

CBO-Institutional Partnerships in California that Provide Holistic Student Supports

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Basic needs insecurity heightened during the pandemic, exacerbating inequities in who completes college

A 2020 nationally representative survey* found that:

- 23% of undergraduates and 12% of graduate students experienced food insecurity
- 8% of undergraduates and 5% of graduate students experienced homelessness

Students of color are most likely to experience basic needs insecurity. Basic needs insecurity affects:

- 35% of Black or African American students
- 30% of Native students
- 25% of Latinx students

*“I know people who were having the same issues I was having ... They had to leave their apartments, could live in their cars, etc. **For me, I was grateful because I got help from SparkPoint multiple times.** I was able to stay in my apartment, which is why I’m still here now.”*

– Current college student participant

Institutions are partnering with community-based organizations to enhance the services offered to students

Community-based organizations (CBOs) can bolster institutional capacity to provide **holistic student supports**, such as:

- Housing, food, mental health, and emergency financial aid
- Academic support, counseling, and advising
- Mentorship and coaching
- Career and workforce development

Students who receive CBO services at their institutions are more likely to **persist, complete credit-bearing coursework, and maintain higher GPAs***

*Almeida & Allen, 2017; Anderson et al., 2023; April et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2018

*“We’re connected to other community-based organizations so we can make referrals for students. We have **one foot out in the community and one foot at the college** so that our **students get what they need when they need it.**”*

– San José City College

CBOs can provide institutions with added capacity and culturally relevant expertise

CBOs are uniquely positioned to support institutions. They are often **deeply rooted in the communities** they serve and bring to the institution:

- Understanding of the community environment
- Culturally relevant expertise
- Longstanding, trusting partnerships with students, families, and cross-sector organizations in the community
- Content expertise related to student well-being

*“Most of our students were Latinx. Big Brothers Big Sisters had someone come out who was bilingual. **She came from the community.** They felt really comfortable with her being here. She was so approachable to the students.”*

– San Bernardino Valley College

This landscape scan describes CBO-institutional partnerships in California at one moment in time.

The CBOs in this landscape scan:

- Partner with California higher education institutions to **support students holistically** (i.e., basic needs, career connections, social capital development)
- Include **nonprofit organizations** (e.g., 501(c)(3) organizations) and **regional networks** (e.g., organizations that bring together community organizations to support students).

Some CBOs support students statewide. Others operate in a specific community or region.

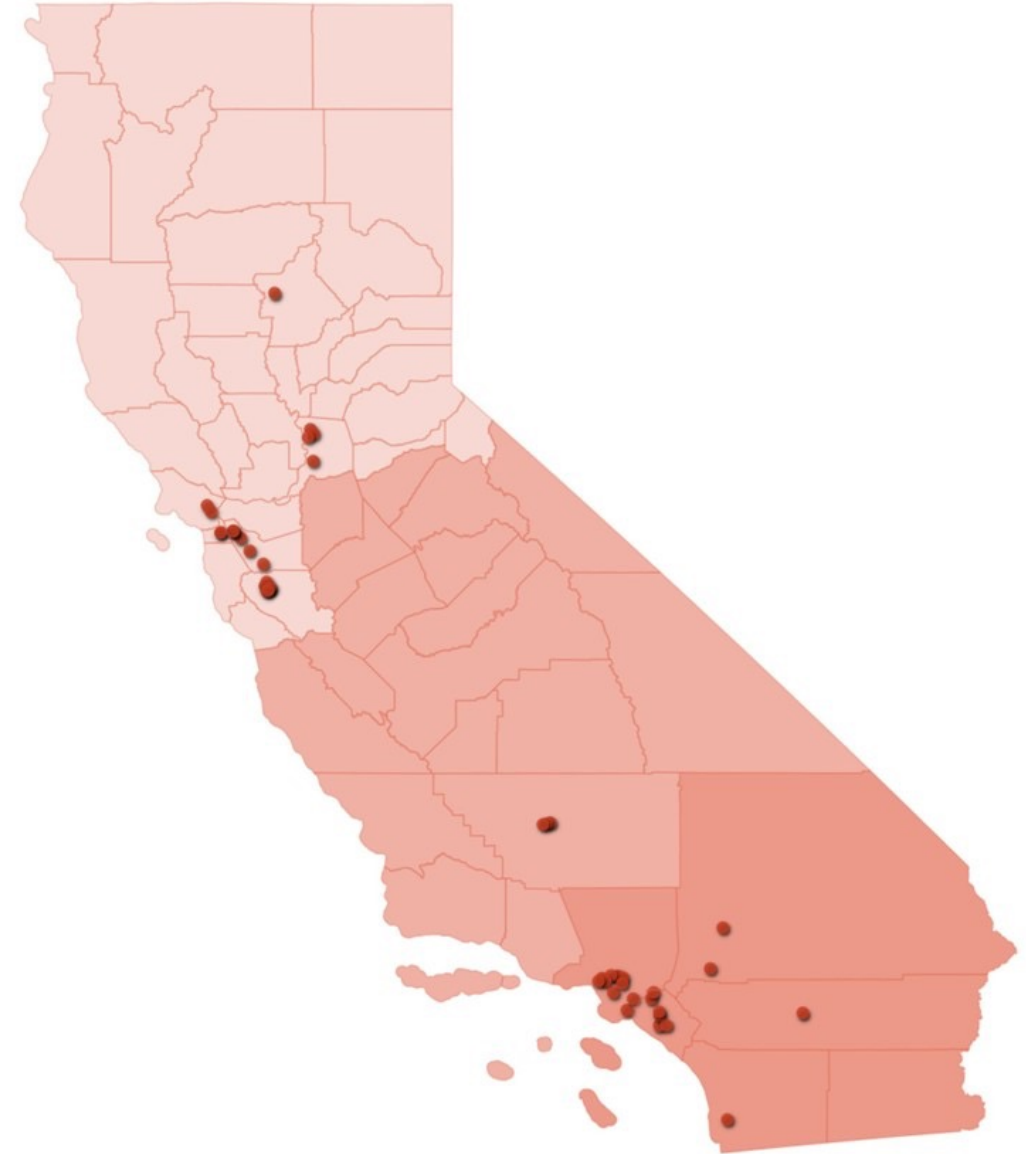
*“This has been my best two semesters... I made the President’s List and I’m planning to transfer in the fall. It’s not just about working and fulfilling my purpose. **It’s really about having a family.** They know who I am. They know what I’ve been through.*

– Current college student participant

There is a statewide movement of higher education institutions partnering with CBOs

A statewide web search located nearly **150 California higher education institutions** that are partnering with CBOs to provide **holistic student supports**.

There are over **60 examples of CBOs** partnering with California public higher education institutions.



CBO-institutional partnerships offer a variety of services

The types of holistic student supports offered by CBOs include:

- Housing support
- Food support
- Mental health services and case management
- Scholarships and financial aid
- Academic supports, including tutoring, graduate school readiness, and the transfer process
- Legal services
- Mentorship and coaching
- Career and workforce development
- Financial literacy support
- Life skills



CBO-institutional partnerships can be found throughout California

Number of CBOs partnering with higher education institutions by region

Region	Counties included in region	Number of CBOs
Northern	Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, Yuba	16
Central	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura	6
Southern	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	19

Source: College Futures Foundation CBO-Institutional Partnerships Landscape Scan



Northern California

Twenty-six partnering CBOs had headquarters in Northern California. Some served only institutions in the region; others served institutions across the state.

16 CBOs partner with institutions in Northern California

- 10,000 Degrees
- Abode Services
- Adelante
- Beyond Emancipation
- Bill Wilson Center
- Braven
- Canal Alliance
- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
- First Place for Youth
- Immigrant Legal Defense
- Improve Your Tomorrow
- Pivotal
- S.T.A.R. Programs Inc.
- United Way Bay Area

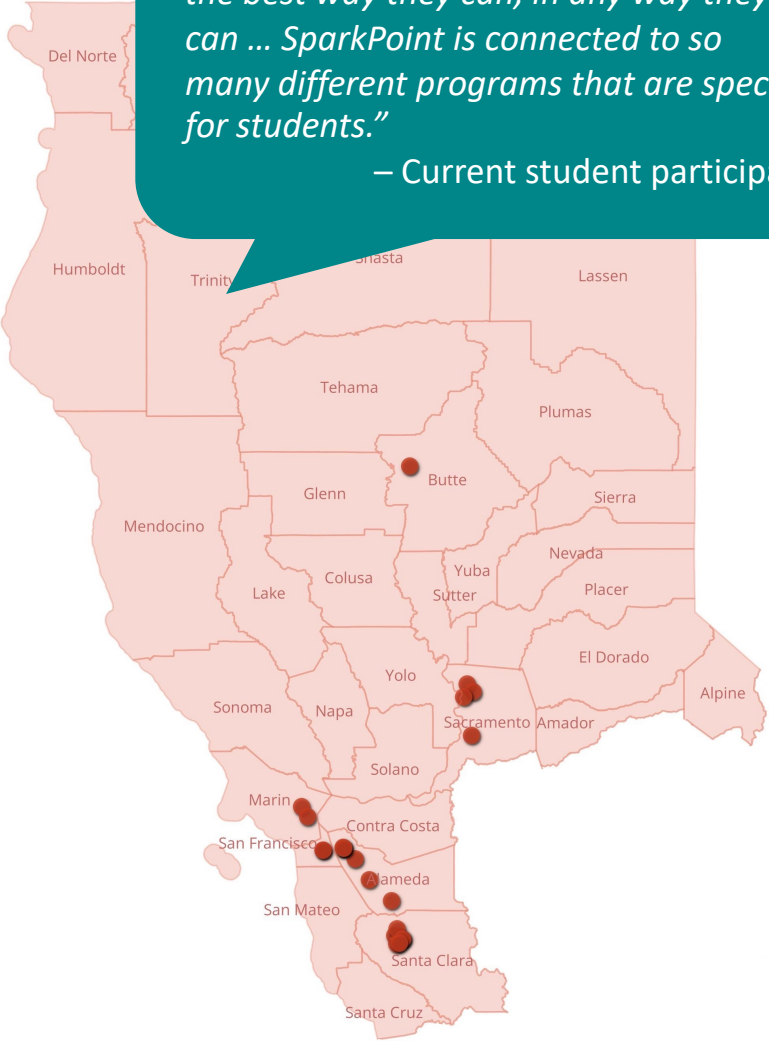
35 institutions partner with CBOs in Northern California

- American River College
- Cal Poly Humboldt
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Cañada College
- Chabot College
- Chico State
- City College of San Francisco
- College of Marin
- College of San Mateo
- CSU East Bay
- Sacramento State
- San Francisco State
- San José City College
- San José State University
- Stanislaus State
- UC Davis
- West Valley College

... and more! See the [CBO-Institutional Partnerships Directory](#) for a full list of CBOs and institutional partners.

“SparkPoint is truly trying to help you in the best way they can, in any way they can ... SparkPoint is connected to so many different programs that are specific for students.”

– Current student participant



CBOs with headquarters in Northern California

Source: College Futures Foundation CBO-Institutional Partnerships Landscape Scan

Examples of CBO-institutional partnerships in Northern California

United Way Bay Area (Sparkpoint) partners with 12 colleges in the Bay Area and offers basic needs and financial health resources such as food pantries, coaching, housing, and access to public health benefits. [Learn more](#) about the impact of UWBA SparkPoint.

Braven partners with San José State University and provides students with one-on-one mentoring, career education, and connections to career opportunities. [Learn more](#) about the impact of Braven.



Source: College Futures Foundation CBO-Institutional Partnerships Landscape Scan

CBOs with headquarters in Northern California

Central California

Six partnering CBOs had headquarters in Central California. They are concentrated in Bakersfield area, although some serve institutions in other parts of the region.

Five CBOs partner with institutions in Central California

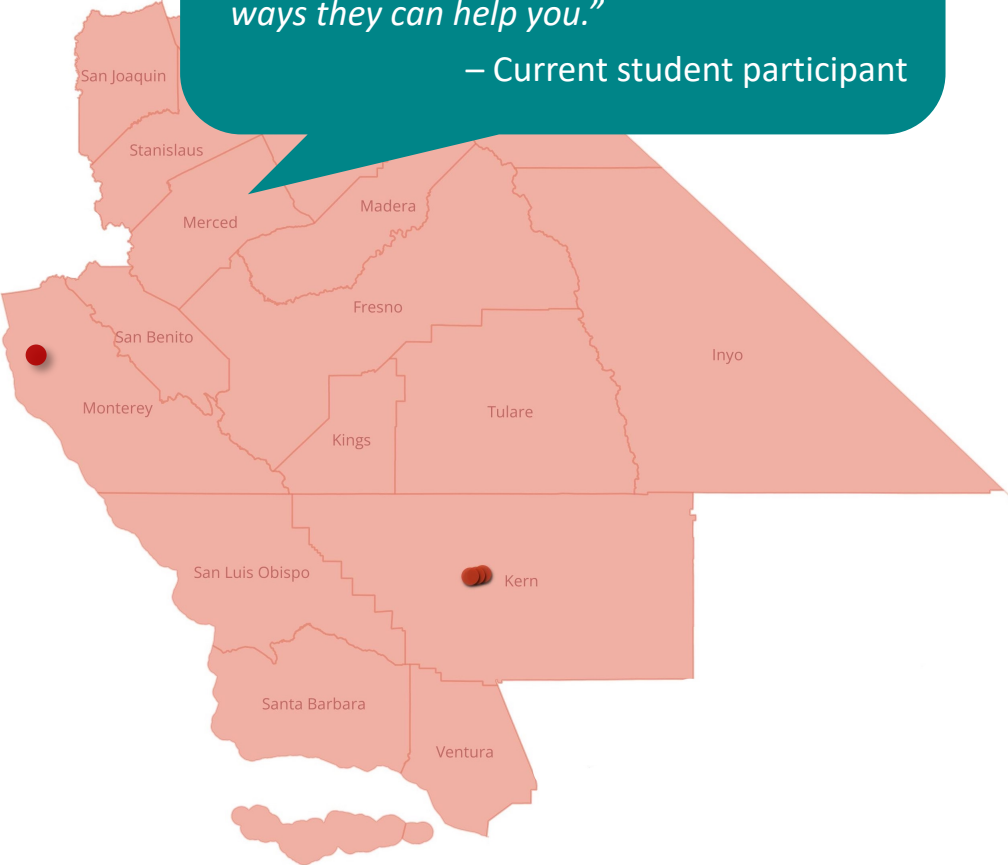
- Bakersfield Homeless Center
- Catholic Charities Fresno (Bakersfield)
- Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK)
- Immigrant Legal Defense
- United Way of Monterey County

Seven institutions partner with CBOs in Central California

- Bakersfield College
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- CSU Bakersfield
- CSU Monterey Bay
- Fresno State
- Monterey Peninsula College
- Stanislaus State

“It’s easier to talk with OneFuture staff sometimes, especially for me ... They’re easier to talk with and they’re more patient in looking for what you need and looking for ways they can help you.”

– Current student participant



CBOs with headquarters in Central California

Source: College Futures Foundation CBO-Institutional Partnerships Landscape Scan

Southern California

Twenty-two CBOs had headquarters in Southern California. Most served institutions in the region; others served institutions across the state.

19 CBOs partner with institutions in Southern California

- Babson Financial Literacy Project
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & the Inland Empire
- Catholic Charities San Bernardino & Riverside
- Everytable
- Foster Love
- Jovenes
- Mountain Desert Economic Partnership
- Orange County United
- OneFuture Coachella Valley
- Pathways of Hope
- Raise the Barr
- Rise Education Fund

... and more!

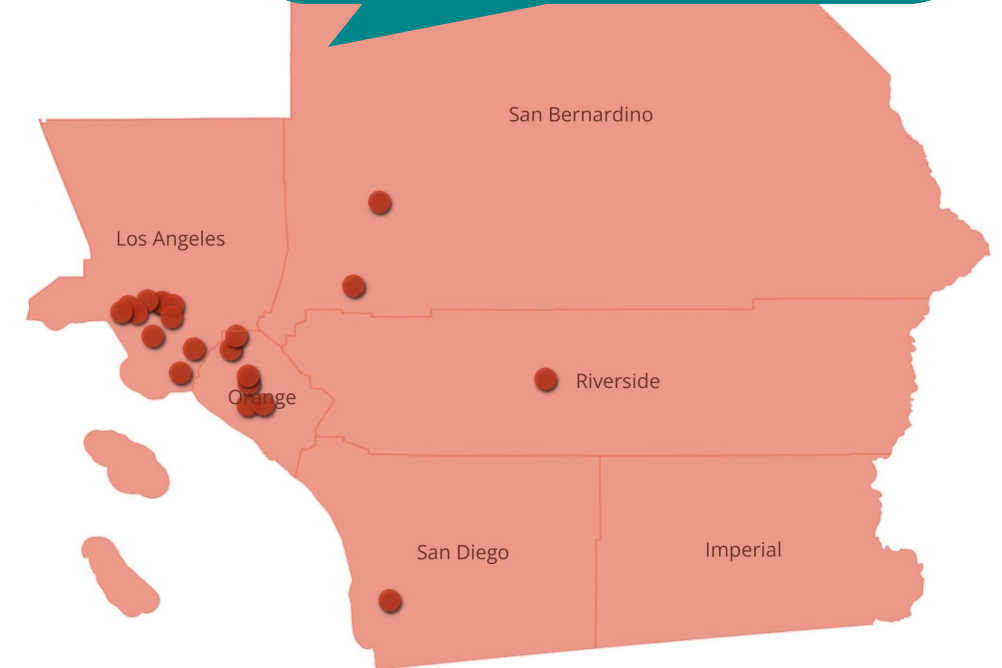
31 institutions partner with CBOs in Southern California

- Barstow Community College
- Cal Poly Pomona
- Cerritos College
- CSU Fullerton
- CSU Long Beach
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU San Bernardino
- East Los Angeles College
- Fullerton College
- Long Beach City College
- Los Angeles Valley College
- UC Riverside

... and more! See the [CBO-Institutional Partnerships Directory](#) for a full list of CBOs and institutional partners.

“At some point, when we only had our social workers, there were students who had appointments four or five weeks out. Now students are able to get services quicker. And we are able to focus on high-needs students.”

– Mount San Antonio College partner



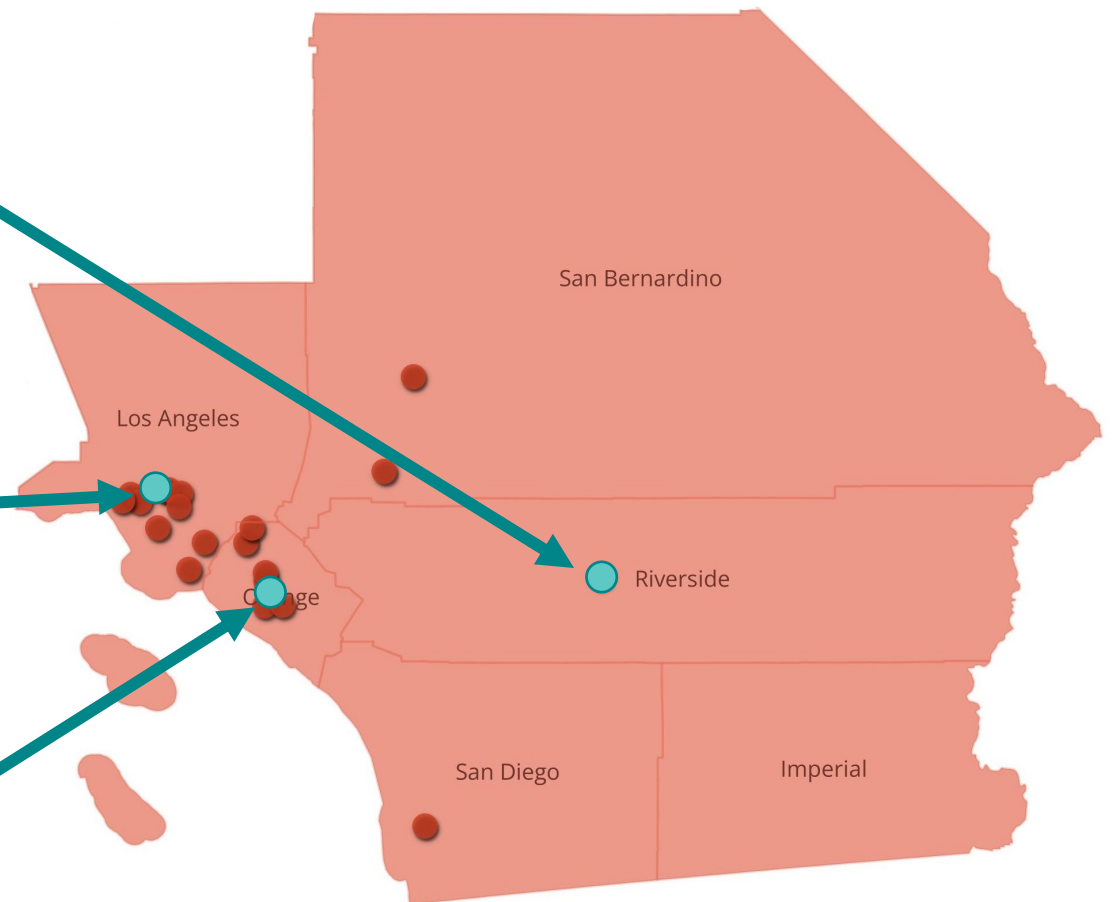
CBOs with headquarters in Southern California

Examples of CBO-institutional partnerships in Southern California

OneFuture Coachella Valley partners with CSU San Bernardino, College of the Desert, UC Riverside, and others to provide students with guided college and career supports, socioeconomic well-being, and mental health resources. [Learn more](#) about the impact of OneFuture Coachella Valley.

The Rise Student Navigator Network follows a student-led case management model to provide students with peer-to-peer services and assist with identifying, applying for, and accessing resources. [Learn more](#) about the impact of the Rise Student Navigator Network.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & the Inland Empire focuses on expanding personalized college and career support and entry-to-career pathways for youth up to age 24. The organization's mentoring program is a critical work-based learning opportunity that provides case management and wraparound support. [Learn more](#) about the impact of Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Source: College Futures Foundation CBO-Institutional Partnerships Landscape Scan

CBOs with headquarters in Southern California

CBOs partnering with institutions statewide

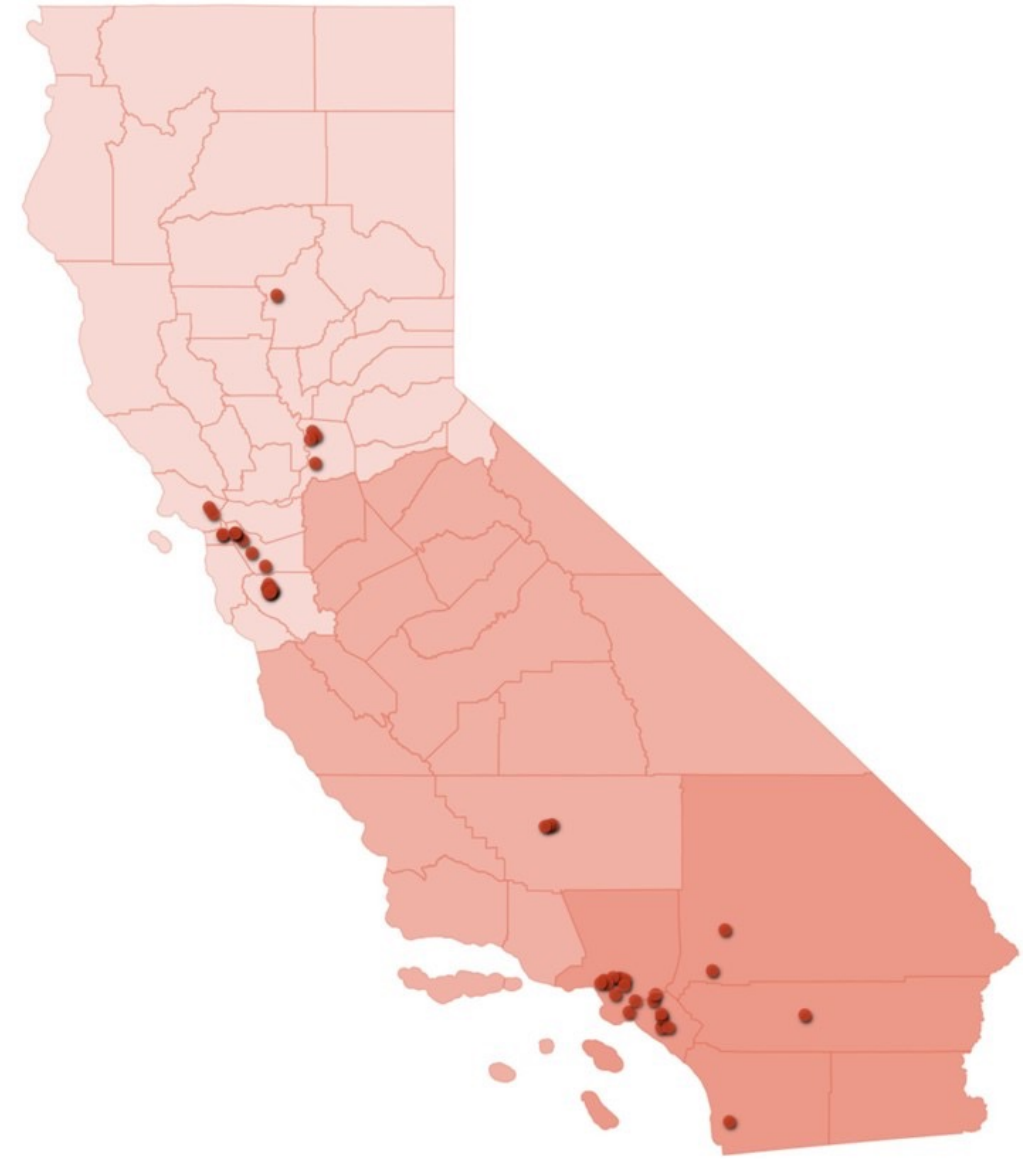
Some CBOs partner with higher education institutions across multiple regions of California.

18 CBOs partner with institutions across the state

- Achieving the Dream
 - African American Male Education Networking and Development
 - Beyond 12
 - Building Skills Partnership
 - California Opportunity Youth Network
 - California Youth Leadership Corps
 - College Possible Catalyze
 - John Burton Advocates for Youth
 - My Sister's Keeper
 - Opportunity@Work
 - Ready to Succeed
 - Swipe out Hunger
 - Umoja
- ... and more!

Over 100 higher education institutions partner with statewide CBOs

- American River College
 - Butte College
 - Chaffey College
 - Fresno City College
 - Grossmont College
 - Los Angeles Harbor College
 - Los Angeles Southwest College
 - Los Angeles Trade-Tech College
 - Los Angeles Valley College
 - Moreno Valley College
 - Norco College
 - Riverside City College
 - Sacramento City College
 - San Bernardino Valley College
 - Sierra College
- ... and more! See the [CBO-Institutional Partnerships Directory](#) for a full list of CBOs and institutional partners.



All CBOs with headquarters in the state

Project background

In 2021, during the height of the global pandemic, College Futures Foundation partnered with five CBOs providing holistic student supports. Funded CBOs include:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire
- Braven
- OneFuture Coachella Valley
- Rise Education Fund
- United Way Bay Area's SparkPoint program

Other organizations are forming partnerships to support student success. Education Northwest conducted a web search to identify CBOs in California that are partnering with higher education institutions to holistically support student success.

CBOs were identified through a systematic scan of student support pages on California community college and California State University websites. The maps include local and nationwide organizations that are partnering with private and public colleges and universities in California.

References

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