

## Fighting Hunger: How College Campuses Are Tackling Food Insecurity

A [2024 survey conducted by Swipe Out Hunger](#), an [Aramark Collegiate Hospitality](#) partner, found that more than 770,000 students accessed food support options on the 351 U.S. college and university campuses that participated in the survey.

These food security options include:

- Campus food pantries and essential needs hubs;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment and EBT access; and
- Meal swipe donation programs, such as [Swipe Out Hunger](#), which allow students on a meal plan to donate extra meal swipes to other students in need.

As part of an ongoing partnership, Aramark hosted Swipe Out Hunger's board meeting last September and participated in a panel discussion on the State of Basic Needs relating to hunger.

### STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

In fiscal year 2024, Aramark Collegiate Hospitality donated more than 73,000 pounds of food to student pantries on client campuses, a value of nearly \$135,000. In addition, the team donated nearly 325,000 pounds of food to help children and families in their broader campus communities in 2024.



We offer comprehensive solutions to tackle food insecurity on campuses across the U.S. Our Food Insecurity Toolkit empowers operators to facilitate surplus food donations, apply for SNAP benefits on behalf of our client partners, implement meal plan donation programs, and support on-campus food pantries.”

**Deb Parnigoni**

Vice President of Marketing,  
Aramark Collegiate Hospitality





## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

The Aramark Collegiate Hospitality team donates \$100,000 a year in meal swipes to UCI's Basic Needs Center and supports the Center's Zot Out Hunger program through which students donate up to 5,000 meal swipes each year. SNAP/EBT benefits are accepted at Zot N Go Market and Zot N Go Express Social Sciences, two of the largest convenience stores on campus. The team also subsidizes meals at four campus childcare centers.



## UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

UNLV students donated more than 2,800 meal swipes last year, which were all matched from Aramark. The team has donated nearly 3,000 pounds of food from catering and student support services events, such as Take What You Need. In addition, 2,600 pounds of food was donated to the UNLV Food Pantry. SNAP benefits are accepted at the campus convenience store.

## MEAL SWIPES: STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS

Aramark Collegiate Hospitality supports meal swipe donation programs at 63 client locations. Through partners such as Swipe Out Hunger, generous students donated 86,281 meal swipes to students facing food insecurity at client campuses last year.

## ASSISTANCE IN A SNAP

In addition to helping countless children and families, SNAP provides many college and university students critical help in fighting hunger and food insecurity.

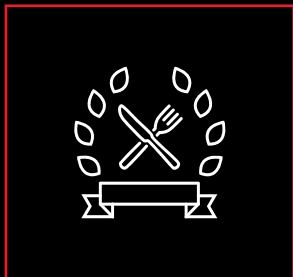
Currently, 27 campuses (30 convenience stores) managed by Aramark Collegiate Hospitality facilitate SNAP assistance for students, making it easier to access SNAP benefits through EBT cards.

In addition to this operational support, Aramark Collegiate Hospitality advocates for legislative and regulatory changes to better serve students in need.



## EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Last year, EKU became the first university in Kentucky to accept SNAP benefits on campus. Now, students, staff, faculty, and community members can use SNAP benefits at one of the campus' Provisions on Demand (P.O.D.) Markets, which offer essential grocery items like fresh produce and dairy. In fact, they were recognized for their commitment to student success and basic needs accessibility, receiving a Transformational Leadership Award at the Council on Postsecondary Education's (CPE) Student Success Summit in February 2025.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**Research indicates** that food insecurity among college students may result in higher stress, depression, lack of focus, poor sleep quality, and lower grade point averages, among other negative effects.

Aramark Collegiate Hospitality is committed to being a good partner in the higher education space to help ensure no student goes hungry.

See how Aramark Collegiate Hospitality can enhance your student dining experience.

[CONTACT US](#)

For more information visit us at:

[ARAMARK.COM/COLLEGIATEHOSPITALITY](https://aramark.com/collegiatehospitality)

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