

Première partie de l'épreuve**College students don't have enough money to eat.****Their classmates are feeding them.**

The window of the food pantry is in an inconspicuous location on the second floor of the student services building at East Los Angeles College, and that's for the best. Some of the students who come here don't want the whole campus to know they're hungry. "It's really a sensitive topic for some people," said Anthony Dominguez, a biochemistry major
5 who sometimes works at the pantry and hands out packaged noodles, granola bars, energy drinks and other items.

After I spoke to Dominguez, I watched a student sidle up to the window and show his ID. He was handed a pouch of apple sauce and a granola bar, then walked away. So do a lot of students. Armond Aghakhanian, chief development officer for the East Los Angeles
10 College Foundation, says a recent poll found that 70% of the school's students "have experienced hunger/food insecurity." That's a startling statistic, but not a surprising one. The Times [reported two years ago](#) that in the nine-campus Los Angeles Community College District, 65% of the 230,000 students couldn't afford balanced meals and nearly one in five had been recently homeless, according to a district study.

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But there's some good news along with the bad. The pantry in the student services
20 building is one of several on campus, and professors and staff are among the donors to them. The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank has outreach workers on campus, enlisting eligible students. Aghakhanian told me the ELAC Foundation has also challenged donors and restaurants to feed hungry students, and hundreds of vouchers have already been distributed. Eligible students are given a minimum of 21 \$5 vouchers.

25 Gabriel Buelna, a member of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees, told
me he'd like to expand the voucher program to every campus in the district, but he also
wants to remove the stigma students might feel about using food coupons. "Let's get the
relationship with the restaurants and create a bureaucracy-free system where you can go
and get the food and the restaurants get reimbursed because we went and got the
30 donors," Buelna said.

More than 30,000 people a year volunteer to work at the food bank, and on Friday,
employees from Zappos and UDR Apartments worked the assembly line, sorting and
packing donated food for pickup and distribution throughout the county. Volunteer
coordinator Ana Martinez said the food bank is good through the end of the year, but
35 more volunteers will be needed after the holidays and well beyond, because hunger isn't
going away.

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