

# Dax Program: Building Program Capacity to Support Homeless College Students

Rebecca McGarity-Palmer, Kayleigh E. Zinter, Kelly M. Lancaster, Helena L. Swanson, Martha L. Szekely, & Joseph R. Ferrari

## Introduction

- Increasing awareness of food and housing insecurity in college students
- The Dax program works with students at DePaul University to provide housing, food stipends, transportation passes, and case management.
- As community psychologists, we value providing skills and resources to community partners in a participatory manner: *Capacity Building*.

## Building Capacity with the Dax Program

- Logic Model
  - Outline the program's *theory of change*
  - An iterative, collaborative process
- Data Management
  - Organized program data for increased efficiency
- Program Manual
  - Document policies and procedures
  - Invaluable for orienting new staff

## Lessons Learned

- Build rapport with community organizations first; this takes time!
- Work on projects that are mutually beneficial.

## Future Work

- Needs Assessment
- Restructure internal forms
- Set up program for internal evaluation and monitoring

# Focus on evaluation and data capacity building while you foster a new relationship with a community partner; then work on collecting data for mutually-beneficial research.

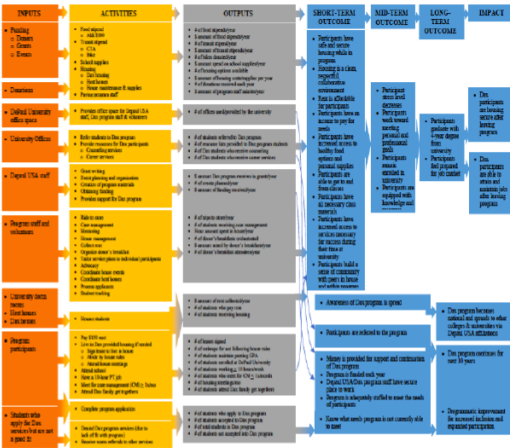


## Additional Resources

### Food & Housing Security in College (Goldrick-Rab et al., 2018)

- 51% students experience housing insecurity
- 56% of students experience food insecurity
- 9-14% of students experience homelessness

### Dax Program Logic Model - 2019



## For Further Information

- [Depaul USA Dax Program](#)
- [Community Psychology](#)
- [Evaluation Capacity Building](#)
- [Logic Model](#)

Contact the first author at [rmcgarit@depaul.edu](mailto:rmcgarit@depaul.edu)