Student Support Resources on Campus

Illinois allows students to fill out a form notifying the university of a barrier to access (appears to be targeted toward ADA violations). [Report Barriers to Access (illinois.edu)](https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/6074258)

**Definitions**

**Environmental justice (EJ)** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

**Fair treatment** means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

**Meaningful involvement**

• People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;

• The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;

• Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and

• Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

**On-Campus Resources Associated with Environmental Justice**

Student Assistance Center

* *The Student Assistance Center serves as the first point of contact for students who call, email, or walk in to the Office of the Dean of Students. Our Assistant Deans help students understand university policies and procedures, educate them about and connect them to campus resources, and support students in crisis. Students visit us regarding a broad range of issues which may be impacting their academic performance including those related to health/mental health, course attendance issues, questions about where to go on campus to seek different services, options for withdrawing from the university, or because they need help and just aren’t sure where to go. We help students find their way!*

[Student Assistance Center » ODOS » Illinois](https://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/student-assistance-center/)

Emergency Dean

* One of the resources the University makes available to students is the support and guidance of a University administrator who is on call and can be reached when University offices are closed. The Emergency Dean supports students who are experiencing health or safety emergency situations in which an immediate University response is needed and which cannot wait until the next business day. The Emergency Dean is not a substitute for trained emergency personnel such as 911, police, or fire professionals.

**Food Resources**

**Student Community Dinners**

* Phone: (217) 344-0297 | Email: office@mckinleycu.org
* Offers freshly cooked meals to UIUC students who struggle with food insecurity. Who: UIUC undergraduate and graduate students. When: Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m. when school is in session. Where: McKinley Foundation / Presby Dining Hall. 809 S 5th St, Champaign. Buzzer entry. Identify yourself as community dinner participant.

**Food Assistance and Wellbeing Program**

* [Food Assistance & Well-Being Program – Campus Recreation (illinois.edu)](https://campusrec.illinois.edu/food-assistance-and-well-being-program/)
* The Food Assistance & Well-Being Program is a shopping style pantry. Food is set up on shelves by food groups. Shoppers walk through the space and select food according to pantry guidelines. This model allows shoppers to handle food, choose items, and look at the labels as if they were shopping in a store. Student volunteers are available to answer questions and provide resources. The Food Assistance & Well-Being Program is located in the rear of the ARC Instructional Kitchen (entrance on the concourse level, next to the indoor climbing wall).
* The program is focused on the development of students in a supportive and inclusive space. It is staffed by student volunteers from Food Science Human Nutrition who provide food support while developing their community building skills. We also work closely with faculty to provide educational resources to pantry shoppers.

**Everybody Eats**

* Bevier Café uses a pay what you can approach to offer students low/no cost meals on campus
  + NOTE: The free meal tokens are hardly available. Funding needed for tokens
* University housing hosts hot box locations with daily soup and rice. Free, no ID required
  + Located at SDRP building, first floor
  + ISR Terrabyte retail location next to the Freestyle machine.
    - NOTE: Can we audit to see if they are consistently filled or ask for data on use?

**Lunch on Us**

* OIIR hosts noontime discussions hosted by cultural centers that provide a free lunch to community members attending

**Dining Employment**

* Dining services offers free meals to employees for any shift worked

**Food Recovery Network**

* UIUC is a member of the food recovery network
* <https://www.foodrecoverynetworkuiuc.com/>

***Off-Campus Food Resources***

[*https://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/resources/students/food-resources/*](https://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/resources/students/food-resources/)

SNAP Benefits

* Students enrolled half-time or more in higher education do not qualify for SNAP benefits unless they meet one of the following special requirements:
  + Be under age 18 or age 50 or above
  + Be physically or mentally unfit
  + Be working in a paid job an average of 20 hours per week
  + Be self employed working an average of 20 hours per week and receiving a weekly earning at least equal to the federal minimum multiplied by 20 hours.
  + Be approved to participate in a state or federally funded work study and anticipate actually working during that time.
  + Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member under the age of 6 (only one adult may claim this exemption). When there is more than one adult in the home, the student must provide the majority of the childcare to meet this requirement.
  + Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member age 6 through 11 and does not have adequate childcare available to enable the student to attend class and work an average of 20 hours per week or take part in a work study program.
  + childcare is adequate and the student is ineligible when the child(ren) is receiving childcare at least 24 hours per week (time spent in school does not count as childcare); or
  + there is someone in the SNAP unit age 18 or older, other than the student, who is available to provide the care. A person who is physically or mentally impaired is not available to provide child care.
  + Be a single parent enrolled in a school of higher education and responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 12, regardless of the availability of adequate childcare.
  + Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) under Title IV of the Social Security Act.
  + Be enrolled as a result of participation in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program under Title IV of the Social Security Act or its successor program.
  + Participating in an on-the-job training program. A person is considered to be participating in an on-the-job training program only during the period of time the person is being trained by the employer.
  + Self-initiates placement or is assigned to or placed in an institution of higher education through or in compliance with the requirements of one of the programs listed below:
  + A program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) of 2014;
  + A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974; An employment and training program under the Food Stamp Act, such as a TANF Work and Training Program or SNAP Employment and Training Program;
  + An employment and training program for low-income households that is operated by a State or local government, including a program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, administered by a community college that will lead to employment. Some examples of career and technical programs offering certificate or a diploma that will lead to employment are data entry occupations, medical and health care careers, HVAC and refrigeration, hospitality and tourism management.
  + new manual text As provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, two temporary exemptions are added to the existing list. See WAG 03-04-03-b on how to verify these 2 exemptions. The two temporary exemptions apply to students who do not meet one of the existing exemptions but meet either of the following:
  + The student is eligible to participate in a State or Federally funded work study program during the regular school year, as determined by the institution of higher education. The student does not need to be anticipating or expecting to work during the school year; or
  + The student has an expected family contribution (EFC) of $0 in the current school year. The EFC is an index number that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid a person qualifies for at their school.
  + Note: To qualify during the summer break, the student must continue to meet one of the above requirements.
* NOTE: if more than half of the student’s daily meals are provided by the university, the student is not eligible to particiate in SNAP regardless of meting an exemption requirement.
* NOTE: Students enrolled less than half-time do not have to meet the eligibility requirements to qualify for SNAP.

**Campus Policy Participation Resources**

**Illinois Student Government**

* Illinois Student Government maintains several committees that are open for all students to advocate for and develop student initiatives on campus, giving students a seat at the table for campus policies.

**Timeline**

10/9/2020

* Resilience Team Meeting
  + Meredith talking with Kaamilyah form OVCDEI
  + Work on EJ in Garden Hills neighborhood and in other parts of CU

12/3/2020

* EJ Discussion with Scott Tess, Morgan White, Ximing Cai, Sharva Hampton-Campbell, Kaamilyah Abdullah-Span, Ruby Mendenhall, Meredith Moore
* School of Social Work focusing on poverty in CU and student body

1/20/2021

* Meeting about EJ Planning, nothing related to EJ on campus

2/26/2022

* EJ Planning meeting, framework developed, no clear campus EJ issues.

3/2/2021

* Next steps are to **narrow down indices and indicators that the university/municipalities has control to instigate change**
* Students are collecting datasets from GIS Consortium to ultimately make an environmental vulnerability assessment
* 2020 Census shapefile data is currently being released
* FEMA also has indicators that would be potentially useful
* Engagement and participation of disadvantaged communities is needed. **Regional Planning Commission has impressive stakeholder engagement process that we could learn from or we could fund them to do something for us.**

4/1/2021

* Meredith mentions a public survey of EJ needs in CU community, was it ever deployed?
* Scott Tess mentions making a planning outline for the EJ Plan out to July 2024, was it made?

4/6/2021

* Morgan mentions securing funding for Kimmy and/or Genevieve to conduct focus group interviews on EJ during summer 2021.
  + Did this happen?

7/8/2021

* Kimmy Chuang sends out email asking for approval of EJ Focus Group Questions

9/13/2021

* Kimmy Chuang Submits final report on summer 2021 internship, questions and contact list for EJ focus groups created, does not appear focus group sessions took place.

10/1/2021

* iSEE members meet with Design for America students working and present Environmental Justice Planning as a potential project for DFA students to work on

10/19/2021

* DFA meets with Stacy Gloss to discuss ideas for an EJ theme project to be completed in 5/22 (minutes? Not posted on iCAP Portal)

3/30/2022

* Resilience team meeting discusses next steps for a campus EJ plan, decides next steps are to assign someone along with an iSEE staff member to meet with municipal staff and leadership about known issues, open up dialogue with municipality in order to troubleshoot problems/see where the university can assist
* Submit recommendation

4/7/2022

* Resilience Team meeting
  + Progress made on green infrastructure mapping, Lisa Merrifield met with IEPA and will meet with NCS about next steps
  + DFA will soon present a project on E-Waste
  + Working to understand extension role in EJ, White, Gloss, Moore, to meet with Shibu Kar as an introductory step

4/27/2022

* Moore and Gloss give presentation on EJ to an Eco-Lunch group

6/8/2022

* White, Gloss, & Moore meet with Bob Flider on EJ
  + Follow up meeting was to be scheduled with this group, White, Gloss, and Moore were to develop a one-pager outlining the priorities of the plan, resources, action items, etc. That Flider would pass along to leaders in cities to move process forward.