CU donors, leadership rally to support campus food pantries[1]

CU students shouldn't have to face this painful question: Can I afford to eat today?

But not having enough food and lacking other basic needs are hardships many students unfortunately experience every day across the university. Interruptions to SNAP benefits, depleted food banks and other intensified needs during the holiday season have increased the strain on students.

To help, CU's donors and leadership are stepping up to support food pantries and other essential-needs programs on all four campuses — including generous matches by the CU system, its campuses and the CU Foundation.

Starting in November, donors began filling UCCS and CU Denver food pantries during a "Food Fight" fundraising campaign. And donors to CU Boulder and CU Anschutz are supporting food assistance and emergency funds on those campuses.

CU's leadership and the CU Foundation are complementing donors' generosity — and challenging them to give more — with matching contributions up to $400,000 through the end of the year. This includes CU President Todd Saliman offering to match up to $100,000 in donors' gifts (split equally among campuses) and another $100,000 match from the CU Foundation. CU chancellors Justin Schwartz, Jennifer Sobanet, Kenneth Christensen and Don Elliman have also contributed or are offering matches up to $50,000 each on their campuses.

The generosity began in early November with Food Fight, a spirited but friendly fundraising competition between UCCS and CU Denver, to which donors have given more than $60,000, as of mid-November. Donors' generosity to Clyde's Cupboard at UCCS[2] and the CU Denver food pantry[3] helps stock those campuses' food pantries and support programs that ensure students have nutritious meals and other basic necessities.

Donors to CU Boulder are supporting the campus's Basic Needs Center[4], which supports students with food and housing assistance. At CU Anschutz, the Student Support Fund[5] helps stock the campus's food pantry and provides aid to students experiencing unanticipated hardships and emergencies.

Food insecurity is a significant challenge every year, even when SNAP benefits are available. Nationally, about one-quarter of undergraduate students do not have reliable access to food, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Students without reliable access to food are more likely to leave school and never graduate and have lower GPAs than students who do not experience food insecurity, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Donors can help students in need by giving to support CU's campuses' emergency funds here[6].

To learn more about specific needs at each food bank, visit these campus websites:
CU Boulder, Buff Pantry[7]**UCCS,** Clyde's Cupboard[8]**CU Denver,** Milo's Market[9]**CU Anschutz,** CU Anschutz Food Pantry[10]

Updated IRS requirements will affect some CU retirement plan participants [11]

Government reopens but economic uncertainty lingers: What consumers should know [12]

[CU community invited to weigh in on CU's future][13]

The University of Colorado system has started work on its new CU systemwide strategic plan. Critical to this work is input from the entire CU community on what a shared future could look like.

To gather this information from all faculty, staff and students, university leadership launched a systemwide survey on Wednesday. The survey asks everyone in the CU community to voice their thoughts on the future direction of the university.

"This survey is designed to gather perspectives on university priorities, performance and opportunities for improvement," University President Todd Saliman said in his email launching the effort. "The insights you provide will help shape our next Strategic Plan as we work to continue delivering for our community."

To take the survey:
Use the unique URL sent to you via email, with the subject line "Share Your Voice on CU's Future," to respond. This link is unique to you and can't be shared. Plan to spend just six minutes to complete.
As added encouragement to respond, the campus with the highest completion rate across faculty, staff and students, will win a $1,000 donation to the campus food pantry.

[Learn more about the strategic planning process.][14]

[CU faculty researchers invited to apply for 2026 Boettcher Investigator status][15]

The University of Colorado and the Boettcher Foundation are pleased to announce the [2026 Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards][16] program.

[Video][17]

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Boettcher Foundation established the Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards program, which will provide up to five grants of $250,000 each covering up to three years of research activity with the intent to provide independent research opportunities to promising and talented early career investigators. Awardees will carry the prestigious title of Boettcher Investigator.

The biomedical research, supported pursuant to this grant program, will be designed to find ways to prevent disease and improve human health through basic and applied biomedical research. The intent of the program is to fund meritorious research that has the potential for new discoveries or advances a discovery to the proof of its potential value as an application to improve human health. This research will improve the understanding, treatment and prevention of human disease.

Since the first awards granted in July 2010, the Boettcher Foundation has awarded [CU's 75 current Boettcher Investigators][18] more than $17.6 million.

PRE-SUBMISSION WEBINAR (2:30-3:30 p.m. Dec. 12)

Potential applicants can learn more about the award program, the application and selection process, application tips, and participate in a Q&A with the chair and vice chair of the 2026 selection panel.

REGISTER HERE[19]

INTENT TO APPLY (New for 2026)

To ensure that the award selection panel has the expertise needed to review submitted applications, we are requesting that each potential 2026 Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards applicant complete an Intent to Apply form. Deadline for submitting this form is Jan. 9, 2026.

INTENT TO APPLY[20]

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible faculty researchers from all four CU campuses are encouraged to apply. For purposes of the 2026 award year, an eligible early career investigator (ECI):
Is an investigator who is four years or fewer from their initial career-track academic appointment as of Jan. 1, 2026, (i.e., whose initial career-track appointments began no earlier than Jan. 1, 2022); Has not previously received a major independent research award; Is an investigator who received a terminal degree or completed their initial medical residency within 10 years of Jan. 1, 2026, (i.e., on or after Jan. 1, 2016); and Is an investigator who is either a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident, as of date of application in 2026.
For more details, go to: http://www.cu.edu/bfww/eligibility[21]

Applications must be submitted to your campus grants office by the deadlines included in the campus-specific instructions. Links to the campus-specific documents are available here[22].

Do not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly.

International employees and students: Make sure your records are accurate before year's end [23]

UCCS makes 2025 Best for Vets: Colleges list [24]

How CU Denver's master's in criminal justice program prepares students for diverse careers across public policy, safety and more[25]

Rep. Crank hears about the 'great work' of the CU Anschutz COMBAT Center [26]

Federal update: Government shutdown ends, more[27]

From Nov. 14, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on the end of the Federal Government Shutdown, U.S. Dept. of Education Updates to Proposal on IPEDS, RISE Committee Consensus on Student Loans, and DOE Renewal of Quantum Research Centers.

Click here to read the post.[28]

From Nov. 13, this update from CU Federal Relations includes information on the Reopening of the Federal Government.

Click here to read the post.[29]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Updates and Actions[30] page.

Publication note: No CU Connections on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day[31]

CU Connections will not publish new issues on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27), Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Deadline for submissions for the Thursday, Dec. 4, issue is noon Tuesday, Nov. 25.

The final new issue before the winter holiday break will appear Thursday, Dec. 18; deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Dec. 12.

CU Connections returns after the winter break on Thursday, Jan. 8. Deadline for submissions is noon Tuesday, Dec. 23.

During the holiday breaks, the website will be updated with news should events warrant.

Kovacs receives Legacy Award from Society for Leukocyte Biology[32]

George to step into advisory role [33]

How Waggoner promotes belonging through anime [34]

More than entertainment, a CU researcher uses telenovelas to support Latinos with HIV [35]

Meet the arborists who care for CU Boulder's nearly 6,000 trees[36]

Menopause hormone therapy no longer has the FDA's most-dire warning. Now what? [37]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-donors-leadership-rally-support-campus-food-pantries[2] https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/48259/donations/new?designation=clydescupboardfoodpantryfund&a=11507409[3] https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/62981/donations/new?designation=thefoodpantryfund&a=115076%E2%80%A6[4] https://giveto.colorado.edu/campaigns/71170/donations/new?a=11453817[5] https://giving.cu.edu/StudentSupport[6] https://giveto.cu.edu/final-fall-2025-president-s-student-support-ask/?a=11508836[7] https://www.colorado.edu/support/basicneeds/buff-pantry[8] https://dos.uccs.edu/basic-needs/clydes-cupboard[9] https://www.ucdenver.edu/wellness/food-pantry[10] https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student/support/student-food-pantry[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/updated-irs-requirements-will-affect-some-cu-retirement-plan-participants[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/government-reopens-economic-uncertainty-lingers-what-consumers-should-know[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-community-invited-weigh-cu-s-future[14] https://www.cu.edu/strategic-planning[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-researchers-invited-apply-2026-boettcher-investigator-status[16] http://www.cu.edu/bfww[17] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdPJLvzbGZM[18] https://www.cu.edu/bfww/cu-investigators[19] https://cusystem.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wrYFr41pS_m4gQ7jFFlEyg?_gl=1*1r4zkpz*_gcl_au*MTk5OTU3ODE4OC4xNzYyODA0OTk[20] https://www.cu.edu/bfww/intenttoapply[21] http://www.cu.edu/bfww/eligibility[22] https://www.cu.edu/bfww/how-apply[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/international-employees-and-students-make-sure-your-records-are-accurate-year-s-end[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-makes-2025-best-vets-colleges-list[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/how-cu-denver-s-master-s-criminal-justice-program-prepares-students-diverse-careers-across[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/rep-crank-hears-about-great-work-cu-anschutz-combat-center[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-update-government-shutdown-ends-more[28] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-update-111425[29] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-update-congressional-deal-reopens-federal-government[30] https://www.cu.edu/office-government-relations/federal-relations/federal-updates-and-actions[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/publication-note-no-cu-connections-thanksgiving-christmas-and-new-year-s-day[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kovacs-receives-legacy-award-society-leukocyte-biology[33] https://connections.cu.edu/people/george-step-advisory-role[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/how-waggoner-promotes-belonging-through-anime[35] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/more-entertainment-cu-researcher-uses-telenovelas-support-latinos-hiv[36] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/meet-arborists-who-care-cu-boulder-s-nearly-6000-trees[37] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/menopause-hormone-therapy-no-longer-has-fda-s-most-dire-warning-now-what