



2025 Trellis Student Financial Wellness Survey

May 26, 2026

About Trellis Strategies

- Non-profit strategic research, technical assistance, and consulting firm
- Focused on advancing postsecondary education and strengthening the workforce

Trellis Strategies

Survey Context

- 153 institutions participated in the Fall 2025 survey
 - 103 public two-year community colleges
- 129 questions
- Lee College's survey history
 - Fall 2018
 - Spring 2023 (Hope Center Survey for Basic Needs)
 - Fall 2025

Financial Stress Indicators

- **51%**

- Students worried about paying monthly expenses
 - National average: 53%

- **58%**

- Students who would struggle to produce \$500 in an emergency
 - Reduced from 67% in 2018

- **72%**

- Students who ran out of money at least once in the past year

25%

of students reported running out of money at least eight times during the year.



Basic Needs Insecurity Rates

Key Findings Across Surveys

Metric	2018 SFWS (LC)	2023 Hope Center (LC)	2025 SFWS (LC)	2025 SFWS (National)
Any Basic Needs Insecurity	52%	69%	51%	55%
Food Insecurity	29%	49%	40%	42%
Housing Insecurity	52%	57%	34%	40%

Wellbeing and Mental Health

40%

- Students reported experiencing generalized anxiety disorder.

57%

- Students reporting sometimes or always feeling lonely

Institutional Support



81% of Lee College students believe the college has the support services they need, exceeding the national benchmark of **66%**



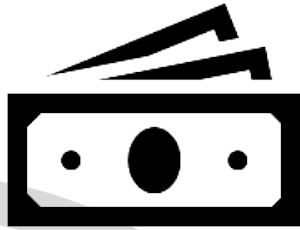
Student confidence in institutional support increased from **69%** in 2018 to **81%** in 2025



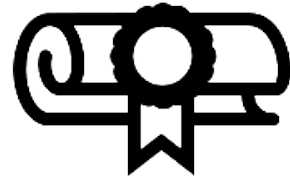
Investments in holistic student support are visible and meaningful to students



Hope for the Future



79% believe college is a worthwhile financial investment



82% believe a college degree will improve their quality of life



Students continue to pursue higher education despite substantial barriers

Conclusion and Questions

The data reflect both the challenges our students face and the transformational role Lee College plays in supporting their success.

Questions?

