



## Cradle-to-Career Data and Tools Advisory Board Proposal Form

### Instructions:

Per the [Governance Manual](#) proposal forms submitted will address significant gaps regarding whether the data system is providing access to actionable information. Please note there should only be one proposal per form.

### Name:

Jacob (Oliver) Schak

### Proposal Title: *no more than 50 characters*

Expanding Student Homeless Status Data Element

- ☒ By checking this box, I understand that I will be presenting my recommendation at the Fall Advisory Board meeting.

### Type of Proposal<sup>1</sup>:

- ☐ Changes to tools such as dashboards or practical tools (*Complete section one*)
- ☒ Adding data points not available through the P20W data set or adjusting (including the removal of) the existing P20W data points (*Complete section two*)
- Please note a proposal form(s) can recommend adding one data point or several clearly related data points to the data system.

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<sup>1</sup> The C2C Governance Manual notes that DTAB members can also submit recommendations related to the data request process and query builder. As these are not yet live, they have been removed from the version of this form.

### [Section One: Changes to Practical Tools](#)

1. What is the nature of the gap regarding access to actionable information?

2. What type of tool should be developed?

3. How would a tool address the gap?

4. Who would be the likely user(s) of the tool?

5. How does the tool relate to the [mission and vision](#) of C2C?

### [Section Two: Adding Data Points Not Available Through the P20W Data Set or Adjusting the Existing P20W Data Points](#)

1. Please state the research question of interest that cannot be fully addressed with the [existing data elements](#) in the P20W Data System.

Who are the students facing housing insecurity and/or homelessness? What conditions signal that a student is likely to experience housing insecurity and may benefit from receiving housing support and homeless prevention services?

What students have accessed housing and homeless support services (e.g., continuum of care services, rapid rehousing, short-term transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, street services, etc.)? What type of services are students accessing?

Are there barriers to students and their families accessing housing and homeless support services and resources?

Where are the gaps in the housing and homeless services available to students?

How are student outcomes impacted by housing insecurity and/or homelessness?

2. How does this research question relate to the [mission and vision](#) of C2C?

By identifying students who are experiencing homelessness and identifying the gaps in homeless services, higher education and homeless service institutions can better identify services that remove barriers for students. The research questions will highlight services and interventions that support positive student outcomes and help implement policies that find real solutions to student housing insecurity and homelessness. The data will illustrate which students are utilizing housing support services and which institutions are supporting students best.

Improving data on homelessness and housing is critical to better understanding the lived experiences of students. Inadequate housing is a common challenge for adolescents and young adults, and including those enrolled in college, with the [2023 Affordability, Food & Housing Accountability Taskforce Report](#) finding that as many as 1 in 4 California community college students experienced homelessness within the last year. In light of these survey responses, it's important that any PW20 data point on homelessness incorporate additional data sources to ensure that dashboards and query tools do not undercount student homelessness.

By gathering homeless status data from multiple sources — including data assets from CDII's Agency Data Hub — there will be a more representative picture of students that experience homelessness. Relying solely on HDIS data

would create an incomplete picture and may underestimate the number of students who experience homelessness.

3. Please propose additional data element(s) needed in order to successfully address the research question of interest.

Currently the P20W Data System has a Homeless Status data point with data elements primarily focused on K-12 students. This proposed data element would expand the Homeless Status data point to include more information about the student experience such as services accessed. Additionally, the element be expanded to provide a more complete and inclusive picture of student housing insecurity and homelessness for students, including a longitudinal view of how housing insecurity and homelessness impact students throughout their academic journey.

At minimum, the P20W Data System should include:

- Flags indicating whether each student experienced any homelessness prior to enrollment over the preceding 30 days, 12 months, 5 years, and ever since birth.
- Information on whether each student was homeless during the school year, and what kinds of services the student received, such as the service provider, nature of housing (e.g., rapid rehousing), and duration of services.
- Outcome measures on the number and duration of homeless spells at 1 year, 5 years, and 10 years after exiting high school and/or college.

Data would be ingested into the P20W Data System at least on an annual basis. And to the extent possible, flags would indicate the type of homelessness the student experienced (e.g., sheltered or unsheltered, chronic or transitional, etc.).

4. Please verify that the proposed data element(s) do not already exist in the P20W Data System.

Verified.

5. If the P20W Data System does not currently include the proposed data element(s), can the proposed data element(s) be derived from the existing data element(s) in the P20W Data System?

No. While the P20W Data system does include some data regarding homeless student status, it's unclear whether the data collected includes data regarding housing and homelessness support services accessed by adult higher education students or information that allows institutions to identify where there are gaps in services or track how. The data may also allow for more nuanced metrics on how housing stability and homelessness patterns change over time, as a student progresses through school, college, and beyond.

6. If the P20W Data System does not currently include the proposed data element(s), are there existing data element(s) closely related to the proposed data element(s)? If so, please list them and why they are not sufficient to answer the proposed research question.

The current existing data elements closely related to the proposed data element are: Student Characteristics: Homeless status (CDE [ELC], CDE [K12], CCC, Independents, CSAC, DHCS). We are modifying these data elements to include data from Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) and Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot (HHIP), also known as College-Focused rapid rehousing, data for higher education students. We want the data to be further contextualized with the survey data provided by CSAC. The homeless status data point is currently based on K-12 data that's collected before students enter higher education or self-reporting data on FAFSA, which may undercount many students. The housing and homeless support services data collected by HDIS alone is insufficient because it excludes students who don't

access regional homeless support services or don't qualify for those services. Students that may be excluded from the current P20W Data system include: students not enrolled at community colleges, students who don't fill out the FAFSA, and students who did not receive McKinney Vento benefits in K-12.

7. C2C keeps a [repository](#) of previous data elements that were either a) considered during the planning process or b) proposed through the mechanisms as outlined in the Governance Manual, but were ultimately not included in the P20W, along with related feasibility studies. Do any of the data element(s) being proposed overlap with the data elements in this repository? (New proposals can build on or duplicate prior proposals. It is helpful for proposers to share that context, including prior related feasibility studies.)

The data elements that are being proposed do not overlap with elements previously proposed in the C2C repository. During the February 28, 2025 Cradle-to-Career Governing Board meeting, the Center for Data Insights and Innovation (CDII) shared that CalHHS is creating an Integrated Homeless Data Set which will include HDIS and additional social services and health data sets. We are aware that CDII is working to provide this data to the PW20 Data System. We are unsure of the data elements that will be shared as a result of this partnership.

8. Are the proposed data element(s) already collected by a state-level entity? For data element(s) already collected, please answer question nine. For data element(s) not collected, please answer question ten.

Yes.

9. [For proposed data element(s) already collected] To the extent possible, please share details pertaining to the proposed data element(s). Relevant details may include but are not limited to: a) corresponding entity that collects

and houses the data element(s); b) specific variable name(s) used in the originating data system; and c) timeframe available.

The Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) would identify students that have accessed Continuum of Care services. HDIS is collected by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH). Cal ICH is housed under the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. The timeframe for available data starts in 2017. Homeless and Housing Insecurity Pilot (College-Focused Rapid Rehousing) data from the CCCs CSU's and UC's captures students who are enrolled in rapid rehousing programs and their educational outcomes. Rapid rehousing data is collected by the CCC CSU and UC systems via their basic needs centers. The timeframe available for the data starts in 2019.

Other housing assistance programs provided by educational institutions not funded by HHIP. The "2023 Food and Housing Survey: Understanding Students' Basic Needs" conducted by CSAC identifies students who face housing insecurity and homelessness across the three higher education segments. This survey can serve to contextualize the data provided by HDIS and the HHIP and support identifying where there may be gaps in services to students. The CSAC survey data was collected by CSAC and the survey was conducted in 2023.

DHCS and CDSS additionally collect and maintain data on housing stability and homelessness for youth who receive therapeutic and child welfare services from county agencies. The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment, a multi-purpose tool used to evaluate child well-being and support care coordination, includes a four-point rating on residential stability. This item could provide a valuable data point for the hundreds of thousands of students who complete at least one CANS (or ANSA) assessment during childhood and early adulthood.

10. [For proposed data element(s) not collected] Please propose institution(s) that would be most suited for the new data collection effort.

N/A

11. Please explain the desired level(s) of grain size for each data element proposed. (i.e., individual-level, institution-level, or other aggregated levels)? Multiple grain sizes may be requested for each proposed data element.

Individual level, institutional level, segment level, regional level and state level.

12. Please explain the intended use case(s) for the proposed data elements (i.e., dashboards, query builder, or the research request tool)? Multiple use cases may be requested for each proposed data element.

The intended use of this data is to inform policy, research, track gaps in housing and homeless services provided to students and find solutions to those gaps. Dashboards will be used to show trends across campuses, regions, segments and other demographic variables for students experiencing homelessness. They could also increase awareness of the extent and patterns in housing insecurity among students and families. A query builder will be useful in narrowing down specific student groups and finding equity gaps.

A research request tool is useful for in-depth analysis that will be conducted by advocates, researchers and policy makers. For instance, they could examine how schools can help connect students to housing services, and how improved housing stability may support improved outcomes for students. They will be able to request sensitive data that is not available through the dashboard or query builder.