

Executive Summary of Competitor Institution SIF Programs Submitted by the Social Justice Leadership Cohort, Department of Women's and Gender Studies

The Social Justice Leadership Cohort (SJL), an ongoing student project of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, recently reviewed UNH's Swipe It Forward (SIF) program. We found that, compared to other universities, UNH awards more swipes per semester, and maintains excellent response time (24 hours maximum). However, most other universities have an application that admits students to SIF-style programs not strictly according to financial need (as determined by the FAFSA), but that also considers additional external factors. The SJL would therefore like to propose the following updates to UNH's SIF program:

Communication Updates

Any emails to students after they apply to SIF program (automated response, acceptance, rejection) should include information on alternative ways they can get food, such as SNAP, the Waysmeet food pantry, Waysmeet community dinners, Gather Food Pantry, or other upcoming events and programs in the area providing food. Communications should also provide information on ways to get assistance for mental and physical needs, such as the Center for Academic Resources, Health and Wellness, and PACS.

Program Updates

We propose an entirely new application, to give students more space to speak to their experience. We have reviewed many applications from comparator institutions, and suggest a new form based on the University of Iowa's [application](#). Additionally, we found that some comparator institutions afford students a small number of swipes upon receipt of an application, while reviewing individual cases. We propose that students who fill out the application should automatically receive between 1 and 5 swipes. After the committee approves the application, they can be granted the rest of their 50 swipes.

At present, only the Dean of Students reviews requests for SIF meals. We propose that the Director of the Office of Community, Equity and Diversity (CED) also review these requests. Additionally, we propose that students should be allowed to donate swipes online rather than having to go into the office, thus making donation more accessible and convenient.

Summary of SIF Programs at Competitor Universities

Swipe Out Hunger: 100+ partners including UVM, UCLA, Georgetown University etc.
Process: 1. Students donate extra meal swipes. 2. Donated Dollars move into Swipe fund. 3. Swipe fund is used towards meal swipes and campus food pantry.
Each college has a different meal swipe process. Here is [UVM](#)'s as an example:

- **Department:** Center for Health and Wellbeing
- **Contact:** Nicole Rohrig, RD- UVM Dining at Nicole.Rohrig@uvm.edu
- **How it Works:** Meal donation drives occur the week before finals week. Students with unlimited plans can donate one guest meal swipe each semester. Students in need can receive up to 14 meal swipes per academic year. Any student who requests meals will receive them within one business day, no questions asked. The program is not intended to cover food/meals for the semester.
- **Application process:** UVM students facing food insecurity can receive swipes by asking any faculty or staff member to submit a referral form on their behalf, which is found on UVM's Food Insecurity webpage. Students can also visit one of 11 partner offices on campus for assistance filling out a referral form (partners include Student Health Services, Advising Center, LivingWell, etc.).
- **Renewing Eligibility:** Staff members who would like to refer a student for more than 14 meal swipes per academic year are instructed to refer the students to Student Financial Services to see if they are eligible for additional financial aid.

[BU](#) Terrier Meal Share

- **Department:** Dean of Students Office
- **Contact:** Kenn Elmore at dos@bu.edu
- **How it Works:** Students can donate meals online, but must be connected to BU Wi-Fi to do so. A monetary donation can be made by anybody through [this form](#). Auxiliary Services has agreed to match each student donation at a 1-1 ratio. The program was designed for short term support, not a long-term solution.
- **Application process:** Students can request assistance through the Dean of Students or by completing [this form](#). University Service Center or Office of Financial Assistance will contact students to discuss eligibility.
- **Renewing Eligibility:** N/A

[Georgetown](#) University

- **Department:** Swipe Out Hunger Student Org partnered with Auxiliary Business Services
- **Contact:** hoyahub@georgetown.edu or Club President Isabelle Ortiz at io93@georgetown.edu
- **How it Works:** Students can donate meals at several physical locations around campus including dining halls and the Center for Student Engagement.

- **Application process:** At iPad banks across campus, students can request up to 10 meal swipes per semester that are automatically uploaded to their student IDs.
- **Renewing Eligibility:** N/A
- **Notes:** They have a more extensive [food pantry](#) where they seem to be focusing their energy

The University of Iowa Hawkeye Meal Share

- **Department:** Office of the Dean of Students
- **Contact:** Angie Reams or Nikki Hodous at dos-assistance@uiowa.edu
- **How it Works:** Students can donate meals online through the university's meal share portal within the University Housing portal. Donated meals will be carried over each semester. Those not on a meal plan can donate funds [here](#).
- **Application process:** Students can request assistance by filling out [this form](#). Student Care and Assistance will contact students to discuss support and eligibility.
- **Renewing Eligibility:** N/A

University of Rhode Island Share a Swipe for Hope

- **Department:** Dean of Students Office
- **Contact:** dsoutreach@etal.uri.edu
- **How it Works:** Students can donate one guest pass each semester online or at a dining hall.
- **Application process:** URI has [eligibility requirements](#) that each student applying for assistance must meet. Students must fill out an application form and will receive an email when their request is reviewed.
- **Renewing Eligibility:** N/A

UMass Boston U-Access Food Pantry and Meal Swipe Program

- **Department:** Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services (U-Access)
- **Contact:** Valerie Lamour, Program Coordinator, at Valerie.lamour@umb.edu
- **How it Works:** Students with a meal plan pick up and sign a Donation Acknowledgement form from U-Access and swipe a Guest Meal at a card reader located at U-Access.
- **Application process:** Students must register for U-Access services and answer a questionnaire in order to receive these services, which include food pantry access and lunch/snack/meal programs. Once the form is received a member of the U-Access office will review the information and take any appropriate action if necessary.
- **Renewing Eligibility:**

UMaine Black Bear Exchange

- **Department:**
- **Contact:** Lisa Morin, Coordinator of UMaine Center for Service and Volunteerism

- **How it Works:** The food pantry is supported through community donations and a food recovery program with UMaine Dining. Student sustainability groups collect left over food from the dining halls and bring them back to the Black Bear exchange.
- **Application process:** Anyone with a Mainecard is welcome to visit the food pantry. There is no income requirement or application process.
- **Renewing Eligibility:** N/A

Boise State University Full Broncos Meal Project

- **Department:** Office of the Dean of Students
- **Contact:** deanofstudents@boisestate.edu
- **How it Works:** During designated weeks in the fall and spring semesters, students can donate one guest swipe at the entrance of the dining hall.
- **Application process:** Students can ask café attendants for a Full Bronco Meal or submit a meal assistance [application](#). Students receive 10 meals that can only be awarded once during a student's academic career and these meals expire within 2 months.
- **Renewing Eligibility:** N/A

Research

McCAFFERTY, R. A. (2017). Emergency grants aid college retention rates. *Crain's Cleveland Business*, 38(28), 0004. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bwh&AN=124100466&site=ehost-live>

Summary: Emergency grants aid college retention rates. Giving students \$1,000 a year for unexpected expenses like groceries, medical bills, or car repairs greatly increases student's ability to stay in college. Research was done at 2-year schools not 4 years, can't determine differences w/out further research.

van Woerden, I., Hruschka, D., Vega-López, S., Schaefer, D. R., Adams, M., & Bruening, M. (2019). Food Insecure College Students and Objective Measurements of Their Unused Meal Plans. *Nutrients*, 11(4). <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu11040904>

Summary: meal plans still leave students food insecure. 29% of those with unlimited plans still reported being food insecure due to inaccessibility of dining halls or working long hours. Therefore, measuring the number of meals left in a student's account is not effective in determining if they are food insecure or not.