, Inc. will provide day-to-day management, resident selection, on-site supervision, case management, and property maintenance. Jovenes, Inc. will also offer services to help students complete their educational goals. Jovenes, Inc. will also receive referrals from Cerritos College staff and departments, such as Financial Aid, EOPS, and the Guardian Scholars Program, and provide recommendations for alternative housing options when The Village units are at capacity.

About The Village

Modern Townhomes | Featuring 1,477 Sq. Ft. Units | Up to 28 Occupants

The property is located just blocks away from Cerritos College. The development will house up to 28 students between the ages of 18-25 years old and consist of seven townhomes, six of which are three-bedroom and three-bathroom. These townhomes feature a mix of free options (bridge housing) and affordable rental options for students.

Four townhomes offer affordable housing options where fourteen students will have their own bedroom (or share a large master bedroom). Jovenes, Inc. will also assist as needed with subsidized rent through its college-focused rapid rehousing program. Jovenes, Inc. staff will occupy one unit to provide case management, academic support, communal activities, and overnight supervision.



The ultimate goal of The Village is to provide a home to students facing homelessness until they graduate and transition into their own self-supported housing.

04 OUR PARTNERS

Expanded Partnership to Meet Student Needs

Jovenes, Inc. and Cerritos College have expanded their partnership beyond The Village to provide homeless students, including student-parents, with rental subsidies to move into their own apartments along with financial support to prevent evictions. Students who are experiencing homelessness, or facing housing insecurity, and who are at-risk of becoming homeless, can access The Village and other housing resources by sending an email to CerritosPN@jovenesinc.org.

Funding and Support for The Village

Cerritos College secured the property using its general funds. Jovenes, Inc. holds a master-lease for the units in order to provide no-cost and/or affordable housing options to students. This investment allows for considerable savings in both time and cost compared to what it would take to develop an equivalent number of units from the ground up that meets the urgent needs of students who are experiencing homelessness.

Support for Jovenes' ongoing supportive services and operations at The Village comes from a variety of public and private sources:

- The California Wellness Foundation
- The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
- The Roth Family Foundation
- The Pritzker Foster Care Initiative
- The Peter & Candis Doerken Foundation
- The Reissa Foundation
- Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn (4th District). The Supervisor's office is providing a key contribution to support program operations for the next three years.