



Securing Students'
Basic Needs to
Ensure All Students
Succeed

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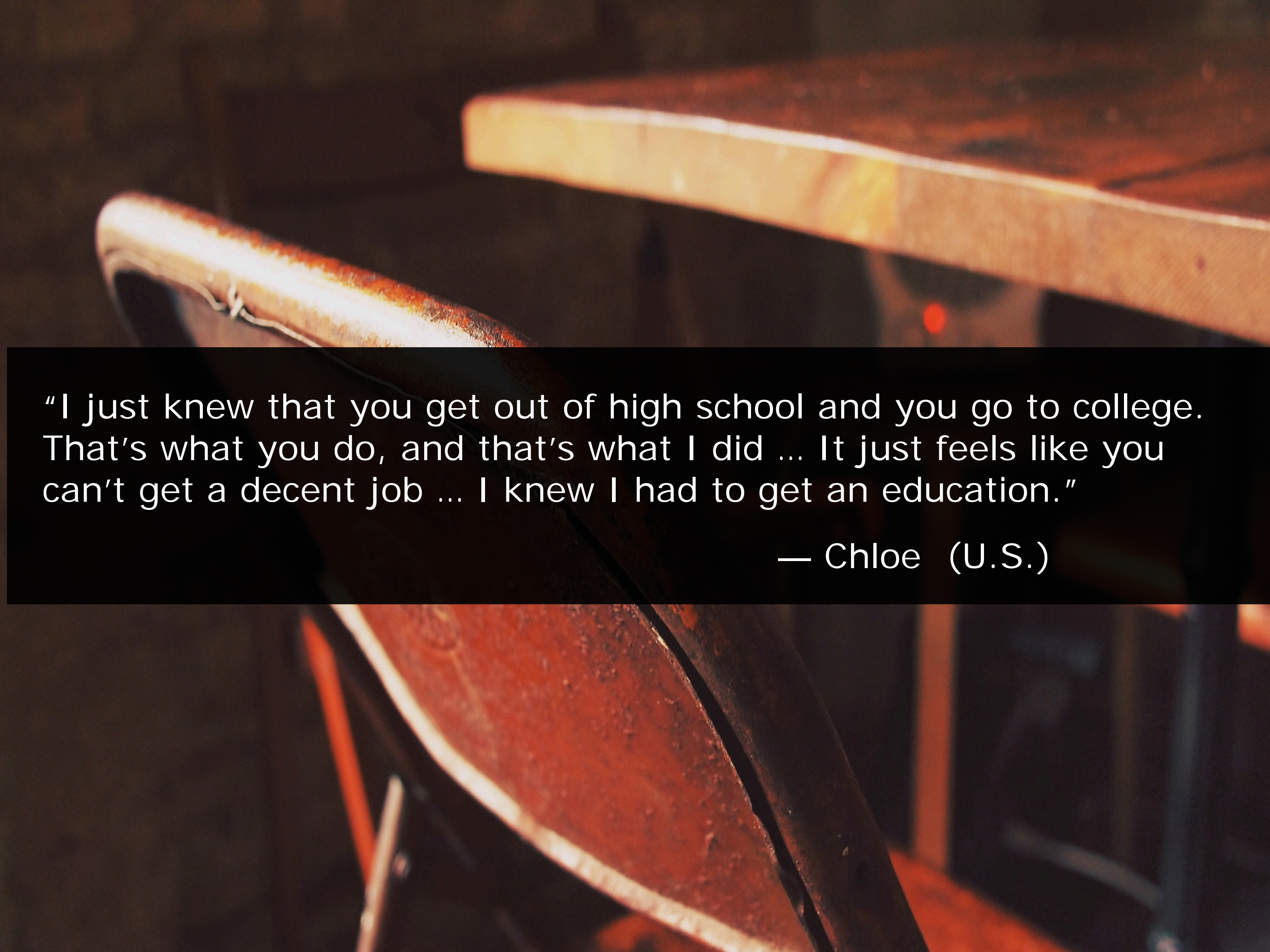
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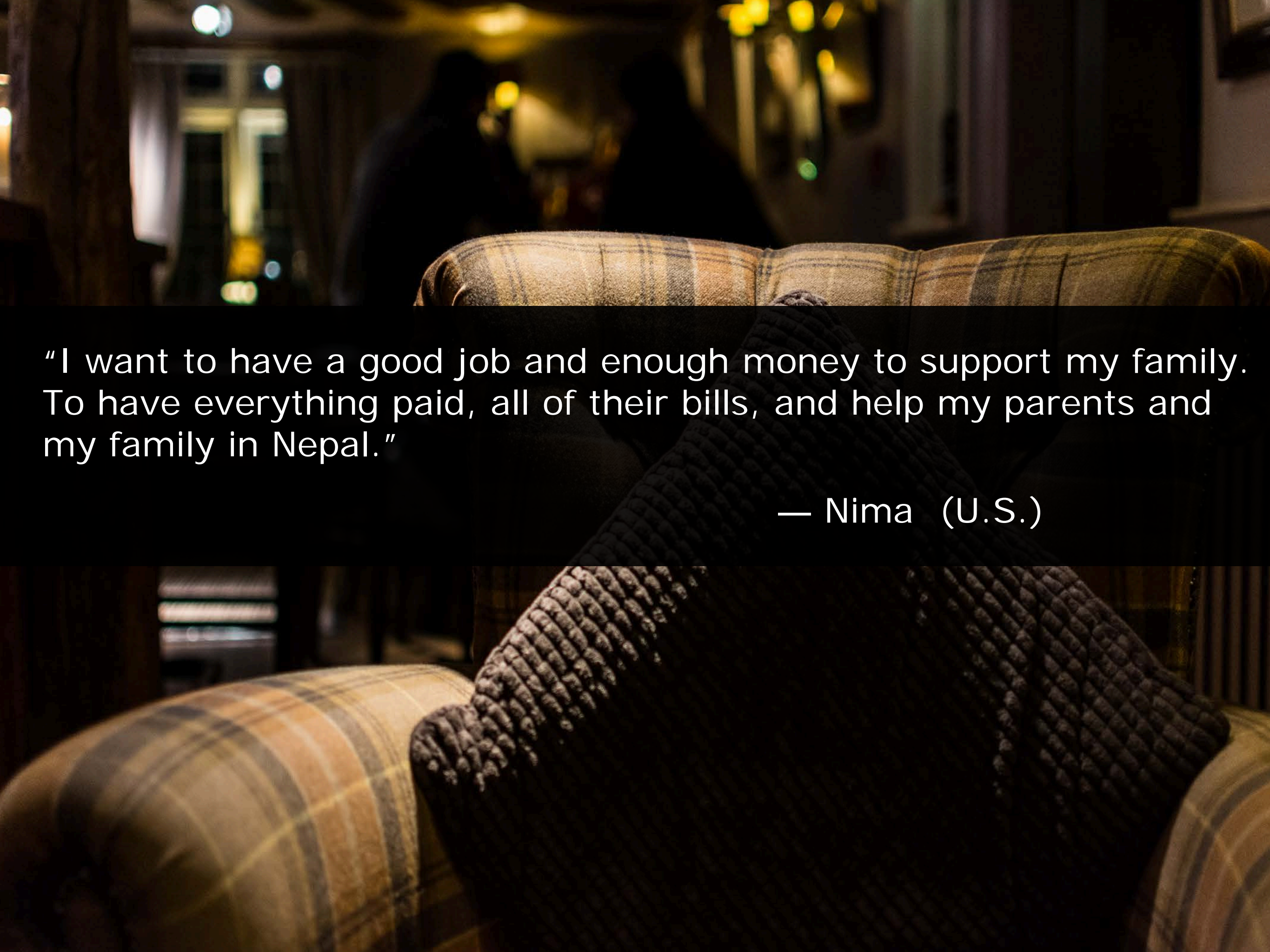
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Start the presentation.



"I just knew that you get out of high school and you go to college. That's what you do, and that's what I did ... It just feels like you can't get a decent job ... I knew I had to get an education."

— Chloe (U.S.)

A dimly lit interior scene, likely a living room. In the foreground, a plaid sofa is visible, with a dark, textured, ribbed pillow resting on it. The background is out of focus, showing warm, yellowish lights and what appears to be a doorway or a window with a cross-like shape. The overall atmosphere is cozy and intimate.

“I want to have a good job and enough money to support my family. To have everything paid, all of their bills, and help my parents and my family in Nepal.”

— Nima (U.S.)



Helping students engage and succeed requires first meeting their basic needs.



About that student who sleeps in class.





The New Economics of College– Everywhere?

- College prices are higher than ever
- Most family incomes are stagnant
- The safety net is shredded
- Work doesn't pay
- Colleges are underfunded

"I'm having trouble providing for my mom.. at times she needs help so I've been helping with her bills...Yeah sometimes I feel like I don't want to pay for this, but at the same time, when I look back and I needed this when I was younger, she worked hard for me." – U.S., *Paying the Price*



“With no funding and with my father as the only provider in the family how can he pay for my fees, textbooks, food, transport, accomodation? If he has to put a roof over our heads and food on the table for the family, how much change is left for me?”
-- South Africa, *In Our Own Words*





We neglect Maslow in America too.

FOOD SECURITY

I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.

Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for

3 or more days: Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

Did you lose weight because there wasn't enough money for food??

High

0 Items

Secure

Marginal

1–2 Items

Low

3–5 Items

Food Insecure

Very Low

6–10 Items

I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.

The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have money to get more.

Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

Did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

3 or more days: Did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

HOUSING SECURITY & HOMELESSNESS

Housing
Secure
No Items

Moved in with other
people

Did not pay full amount of
utilities
Moved two or more times

Had a rent increase that made
it difficult to pay

Housing
Insecure
Any Item

Did not pay full amount of rent

Moved in with other people
due to financial problems

Lived with others beyond
the expected capacity of
the housing

Not knowing where you were
going to sleep, even for one
night

Homeless
Any Item

Thrown out of home

Stayed in an abandoned
building, car, other place
not meant for housing

Stayed in a shelter

Evicted from home

HUNGRY AND HOMELESS IN COLLEGE:

RESULTS FROM A NATIONAL STUDY
OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY IN
HIGHER EDUCATION

Sara Goldrick-Rab, Jed Richardson,
and Anthony Hernandez
Wisconsin HOPE Lab

MARCH 2017

- 33,000 students
- 70 community colleges
- 24 states
- 56% food insecure
- 51% housing insecure
 - 14%



- 20,000 students
- 35 universities
 - 14 states
- 36% food insecure
- 36% housing insecure
- 9% homeless

STILL HUNGRY AND HOMELESS IN COLLEGE

Sara Goldrick-Rab, Jed Richardson, Joel Schneider,
Anthony Hernandez, and Clare Cady

APRIL 2018

Homeless Prevalence Last 12 Months



White & non-LGBTQ

4%



Black & non-LGBTQ

7%



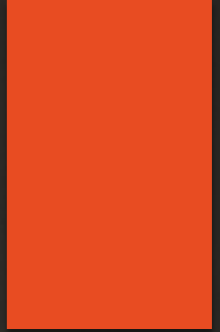
White & LGBTQ

8%

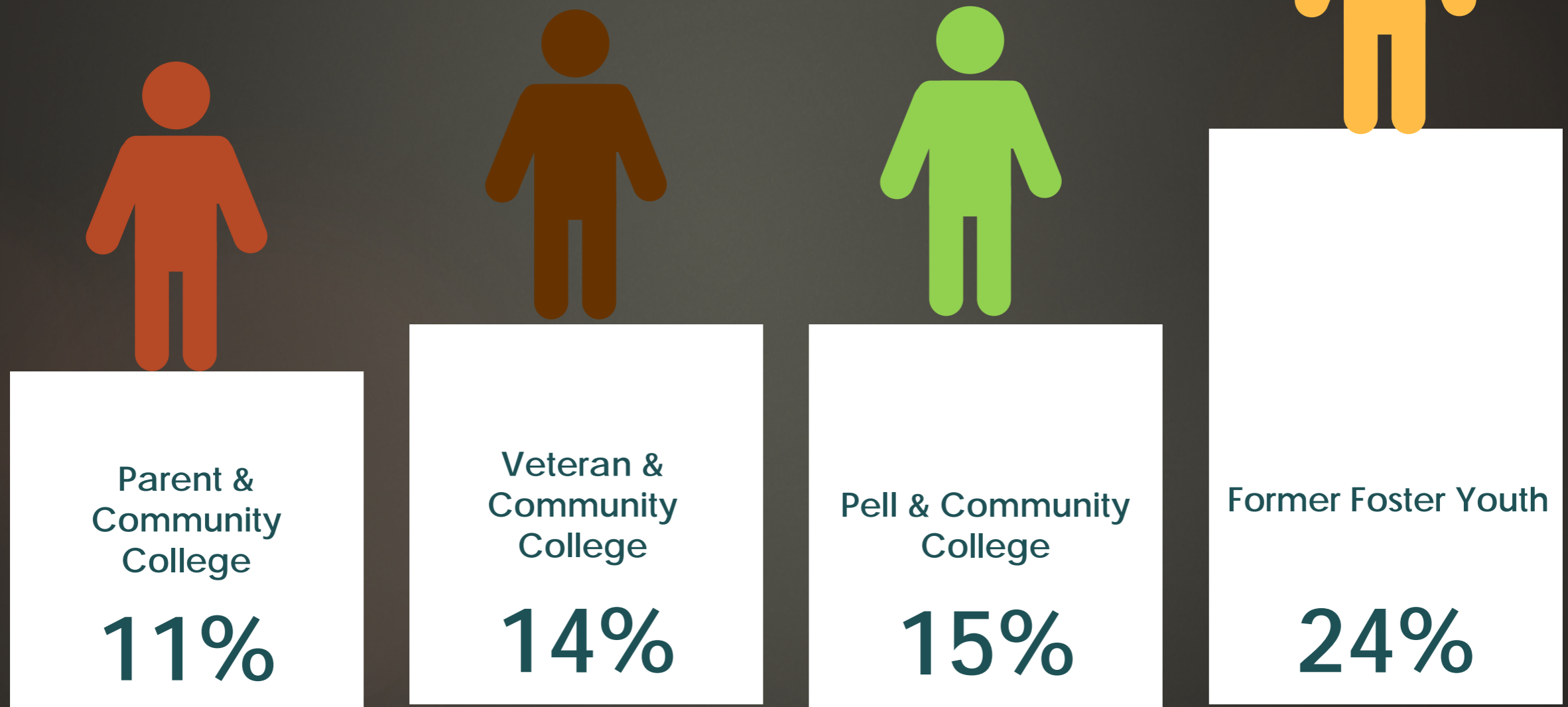


Black & LGBTQ

16%



Homeless Prevalence Last 12 Months



ENGAGING THE #STUDENTVOICE

Annual Report 2016



- 2016 South African Survey of Student Engagement

- Included Financial Stress Module

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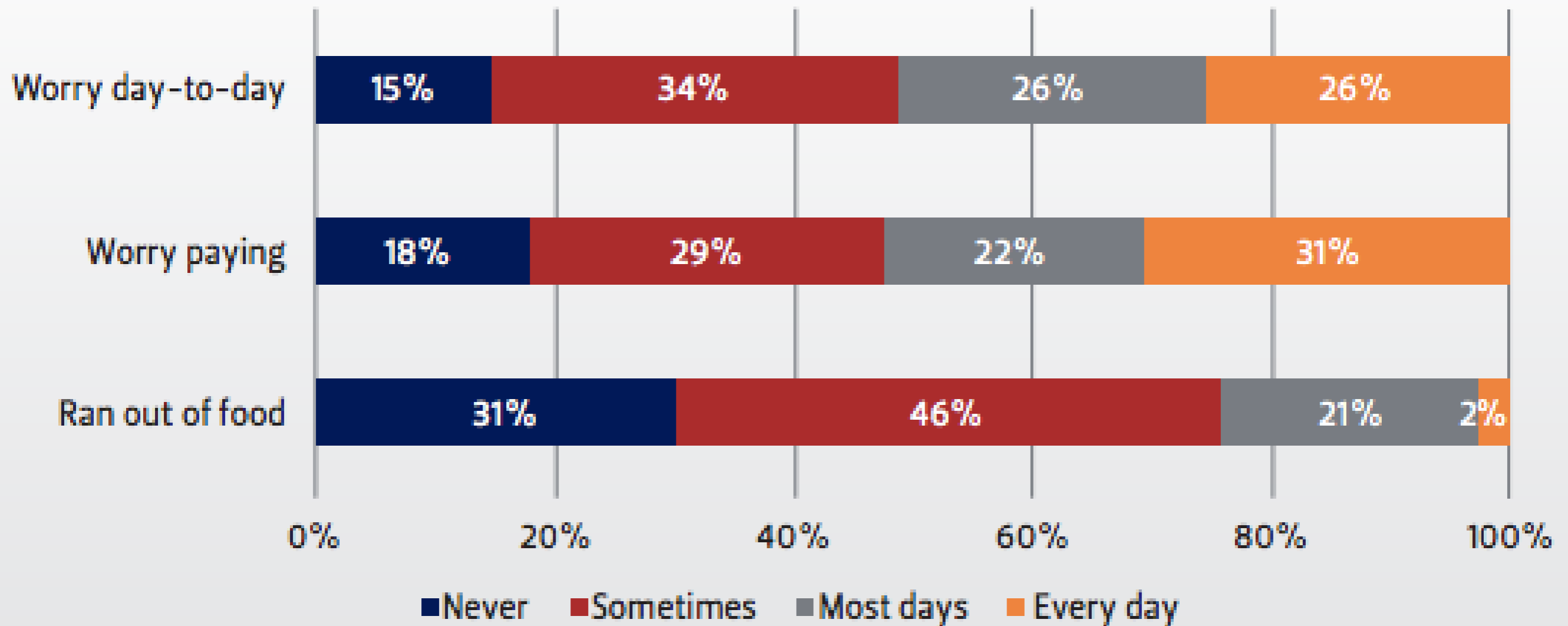


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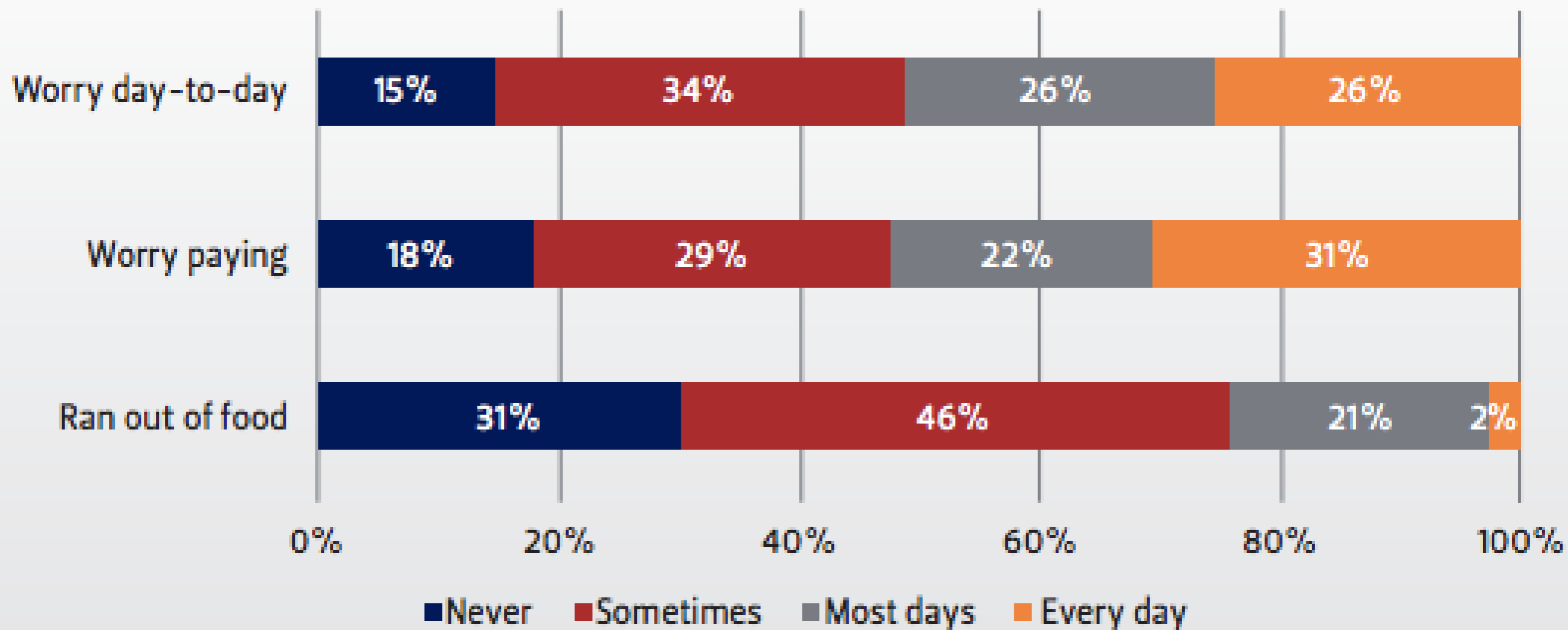
Financial constraints



Financial worries plague almost all students.

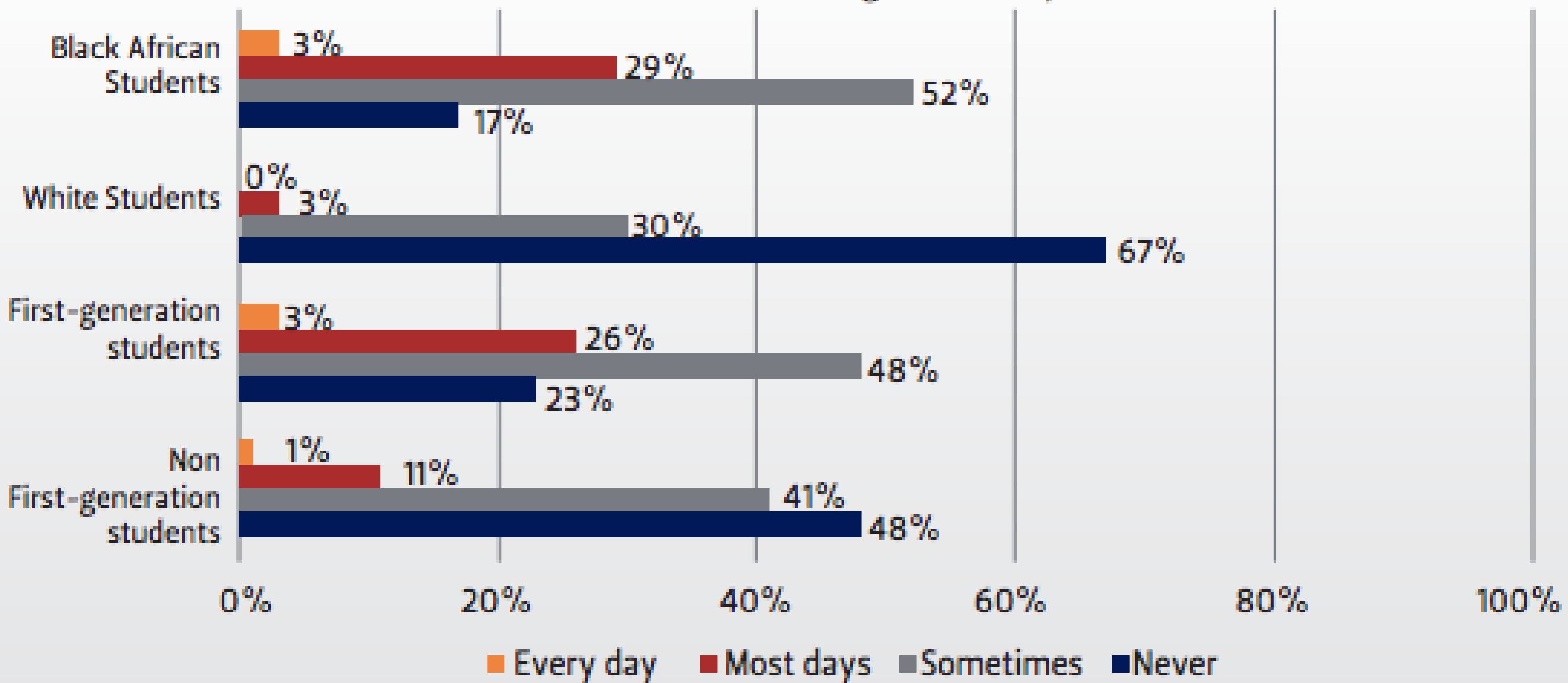
Food insecurity affects almost 70%!

Financial constraints




These numbers align with a 2015 estimate at the University of the Free State (65%)

Ran out of food without being able to buy more



Food insecurity affects students of all colors and educational backgrounds.



In both South Africa and the U.S. students experiencing basic needs insecurity spend as much time on college, but more time working & less time sleeping.



Without their basic needs secured, students feel ashamed, alone, less engaged, and unable to focus on learning. They often feel hopeless.



“It is a mission to find accommodation, especially if you don't have deposit money.”

-- South Africa, *In Our Own Words*



“You feel pressured to make it work...[but] is the food you’re eating good for your brain?”

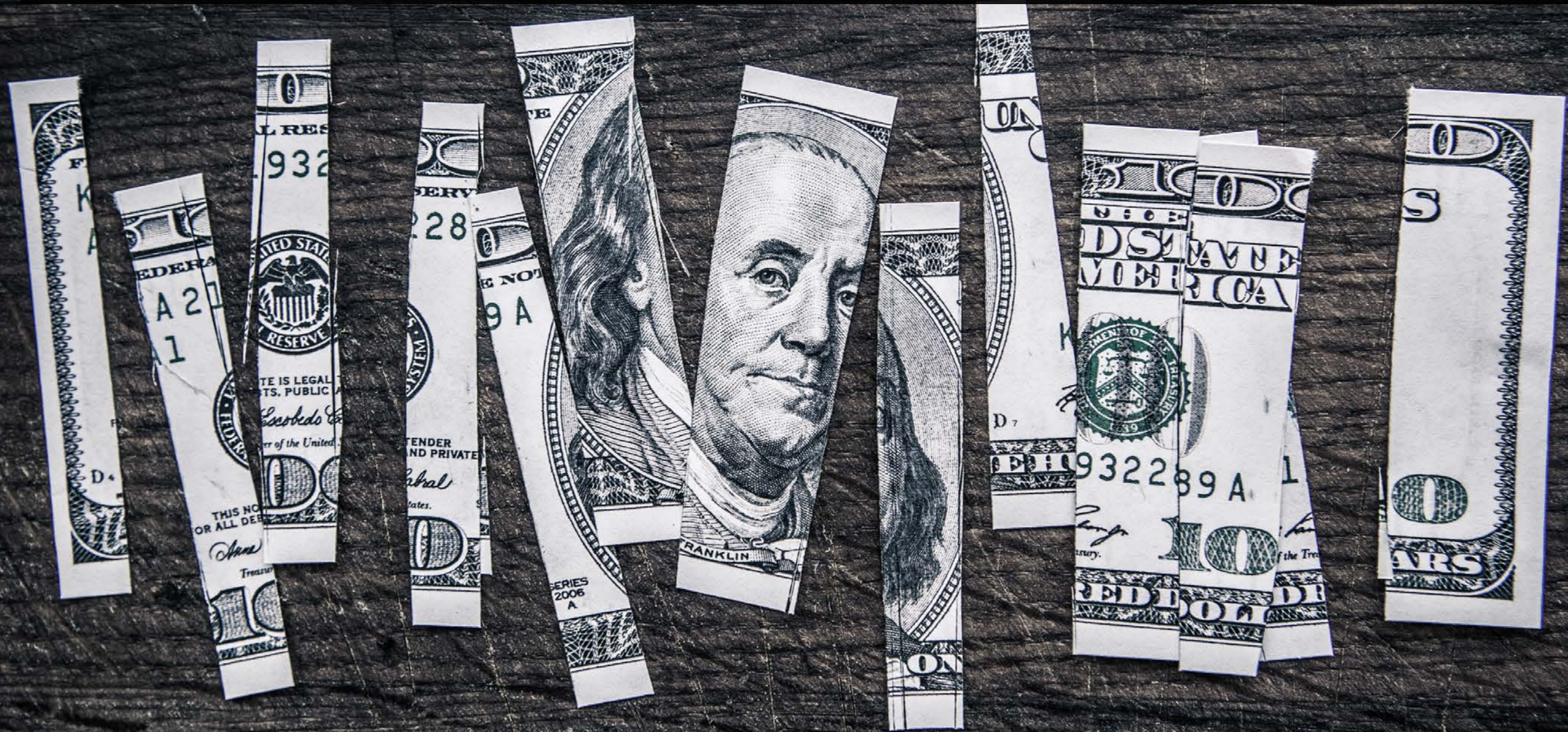
-- South Africa, *In Our Own Words*



We can and must do better.



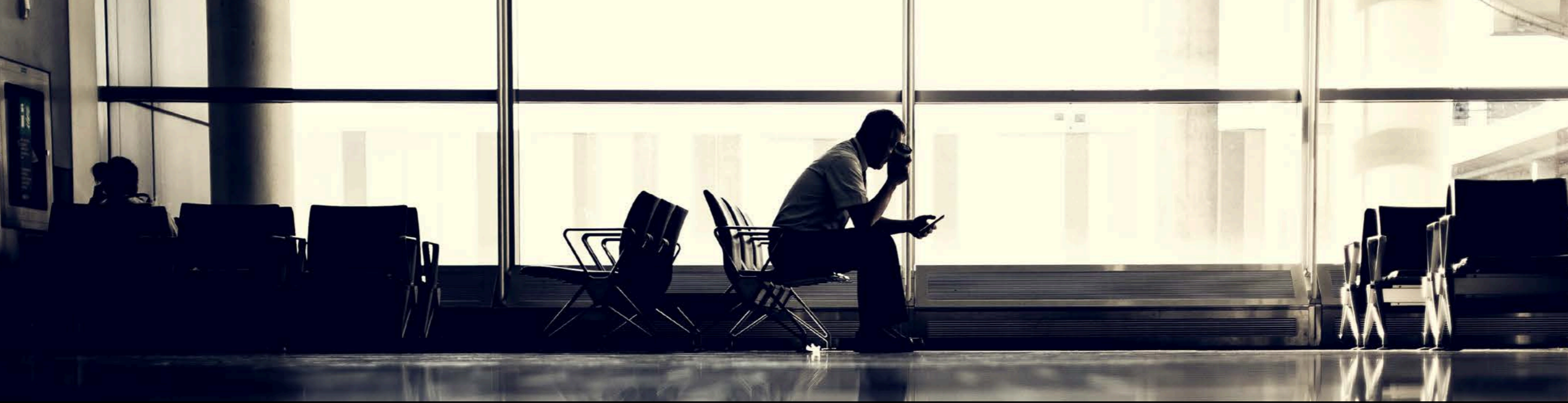
Addressing students' economic needs is both cost-effective *and* social justice promoting.





Activate everyone—

Integrate the security of students' basic needs into the student engagement framework.




Educate the students and the front line—and raise awareness with a statement on the syllabus.

“Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess.”



Emergency aid is helpful.

But it must be flexible, inclusive, and move FAST.



Connect every dot. Access every resource.

- Support FAMILIES to support students.
- Engage religious and nonprofit groups.

No Student Poverty Hungry Bursary Programme

- Started in 2011 at the University of the Free State
- Modest food allowance and access to 1 daily meal on campus
- One food bursary amounts to R6 845 per year (R37 per day for 185 academic days)
- We are evaluating similar programs in Boston and Houston

Address the meal gap.

“In 2010 the average residence fee without food was R13 283, and the average residence fee including meals was R30 924 ”





"Full cost of study necessary for success at university, including: "meals and accommodation (adequate housing and proper nutrition)"

--Report of the Working Group On Fee Free University Education for the Poor in South Africa, 2012



South Africa spends less than 1% of GDP on higher ed—
spending 1% would mean increased revenue of R11 billion



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