

CalFresh LPIE Street Outreach Team

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INTRODUCTION

Project Purpose & Description

The CalFresh Outreach Team addressed food insecurity among LPIE eligible CSULB students. Five 10-minute presentations were conducted which included curriculum on CalFresh eligibility and the basic needs resources on campus.

Social Problem & Target Population

The social problem identified is food insecurity amongst college students at CSULB. Using basic needs resources on campus can also create a negative stigma which impedes college students from utilizing these resources.

Scope of Social Problem

Food insecurity affects 42% of CSULB students who are mostly first-generation, low-income status, and Latinx (Crutchfield et al., 2018). Despite the availability of CalFresh services, many students who are eligible remain unaware of their qualification through Local Programs that Increase Employability (LPIE). Interviews showed CSULB community members faced challenges such as:

- Commuting
- Increasing access/awareness for basic needs
- Juggling meaningful roles and student social engagement

Interviewees expressed "food here on campus is expensive. There needs to be more affordable options or allow students to use EBT at campus eateries or the CSULB market." (man, White, community resident) Food insecurity for secondary students was above 30% and closer to 44% (Martinez et al, 2021).

Alignment to Specialization

Within aging and adulthood, about 12% of the general adult population (18-64) experiences food insecurity; 30-50% of college students (18-26) experience some level of food insecurity, (Thompson, et al., 2019) nearly two times the adult rate.

PROJECT OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

Project Goal: To reduce food insecurity amongst CSULB students.

By May 2027, food insecurity amongst CSULB students will be decreased by 10% as indicated by analyzing the record of students who are enrolled in CalFresh.

By May 2027, the number of first-time applications for CalFresh would increase by 10% among CSULB students as indicated by comparing initial application rates vs post intervention application rates.

By March 2025, CSULB LPIE students will increase knowledge of CalFresh LPIE eligibility by 3% as indicated by comparing pre/post survey results.

By March 2025 CSULB LPIE students will increase the number of completed applications by 3% as indicated by comparing initial application rates to post intervention application rates.

By March 2025, CSULB LPIE students will increase their student motivation to apply for CalFresh by 15% as indicated by comparing pre/post survey results.

By February 2025, an educational presentation will be designed to address food insecurity and bring awareness to the CalFresh LPIE program.

By February 2025, CSULB LPIE students will be recruited to attend educational presentations on CalFresh information and application process.

By March 2025, the educational presentation on CalFresh information and application process will be delivered to CSULB LPIE students.

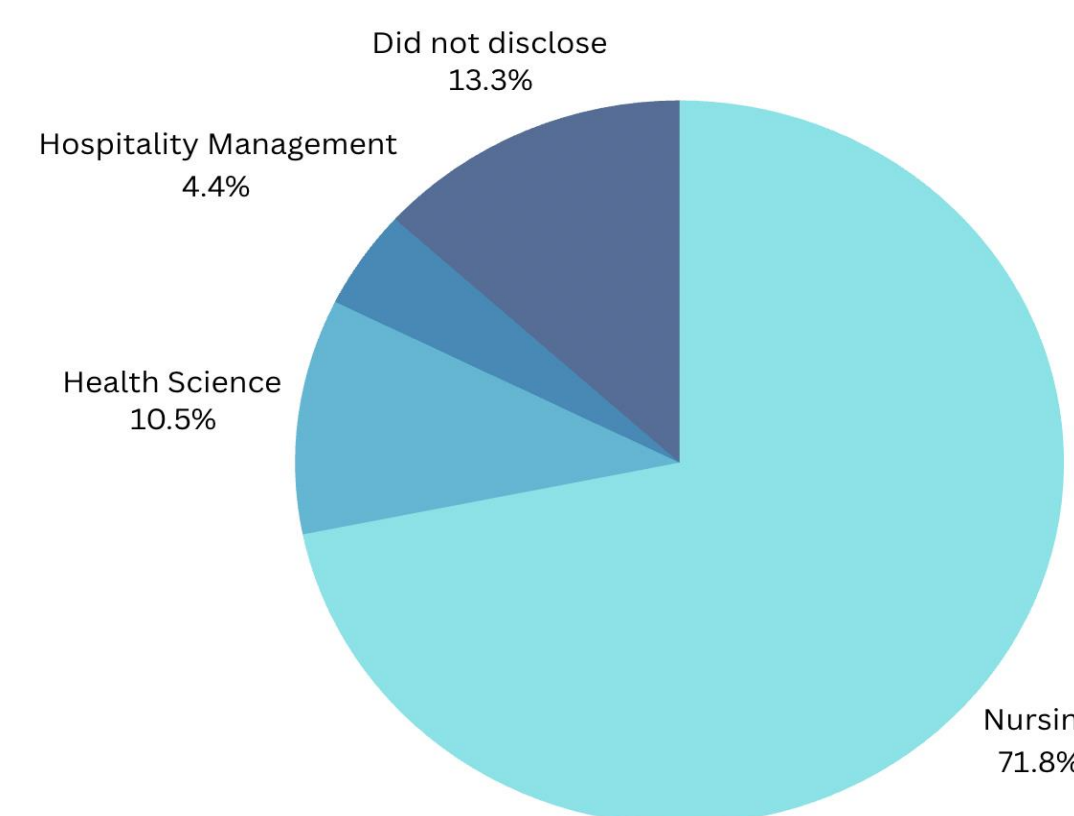
METHODS

Evaluation methods include pre and posttest design. The four-question pretest asked participants their age, knowledge of CalFresh, familiarity of the CalFresh requirements, and knowledge of their LPIE eligibility. The posttest consisted of six questions asking their knowledge of CalFresh, familiarity of the CalFresh requirements, being LPIE eligible, who presented to them, opinions on how the presentation can be improved, and their likeness to apply for CalFresh. Sampling participants entails reaching out to professors during March to schedule a time to present to their class. A total of 145 students participated. Quantitative data was analyzed using chi-square in SPSS version statistic 29. Qualitative data was analyzed through thematic analysis.

RESULTS

Participant Characteristics

Table 1. Represents population of CSULB students who participated in the presentations pre/post test.



Evaluation Results

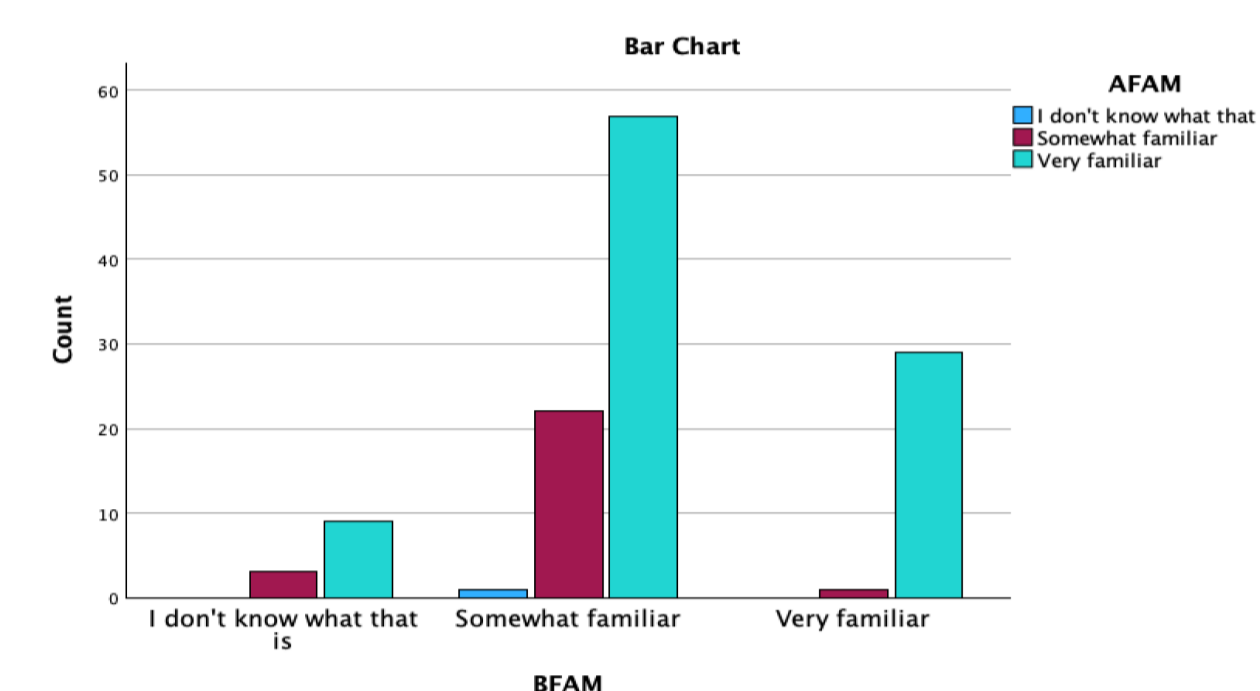


Table 2. CSULB students were asked about their familiarity with CalFresh program before and after presentation. Results show students gained more familiarity with CalFresh Program.

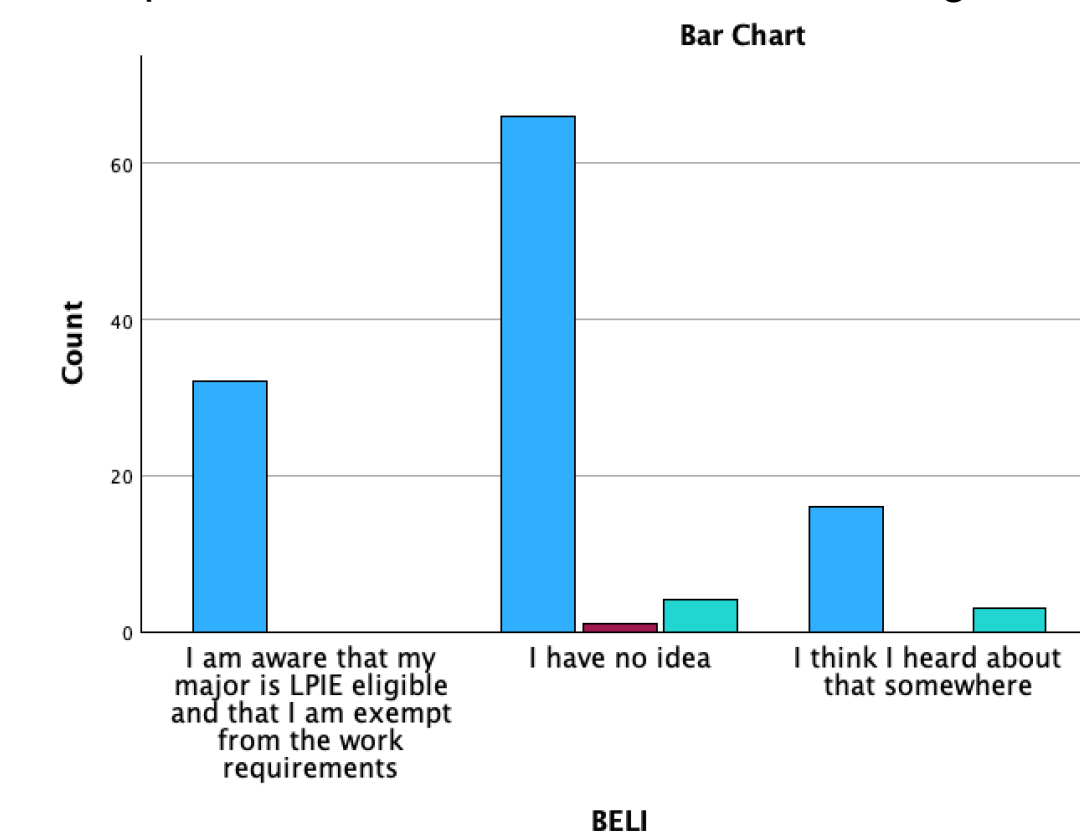


Table 3. CSULB students were asked about awareness of their major being LPIE eligible. Results show students gained awareness of LPIE eligibility.

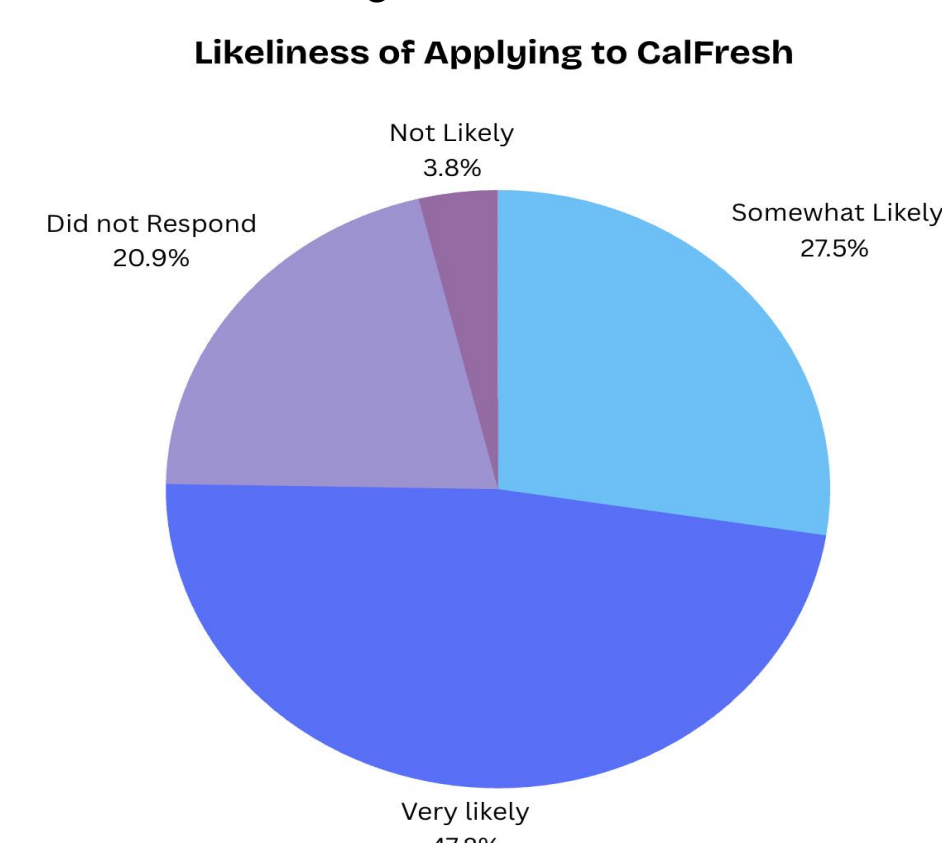


Table 4. CSULB students were asked about likelihood of applying to CalFresh program post-presentation. Results show 47.8% of students are very likely to apply to CalFresh.

AGENTS OF CHANGE



CalFresh LPIE Presentation Slides

CONCLUSION

Analysis of Findings

The results demonstrate a significant difference in the participants' prior familiarity and knowledge of the CalFresh Program, as well as awareness of LPIE eligibility compared to their knowledge after the presentation was conducted. The results indicate that the presentation increased knowledge and motivation among the participants.

Objective 1: Increase familiarity of CalFresh Program

Post test findings show that after participating in the presentation:

- 77.9% of students reported being "very familiar" with the CalFresh Program

Objective 2: Increase Awareness of LPIE Eligibility

Post test findings show that after participating in the presentation:

- 93.4% of students reported being aware their major is LPIE eligible, and they are exempt from the work hour requirements.

Objective 3: Increase Student Motivation to Apply for CalFresh

Post test findings show that after participating in the presentation:

- 47.8% of students reported they were "very likely" to apply for CalFresh program.

Limitations & Improvements

The limitations were in data collection from the small sample size of undergraduate majors that participated (Nursing, Health Science, and Hospitality). Human errors occurred due to uncomplete surveys. Improving this would require more time and expansion on outreaching to more majors and professors.

Recommendations & Implications

Practice

- Implication: There was limited time to conduct our LPIE presentations.
- Recommendation: For the Basic Needs Department to continue conducting and expanding this as an ongoing project. The curriculum used for the LPIE presentations will expand to more CHHS majors.

Policy

- Implication: Findings suggest the need for policy reform in making CalFresh applications more readily available on campus.
- Recommendation: Advocating the use of basic needs during school breaks to encourage the use of CalFresh applications.

Research

- Implication: There is a small sample size from our results. There was an increase in how students were familiar with LPIE eligibility and their willingness to apply for CalFresh.
- Recommendation: To present to more CHHS courses on how beneficial this resource is.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Name of Collaborator	Contributions
Danielle Munoz, M.S., LMFT <i>Director, Basic Needs</i> Danielle.Munoz@csulb.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Assisted with providing Agents of Change with LPIE eligible majors to present outreach presentations▪ Provided Agents of Change Qualtrics data for pre and post surveys▪ Contributed by allowing Agents of Change to provide LPIE majors with supportive information

RESOURCES

- Crutchfield, R. M., & Maguire, J. (2018). California State University Office of the Chancellor Study of student basic needs. The California State University Office of the Chancellor. https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy_phasell_withAccessibilityComments.pdf
- Martinez, S. M., Esaryk, E. E., Moffat, L., & Ritchie, L. (2021). Redefining Basic Needs for Higher Education: It's More Than Minimal Food and Housing According to California University Students. *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 35(6), 818–834. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0890117121992295>
- Thompson, L. L., Gayle, L. N. R., & Castor, C. (2018). College student food insecurity and its relationship to fruit and vegetable intake and overweight/obesity at a HBCU. *Journal of Nutritional Health & Food Engineering*, 8(3), 275–278. <https://doi.org/10.15406/jnhfe.2018.08.00282>