College Students Need Aid

Online mutual aid efforts have appeared in universities across the US as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. College students were uprooted from their lives at universities and many now have to face food insecurity, difficulty with housing, and unemployment, among other factors. Mutual aid efforts are necessary social infrastructures to assure that vulnerable groups, like college students, are having their needs met.

For a list of mutual aid organizations throughout the country, visit:

https://www.swipehunger.org/community-care/
LEARNING MORE ABOUT MUTUAL AID ON COLLEGE CAMPUS:

1 LEARN ABOUT MUTUAL AID DURING COVID-19
Ask yourself:
• What was the role of the pandemic in highlighting why mutual aid was necessary for communities?
• In its design, are there any obstacles present keeping groups from receiving mutual aid?

2 LEARN FROM STUDENTS
Ask yourself:
• What factors present were necessary for student leaders to organize and create an emergency fund?
• Why are emergency funds for college students necessary?

3 DISCUSS AMONG YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS!
After reading so much information, it's important to learn from yourself!
Ask yourself:
• What does the increased need for mutual aid reveal about flaws within our social safety nets?
• What criteria would you use to assess the effectiveness of mutual aid in guaranteeing that vulnerable group's needs are met?
• How would you assure that no group is excluded?
• What are the things college students need the most?
  o Are these items “too much” to ask for?
• Why are mutual aid funds necessary for college students?
• Should universities take more accountability to ensure that their student’s needs are being met? If so, how?
• After reading about mutual aid efforts in other campuses, how do you feel about student efforts on campus at UR regarding COVID-19 relief?
• How would you assess the relief UR has provided for its students?
• Do you believe UR was transparent in its efforts to provide relief?