

Previous Gofundme Description

TLDR; EMERGENCY FUNDRAISING FOR EVICTED POMONA COLLEGE STUDENTS

Sign our Petition: <https://forms.gle/qgT2jzNrhAuCDZoQ9>

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TLDR; EMERGENCY FUNDRAISING FOR EVICTED POMONA COLLEGE STUDENTS ---- ...

Pomona FLI Scholars needs your support for Help Pomona students evicted during COVID-19

The GoFundMe will be used for:

- Rent and subletting costs for students without a home
- Food and basic necessities for students
- Cleaning and sanitary supplies for students being displaced
- Transportation to/from hospitals and medical expenses for displaced students in the case they become ill
- Emergency storage for students finding a new living situation

Thank you so, SO much to everyone who has donated. We appreciate it more than you can understand.

Pomona College is currently asking people to donate to a fund through the college. This GoFundMe is completely separate from that and will go DIRECTLY to evicted students and students in need.

The COVID-19 Pomona fund has been set up by the college for “student support and campus costs”, such as reimbursements of room and board, costs of flying students back to their home, paying work study and staff as hours are cut, etc. As a large majority of students have been denied permission to remain on campus, we asked various deans during office hours whether this fund would be used to help homeless students or students with unlivable home conditions to pay for off-campus rent and subletting. One dean told us they “did not know what the fund was for”, and three deans told us the fund will NOT be used to help students being displaced pay for their rent or off-campus living expenses now that they are being rejected housing at Pomona. It is clear that Pomona College does not have the intention of helping these students find or pay for housing, with various deans telling students to just find family and friends to stay with, or to “have a conversation” with family members in response to concerns about domestic abuse. Many students at Pomona College are homeless or cannot return to their permanent address, and POMONA HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE HOUSING AND FUNDING for these students to have shelter. For this reason, we have organized a direct fund that will go towards helping these students.

Dear Community,

As you may know, COVID-19 has caused many universities around the country to shut down and send students home. For many First-Generation, Low-Income, international, and homeless

students, as well as those who are survivors of domestic violence, this is NOT a viable option. Initially, Pomona admin seemed to understand these constraints and provided a petition for students who need to stay on campus for safety reasons. (Granted, students were only given 250 characters to explain why leaving this campus would be detrimental to our mental, physical, and academic health). However, it appears that the majority of these requests to stay on campus were denied. Those who were denied received a generic email and were told to give Dean Hinkston their phone number if they want more information.

TIMELINE

On Wednesday, March 11th, students were told that they are not to return to campus after spring break and were offered two links: one to petition to remain on campus, and another to request funding for a flight home. Students were told to expect a response about staying on campus at noon on Friday, March 13th. However, responses were received intermittently throughout the day, well past the deadline -- the majority of responses went out at 11:44 PM. Right now, while there is no clear amount of acceptances or denials to remain on campus, it seems that around two-thirds of students who applied were denied, many of which who had the same reasoning as those who were allowed to stay (data found through a student poll), making the results and process arbitrary, inconsistent, and genuinely inequitable -- especially when campuses like Yale and Berkeley -- and fellow consortium campuses such as Harvey Mudd -- are allowing any student the right to stay. Furthermore, students who were told that their petition to stay on campus was approved were ALSO told that this decision is conditional and may be revoked. This commitment of support and understanding is representative of the diverse and equitable value these colleges have -- making Pomona's decision that much more disappointing.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of both financial assistance and alumni advocacy. As members of the Pomona community as graduates, we are accepting direct donations through a shared Venmo: POM-COVID19-1, POM-COVID19-2, POM-COVID19-3, POM-COVID19-4 (Please use any of the following Venmo Usernames -- there are four, but all the resources will be pooled for the students being removed from campus).

If you have other ways to support us during these times (resources you know of, recommendations for housing, funding for storage, and anything else that may seem helpful) please do not hesitate to email us.

Please think about what you would have done during these times -- think about the ways that we are continuously minoritized in this institution. Many, if not most, of us working to advocate for housing are students that have been denied housing and have nowhere else to go.

In solidarity,

Occupy Pomona Team / Pomona College Equitable Housing Advocates