

Equity in Support



Affordable Student Housing

ISSUE

For California community college students, housing is a vital foundation to academic success. Such studies as the 2023 September Basic Needs Report show that 60 percent of respondents are housing insecure, with concerns about increased rent, mortgage, and utility rates making it difficult to pay total living expenses, according to the Real College California. Thus, the Riverside Community College District and the California Community Colleges

system acknowledge the significant need for affordable housing options for students, especially those aging out of the foster care system. RCCD conducted student housing surveys and market demand studies in 2020, 2021 and 2022 across three colleges (Moreno Valley, Norco and Riverside City), which showed that of over 2,100 students surveyed, 25 percent of respondents reported experiencing housing insecurity and 18 percent experienced homelessness the previous year.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the District has established a set of strategic goals and objectives that address student basic needs, institutional mission attainment, and long-term financial viability. In those strategic goals and objectives was affordable student housing opportunities. A student housing initiative is necessary to address housing insecurity and student homelessness, student retention, bridging the equity gap, and removing barriers to student success.



Senate Bill 169, the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, recognized the significant housing demand and approved \$2 billion to

provide one-time funding for capacity expansion projects to support increased resident enrollment.

In response to affordable student housing needs, the District developed four student housing plans: three on-campus and one off campus — a partnership with the University of California, Riverside. In July 2023, the District was awarded \$75 million and the University of California, Riverside was presented \$51 million to partially fund the North District II student housing project. When completed in the fall of 2025, the project will provide 1,568 beds. However, only 652 beds will be set aside at an affordable rate with 326 of those beds earmarked for students at Riverside City College.

REQUEST

In alignment with the District's strategic goals for affordable student housing, below are the requests based on the prioritized critical-mission projects:

- 100 percent construction funding for Moreno Valley College's affordable student housing project; total amount of \$63 million for fiscal year 2024-25 will provide 280 affordable beds at a low-income rate for qualified students; and
- 100 percent construction funding for Norco College's affordable student housing project; total amount of \$65 million for fiscal year 2025-26 will provide 280 affordable beds at a low-income rate for qualified students.

