

1 Student at a Time (1ST)

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I. Introduction

Mission Statement

1ST is dedicated to providing assistance and delivering services to college students in Los Angeles with the greatest needs.

Vision Statement

1ST aims to Improve the lives of future generations by fostering a more resilient and equitable community that is empowered and well-qualified to run itself.

Values Statement

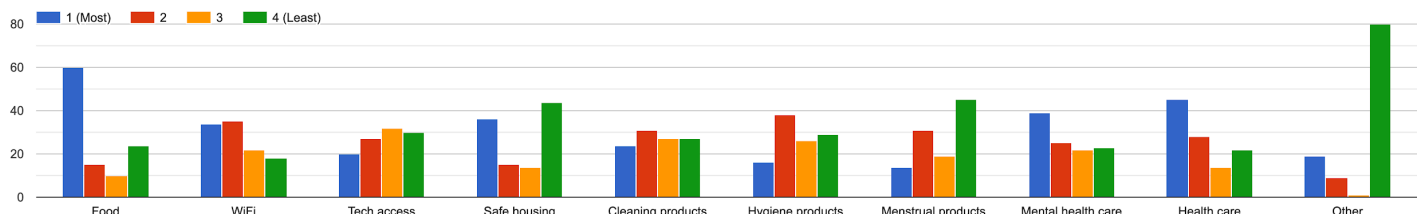
1ST mobilizes resources and delivers services to meet the needs of the most underserved people within the community. Guided by principles of equity and social justice for all, we aim to create partnerships within the community and work towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Background

Over 30,000 UCLA undergraduate's lives have been affected due to COVID-19. Alongside the associated health risks, many students have suffered financially from the COVID-19-related lockdowns. Many have experienced displacement due to housing restrictions, the loss of on-campus and off-campus jobs and forced into uneasy circumstances. As the number of COVID-19 cases in California continues to rise, we will continue to see financial and health-related impacts within our community. 1 Student at a Time came together initially in response to the unique challenges facing UCLA students during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are a student-led organization whose mission is to support fellow college students within the community. 1ST was founded in May 2020 by a group of students and faculty at UCLA to address the humanitarian crises amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to better assess the needs of our community we gathered data from students in our UCLA Global Health 100 course. Results from an anonymous google survey indicated that most students were struggling in four of the following categories: food security, health, higher education and housing.

If given financial assistance to cover costs of essentials, please rank four items that would be most important to you? (1=Most Important to 4=Least Important)



What concerns are you/your family/friends facing with COVID-19?

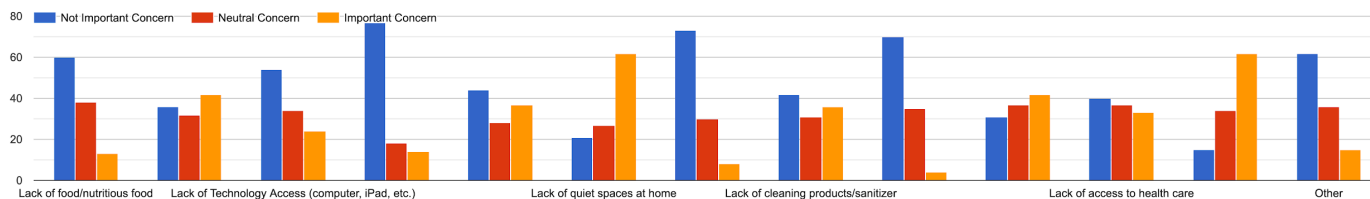


Figure 1: ____

This inspired the creation of our organization's core tenets to overcome barriers in access to these necessities, leading to the creation of the 1ST UCLA Students for Students Solidarity Fund¹. We drew inspiration from schools like UC Berkeley and Scripps College and the success they had in the creation of student-led mutual aid funds². This UCLA student-led solidarity fund will serve as a communal resource for any student experiencing financial insecurity due to COVID-19. Fundraising will be led through a grassroots campaign consisting of our own classmates, alumni, faculty, and members within the community. Funding requests will range from \$250 to \$1000, with no upper limit. We plan on fundraising and redistributing financial aid to accommodate students' needs as soon as possible. The money will go towards rent, food, medical bills, technology, etc. Our goal is to provide students with necessary financial support to start the 2020 school year. We believe that no student's education should be compromised due to the financial inability to access basic needs.

Scripps' success was due in part to the large amount of communal participation and engagement they were able to garner throughout the fundraising process. This led to the fundraising and deployment of over \$52,000 to students in less than 2 months. We launched our Solidarity Fund this past weekend and so far we have raised over \$1,800 in aid. However, in order for the true strength and support of the Bruin community to be recognized we need your support. Our vision is to create a coalition of UCLA students, faculty and alumni and promote communal participation. With the hopes that we will expand our reach and engage more students in the fundraising process. Our goal is more than a fundraiser; we aim to cultivate a campus-wide solidarity effort in which students can support themselves and fellow students. If you are interested in becoming involved we have created a toolkit for student organizations and individuals to follow³. You can help our cause by sharing our content on social media and reposting content of your own. Currently we are searching for individuals to help us with social

¹

https://www.gofundme.com/f/ucla-students-for-students-solidarity-grant?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet+expWdV

² <https://www.gofundme.com/f/scripps-mutual-aid>

³

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1vLCkdjRiUsQ1v9MX0UXrrlPCcZkPV-97PJ9nntzxe9k/mobilebasic>

media and encourage anyone interested to join our cause. Additionally, we are looking to partner with our fellow UCLA student organizations to host joint events or Solidarity Fund fundraisers. As an organization founded on human rights principles we are guided by our global commitments. We believe in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and are committed to continuing to provide resources and services to underserved individuals in the community. We believe in the power of individual collaboration, community partnerships, and grants. Ultimately, we hope to expand our efforts to community outreach programs, mental health care workshops, and professional development opportunities for students. As an organization, 1ST aims to improve the lives of future generations by fostering a more resilient and equitable community.

II. Projects

1ST UCLA STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS SOLIDARITY FUND

1 Student at a Time (1ST) is a student-led organization whose mission is to support college students. We are initiating the UCLA Students for Students Solidarity Fund, a communal resource for UCLA undergraduates experiencing financial insecurity due to COVID-19. The funds will be raised through a grassroots campaign by classmates, alumni, faculty, and other members of our community.

After releasing and closing our request form on 9/4/2020, we have received **\$178,526 requested in funds.**

Students urgently need these funds for rent, groceries, transportation, and other essential needs. As school has moved online, over 82.5% of applicants have experienced a decrease in University Grants. In addition, student-athletes have suffered financially due to the cancelation of Fall sports. Many who rely on athletic housing stipends can no longer afford to keep their housing commitments for the Fall quarter.

166 students have applied to the fund, of which:

- 80.4% are First-generation students
- 79.3% are financial aid recipients
- 77.7% are low-income students
- 52% are BIPOC
- 42.5% will lose their housing if they do not secure more funds
- 69% do not have an income for the Fall quarter and need assistance supporting themselves and, in some cases, their families as well
- 91.7% had at least one family member lose or reduce employment due to COVID-19

To learn more about the fund and our redistribution process, please refer to our linktree: https://linktr.ee/1st_losangeles.

Ranking System for Fund Allocation:

Students will be required to rank their requests according to our level of needs scale from 1-5.

Level of Needs	Definition
1	-- Short-term, Immediate, One-time funding need (e.g. flight tickets)
2	-- Has an income, but needs support with recurring bills (e.g. rent, utilities, etc.)
3	-- Does not have an income for the summer and is looking to support themselves alone
4	-- Does not have an income for the summer and is looking to support others/their family in addition to themselves
	-- 1 or more family members lost their income source due to COVID-19
5	-- Does not have an income for the summer, is looking to support others/their family members in addition to themselves
	-- 1 or more family members lost their income source due to COVID-19
	-- Has COVID-specific medical bills or other extenuating circumstances

****Additional questions involving housing status, personal and family income, and employment status will also be used to identify need. After the fundraising period, a team of 1ST volunteers will allocate funds based off of the students' answers to these questions, the funds available, and number of applicants.

Fund Allocation/Distribution:

We raised \$13,215 through both GoFundMe and Venmo. 64 students received grants ranging from \$125-575.