

Supporting Homeless, at-risk, and students in care at Trinity

Trinity Christian College recognizes that pursuing a college degree can be a transformation experience in the lives of our students, their families, and communities. Our commitments to tuition transparency, student well-being, and debt reduction show that Trinity is dedicated to creating a space where all students can flourish.

This page addresses some of the unique needs of our students who are experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, or who have been in care. Students who are experiencing, or have experienced these things face unique challenges to degree completion. We recognize these challenges and are committed to supporting you as you pursue your education at Trinity.

HOUSE LIAISONS:

The State of Illinois requires that all college and universities appoint a liaison to support students who are experiencing homeless or who have been in care. Trinity has assembled a team of staff members who are committed to helping you access support resources and information that will be helpful to you.

[Illinois Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act](#) (IL Public Act 102-0083):

Definition of Homelessness:

“an individual enrolled in an institution who lacks or is at imminent risk of lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and care”

Definition of Student in Care:

“any person, regardless of age, who is or was under the care and legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services, including youth for whom the Department has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized guardianship agreement.”

If you are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, or have been in care, please contact one of the following staff to learn about resources available at Trinity and in the community:

Troy Schemper - Dean of Students

E: tschemper@trnty.edu P: 708-293-4963

Andrea Mossuto – Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions

E: amosso@trnty.edu P: 708-239-4812

Cynthia Coffey – Director of Adult and Graduate Recruitment

E: ccoffey@trnty.edu P: 708-239-4871

Resources for Students who are Homeless and/or In Care Available at Trinity

Campus Housing:

Trinity offers on campus housing to all students in the traditional undergraduate program. You can find out more details about housing options available at Trinity by following this link - <https://www.trnty.edu/student-life/housing/>. If you are interested in moving on to campus we recommend that you speak with a Financial Aid Advisor to see if you are eligible for financial aid to help towards the cost of housing. Based on availability, Trinity may be able to offer temporary housing options to students who are homeless and looking for another option. The IL Public Act outlines the following resources for students who are homeless.

- Waive fees during academic breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break)
- Allow students registered below full time to remain in housing
- Grant priority for on-campus housing to students experiencing homelessness and students in care

The Housing and Residence Life Staff can be reached via email at housing@trnty.edu

Trinity Emergency Fund:

There is an emergency fund available to all students who are experiencing an unanticipated financial hardship at Trinity. This fund is called the In It Together Fund. This fund was created to support students who are experiencing financial hardship that could impact their ability to continue and succeed as a student. You can find a description of the fund and the application by following this link - https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TrinityChristian&layout_id=6

Food and Basic Needs Pantry:

Location: Molenhouse Student Center

Hours: Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Thursday: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Trinity's Table provides an array of items for all students of Trinity Christian College. Trinity's Table offers toiletries such as deodorant, bar soaps, mini-sized shampoo, body wash, and lotion—feminine products, detergent pods, and razors for everyday use.

Trinity's Table also provides food items including eggs, milk, meat, and vegetables as well as non-perishable food, such as canned goods and pasta, and snacks like apple sauce, chips, oatmeal, granola bars, and tea.

Financial Aid Need-based Appeal

Trinity Christian College provides students with the opportunity to appeal financial aid due to a substantial change in income, private school elementary or secondary tuition paid by the family, unusually high medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance nor accounted for in the Income Protection Allowance, and other financial hardships. Students may complete a Need Based Appeal Form at the time a FAFSA is submitted or when the special circumstances become known. Along with the

Need Based Appeal Form, the family will need to provide any appropriate documentation to substantiate the special circumstance.

You can access Trinity's need-based appeal form through [this link](#).

Student Academic Success Services (SASS)

Our work is done as key collaborators across campus to support students on their academic journey. Our services consist of

- **Academic Coaching:** A skill's building resource for students who want help with overcoming barriers to academic success. Some of the skills developed are strategies for time management, study planning, dealing with procrastination, working on critical reading, note-taking, community building. Coaching is provided various areas of support through ACAD courses, 1:1 sessions and Study Tables. *Coaches are staff and or faculty and trained peers from within the Trinity community.*
- **Study Tables:** Dedicated spaces and times where students can regularly and voluntarily study one-on-one and in small groups to work on course readings and assignments. They can also work with an academic coach, peer writing coach, to receive academic support, including assistance in understanding assignment requirements, responding to writing prompts, conducting research, brainstorming, outlining projects, presentations, receiving tips on taking quizzes and tests, as well as feedback on assignments in progress.
- **Subject Tutoring:** Peer-led or contracted tutoring, with virtual or in-person service options, that is free- of- charge. Tutors help with concept review, test preparation, and pre-planning. Confidentiality is respected. *Subject Offerings:* **Math - Statistics, Finite and Elementary Education** | **Theology 131 &132** | **Chemistry 100-200 Level** | **Biology 100-200 Level** | **Business Finance 200 Level** | **Nursing Course 100-400 Level**

While we offer these supports to all of Trinity's students, we offer a specialized program for students that meet our academic requirements on a conditional basis, known as the Bridge Program.

- **Bridge Program:** *A summer program with a foundations component, which prepares students for college level academic coursework and creates space for college skills development. These strategies increase students' sense of belonging, reduce student loan debt, and equip them for retention and success. It serves as a "backstage pass" to success at Trinity through academic and social support. Bridge assists in transitioning to life at Trinity and offers continual support throughout the semester through workshops and wrap-around services.*

Student Academic Success Services can be reached at sass@trnty.edu

Wellness and Counseling

At Trinity Christian College, we believe that genuine education involves the whole person. In partnership with Siv Counseling and Consultation, we provide access to counseling services designed to cultivate emotional well-being, relational health, and spiritual vitality for all our student body. We provide a safe, nonjudgmental, and confidential space so that you can grow in your understanding of yourself and your world.

We are here to help you thrive, reach your academic goals, and tell the story of who you are becoming. Siv's counselors are ready to have confidential and therapeutic conversations to help with things like

stress, anxiety, and depression. We are also here to help you navigate through the transition to college as well as through some of the challenges students can face during this unique season of their life such as broken relationships, disordered eating, alcohol and drug addiction, issues related to sexuality and gender, trauma, conflicts related to faith, and more. All counselors are professionally trained and services are confidential. Counseling is available to all Trinity Christian College students at no cost depending on eligibility.

Follow [this link](#) to schedule an appointment.

Resources in the Community:

South Suburban Pads -[SSPADS](#)

South Suburban Pads offers assistance for people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. SSPADS provides support for finding both short term emergency shelter and longer term housing options with rental support. They also host a wellness center in the local community.

Illinois Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called Food Stamps). SNAP helps low income individuals buy the food they need for good nutritional health. If you qualify for SNAP, you will get an Illinois Link card. Each month, the amount of your SNAP benefits will be added to your Link Card account, and you can use it like a debit card to pay for food at most grocery stores.

- For more information or to complete a general application for benefits (ABE) visit [ABE Illinois](#).
- Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 1-800-843-6154 or 1-866-324-5553
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[Greater Chicago Food Depository](#)

The Greater Chicago Food Depository offers a variety of services that are available to our students. These services include finding a food pantry in the area, help with applying for food and medical benefits through the state, and support for dependent care including finding diapers and wipes and school readiness assistance.

Resources for Students in Care:

Foster Progress

Foster Progress is a non-profit organization in Chicago that supports students who are or have been in care pursue a college degree. Foster Progress offers resources for students who have been in care including descriptions of scholarships and a pre-college checklist. They also have a high school mentorship program where students are paired with a mentor and receive a scholarship for participating. Foster Progress also provides guidance for state aid programs specifically for students who have been in care. You can find out more information through their website. (<https://www.foster-progress.org/>)

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

DCFS offers several programs for students who have been in care in the state of Illinois. These programs include scholarship opportunities and connections to peer advocates and mentors. You can find out more information about the different opportunities available through DCFS by following [this link](#).