

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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EDUCATE
TOMORROW

RESULTS of SURVEY OF FLORIDA STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Spring 2022 Positive Pathways Webinar

February 2, 2022

Dr. Steve J. Rios, Senior Director

Positive Pathways Program

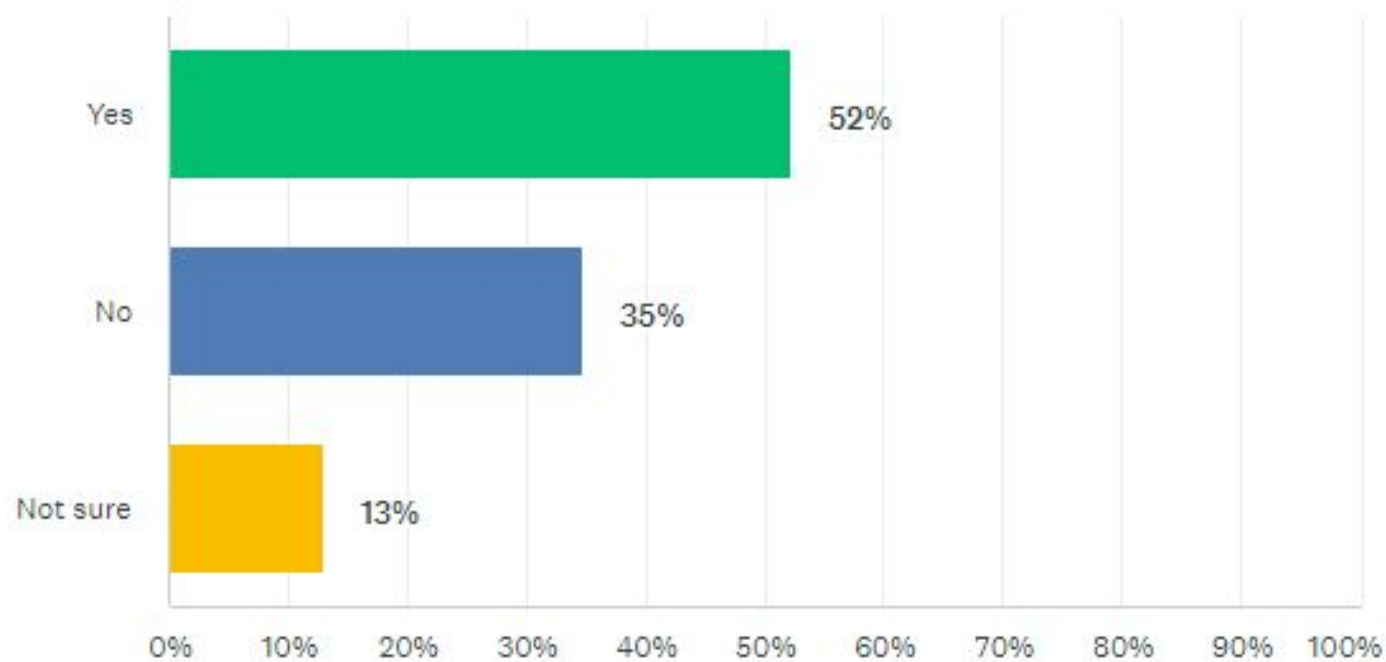
THE SAMPLE (N=47)

<i>Institution</i>	SUM of count
Broward College	10
Broward College, Atlantic Technical College	1
Broward Community College	1
FGCU	1
FIU And Miami dade	1
Florida Atlantic University	4
Florida Gulf Coast University	3
Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Southwestern State University	1
Florida International University	9
Florida State University	2
Miami Dade college	11
Pinellas Technical Education Center	1
University of North Florida	2
Grand Total	47

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Did your college or university reach out to offer you help?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 1

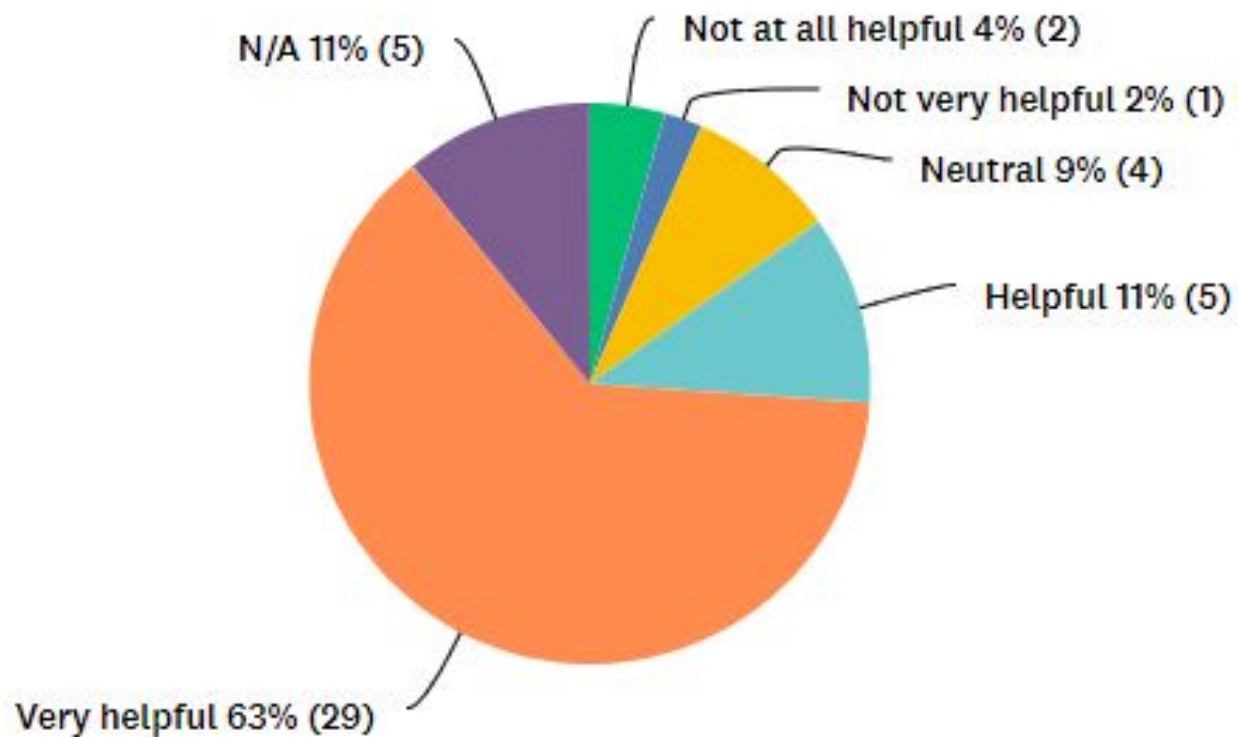


WHAT SERVICES DID YOUR COLLEGE OFFER YOU?

- Information about the homeless waiver
- Additional financial aid (CARES Act funds, Federal Pell Grant, scholarships)
- Food assistance
- Housing support
- Hygiene maintenance
- Counseling
- Some students indicated that they were offered assistance from outside organizations such as AOK scholars and Educate Tomorrow.

HOW HELPFUL HAVE THESE SERVICES BEEN?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 1



HOW HELPFUL HAVE THESE SERVICES BEEN?



“They provide me with a peace of mind knowing they have programs set up for my best interest”.

HOW HELPFUL HAVE THESE SERVICES BEEN?



“Having a counselor to talk to was great for me when I was in the darkest time of my life. With her help, I was able to graduate. I’m extremely grateful to have [...] as my support agent”.

HOW HELPFUL HAVE THESE SERVICES BEEN?



“This has helped me in so many ways giving me so much hope for a better future for myself. This program is incredible and in the year and a half I have been in it has drastically helped my goals, emotional well-being, self-esteem, etc. This opportunity has been exactly what I needed”.

HOW HELPFUL HAVE THESE SERVICES BEEN?

“I really appreciate this homeless waiver it has allowed me to study without worrying so much.”



WHAT SERVICES WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO YOU?

- Food assistance
- Homeownership
- Access to affordable housing
- Lockers and showers
- Transportation assistance
- Domestic violence resources
- Emergency funds
- Healthcare



DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

Students were asked their opinion about this definition, which is in Florida law.

“A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary residence, a public or private transitional living program, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes a student who would otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph, as determined by a college or university, but for his or her residence in college or university dormitory housing”.

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING STATE'S DEFINITION

- Add couch surfing to the definition in order to avoid “excluding a huge population of homeless youth”.
- Take into account students who live in an unsafe environment such as students who are experiencing domestic violence.
- Students who have a “nighttime residence” may not have a home during the day and therefore should also qualify as homeless.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- “Strengthen outreach and promotion of the resources available to youth struggling with problems at home and better preparing advocates for working with homeless youth”.
- “Prep all advocates being more well informed in order to assist students without confusing them”.
- “I feel like they should re verify homelessness status every 2 years. Every year is too much for those who are struggling since the process of getting a letter can be time-consuming”; “Is a constant reminder of how uncomfortable our reality”

CONTACT POSITIVE PATHWAYS



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