

# CUNY Student Navigator Program FAQ Sheet

## What is Swipe Out Hunger?

Swipe Out Hunger is a national nonprofit committed to ending college student hunger. We advise colleges and universities on the design of commonsense and innovative anti-hunger programs.

## What is the CUNY Student Navigator Program?

The program is a one-on-one online student referral service, where CUNY students can receive customized food assistance support from trained student food navigators. A primary focus is supporting students with SNAP enrollment while also connecting students with other campus and community food resources.

## Why was this program created?

As one of the largest university systems in the country, CUNY provides more than 275,000 students across the five boroughs the lifelong benefits of a college degree and higher education.

Nearly 40% of the systems student population comes from households earning less than \$20,000/year and according to a recent study, nearly 1 in 5 CUNY students have experienced food insecurity in the last year. The economic storm caused by the pandemic has continued to impact already struggling students.

## How does the program work?

Any CUNY student who has experienced food insecurity can fill out a form at [swipehunger.org/cunysnn](http://swipehunger.org/cunysnn) or text FOOD to 855.230.6746. Following their submission, a trained student food navigator will reach back out to walk through the SNAP application process for those students who are interested, and provide other tailored resource referrals.

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## **How are the navigators equipped to support students?**

The student food navigator team has received intensive SNAP and outreach training co-led by Swipe Out Hunger, NYC Human Resources Association (HRA), and the Food Bank of NYC. Through a partnership with the Food Bank of NYC, students learned about the SNAP application process and college students' specific requirements to qualify for SNAP. The navigators will utilize the Food Bank of NYC SNAP Call Center as a service provided to students to help them navigate through highly complicated aspects of the SNAP application when needed.

## **How does this program intersect with the mission of Swipe Out Hunger?**

This program complements Swipe Out Hunger's approach to student anti-hunger work. Steeped in the belief that programs should be sustainable, innovative, student-centric, and destigmatizing, Swipe Out Hunger saw an opportunity to step up and leverage their community with a peer-to-peer support model, led by CUNY students for CUNY students. Swipe Out Hunger is fortunate to work alongside so many dedicated student leaders fighting to end college hunger. The student food navigator model capitalizes on this organic relationship-building in a meaningful way in this point in time. Not only has this directly helped students facing hardships due to the pandemic, but it has also provided additional financial support for the hired student food navigators—many of whom lost jobs or other career opportunities since the pandemic started.

## **Who do I contact with questions, comments, concerns, or to collaborate with this program?**

You can contact our Student Navigator Manager Jack at [Jack@swipehunger.org](mailto:Jack@swipehunger.org) .