ECMC Foundation Basic Needs Initiative Theory of Action

ECMC Foundation defines basic needs insecurity as the lack or fear of the lack of resources (e.g., food, housing, childcare, transportation, technology, physical and mental health services) that any postsecondary student must have beyond academic resources to fully participate and be successful on their academic trajectory. Postsecondary students who face basic needs insecurities, many of whom are historically underserved students, are at heightened risk of stopping out, not completing, incurring debt and facing additional financial and basic needs challenges in later years.

Overarching Goal: ECMC Foundation envisions a postsecondary ecosystem where no student faces basic needs insecurities and aims to decrease the percentage of postsecondary students experiencing basic needs insecurity by 10% by 2033.

	SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES	MID-TERM OUTCOMES	LONG-TERM OUTCOMES	
Strategy 1. Growing Data Capacity — Incorporate use of data to understand effectiveness of basic needs interventions on student experiences, nonacademic outcomes and academic outcomes.	Institutions and systems expand capacity to track student use of basic needs services and outcomes by student groups.	Institutions and systems use data, including student input, to improve their approach to basic needs services.	Institutions and systems have a robust data ecosystem that tracks basic needs services and examines effectiveness.	
Strategy 2. Scaling Effective Practices — Leverage, improve and modernize local, state and federally funded basic needs services that align to the evolving needs of today's students and expand use of services.	Institutions and systems expand their understanding of and capacity to implement effective practices for their local context so that more students access basic needs services.	Institutions and systems implement effective practices that promote equitable, scalable and sustainable basic needs services.	The postsecondary ecosystem experiences widespread adoption of effective practices that promote equitable, scalable and sustainable basic needs services.	**INITIATIVE IMPACT** — Postsecondary students experience increased and more equitable use of high-quality basic needs services and resources that support their academic and nonacademic success.
Strategy 3. Informing Policy Reform — Advance the understanding of policy change to remove structural barriers to basic needs services and promote student success.	The postsecondary ecosystem experiences increased understanding of student experiences and the system, state and federal policies that support use of basic needs services.	Policymakers and advocates increase their awareness of key areas of need in policy reform, and stakeholders come together to drive priorities and policy reform.	Local, state and federal governments reform policy to support student access to basic needs services, resources and public benefits.	