



Our Path Forward, Strategic Framework

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508

MAY 5, 2022

Equity:

Wellness and Accessibility

Presentation to the City Colleges Board of Trustees

May 5, 2022

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Equity

Goal: We will become a “student-ready” and equitable institution that is designed for all students to thrive—especially those from historically and present-day marginalized communities. We will equip students with the support and resources they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Strategic Objective Highlights:

- Enhance district-wide student support services and basic needs supports



Vision

To be recognized as the city's most accessible higher education engine of socioeconomic mobility and racial equity – empowering all Chicagoans to take part in building a stronger and more just city.

Levers



Create an **exceptional student experience**



Become a “student-ready” **equitable institution**



Develop and strengthen pathways that are **responsive** to the economic needs of the City



Build a **culture of excellence**



Create a **collaborative and connected** ecosystem



Monitor and ensure financial sustainability and the overall **health** of our institution





Wellness and accessibility are critical to City Colleges' efforts to advance equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic both illuminated and exacerbated the already-pressing need for mental health support for CCC students. Additionally, the rapid shift to all-remote learning and services showcased accessibility gaps for college students with disabilities here and across the country. As an institution, we have ethical and legal obligations to meet our students' needs in both spheres.

During the course of the pandemic, CCC began to identify patterns of need related to Wellness and accessibility.

We convened a task force to examine CCC's culture, policies, resources, and practices that relate to accessibility and disability inclusion. The directive for the taskforce is to identify inequities and draft a comprehensive accessibility plan recommending appropriate actions.





The District Office of Student Experience is partnering with College Wellness Centers to implement expansion and improvements of key resources and supports for equity.

Strategic objective 2.2: Enhance District-wide student support services and basic needs supports

- Expansion of Wellness teams, delivery methods, and strategic partnerships (tactic 1)
- Growth and improvement of basic needs opportunities for students (tactics 5 & 6)





Wellness Center Growth

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Goal	Method	Outcomes
Additional Wellness Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus Wellness Needs Assessment and hiring of additional direct care staff • Partnering with wellness themed grants – Project Safe and Be Well Chicago 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of students served • More students seen by licensed staff • Wellness related programming outside of Wellness Centers • Mental Health Early Action on College Campus Law (MHEAC) compliance
Districtwide Psychological Testing Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added new position • Updated referral process • Updated procedures for cultural awareness and student convenience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed more students to get diagnosis and accommodations through ACCESS dept. • Decreased wait times • Added remote testing capabilities
Alternate Delivery Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP for vendor to provide evening and weekend hours and crisis hotline • TCI grant for psychiatry services • Dual in-person and remote services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be able to serve more students including those who cannot meet at traditional times • Will offer full wrap-around services for all aspects of mental health • Improve convenience of access for busy students





Basic Needs Initiatives

Surveys help to identify basic needs concerns among enrolled students.

Food

- Enhanced relationships with Greater Chicago Food Depository and Illinois Hunger Coalition
- Additional supplies for campus pantries

Technology

- Ability to purchase technology through grants

Financial Supports

- 2 emergency financial assistance grants

Housing

- Remains most difficult
- Partnership with Chicago Housing Authority
- Establishing relationships with community partners
- Goal of on campus access to HMIS (homeless management information system) and reestablishment of the housing support specialist position

Referral system for medical, child care, and other needs





Harold Washington Wellness Center

Assistant Director Wellness : Yurianna Reyes

Basic Needs Supports

Innovative Mental Health Programming

- Dating Violence workshop in collaboration with Chicago Police Department
- Let's Talk it Out: Tackling College
- 8 Week Mindfulness group

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Accessibility Plan - Overview

LOGISTICS

- Led by District Director of Student Accessibility Services Nathan Blair
- Launched June 2021; Planned completion and submission is May 31, 2022

METHODS

- Collaboration, working groups, surveys, focus groups, and input from College leadership
- Stakeholder input through multiple means
- "Nothing about us without us"

IMPACT

- **Moving from a compliance-based model of accessibility to an equity-based approach centering disability justice**
- This will have consequences for enrollment & retention, educational quality, a culture of care, and institutional ownership of accessibility





Accessibility Plan – Scope

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CULTURE

- Does our culture support and promote accessibility and disability inclusion?

POLICY

- Do our policies allow for the full participation of people with disabilities?

CURRICULUM

- Is our curriculum accessible to students with disabilities?

FACILITIES

- Do our facilities comply with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990?

TECHNOLOGY

- Are our technologies fully accessible?

STAFFING

- Do we have adequate staffing levels both inside the ACCESS Centers and institutionally?





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Questions?