Agenda for College Persistence During COVID (Part II)

❖ Welcome and Intros (5 minutes)

❖ Icebreaker – At The Table (20 minutes)

❖ Key Updates - At the Table (10 minutes)

❖ Short Presentations & Discussion - Foster Care College Partners (40 minutes)
  ➢ FYSCI – Foster Youth College Success Initiative
  ➢ FCSI – Fostering College Success Initiative (formerly known as Dorm Project)
  ➢ CUNY ASAP/FCI – Foster Care Initiative
  ➢ New Yorker's For Children
  ➢ CUNY First Star
  ➢ iFoster

❖ Moderated panel discussion w/Fair Futures staff (35 min)
  ➢ College Coaches/Specialists from HSVS, Seamen's, and Cayuga; NY4C moderating

❖ Next steps - poll (5 minutes)

Icebreaker

- What was one success you've had since the last workshop?
- Was there anything you learned last time that was particularly helpful?
- What college topics would you like to receive more guidance + advice about?

At the Table

Updates to College Schedules and Policies

- **Every school system has their own COVID plan!**
  - CUNY updates are at http://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus.
  - Non-CUNY colleges have updates on their individual websites.
- **Withdrawal deadlines are different due to COVID**
  - CUNY's withdrawal deadline is now 12/13, the day before finals. This gives students more time to assess their progress before choosing to withdraw from a class.
  - Other colleges will likely have different deadlines – check the college calendar online.
  - Students can now withdraw without having to return financial aid funds.
    - This can still impact their financial aid for next semester.
  - Remember that students need to keep attending class + completing work to avoid an unofficial withdrawal! And be ready to appeal unofficial withdrawals when they happen.
- **Remember that CUNY is NOT using Credit/NC grading this semester**
- **Need to get in touch with a college office?**
  - Try both phone and email – and some offices have online chat through their website.
  - Look for a staff directory and contact staff people individually.
  - Connect with support programs!

At the Table

Supporting Academic Progress

- **Professors are using online grading more – but not always!**
  - Checking assignment and test grades online together is one of the most important things you can do with a student right now.
  - CUNY uses Blackboard, but other colleges may have different systems.
  - Some profs are not putting grades online, or putting some but not others.
- **It is more important than ever for students to be in touch with professors**
  - This is a good time to reach out to profs and find out how you're doing in classes.
  - Attend office hours to build rapport.
  - Use multiple methods of contact (email, phone, etc.).
  - Crucial to **follow up** if the prof doesn't get back to you.
- **Sample email:** "Dear [Name of Professor], I hope you're doing well. Do you think you could let me know what my grade in [name of class] is for this semester so far? I want to make sure I finish this semester in good standing and it would be helpful to know how I'm doing in your class. Thank you very much, [Name of Student]."

At the Table

Other Notes

- **Technology access remains a top priority**
  - Schools including CUNY offer technology to students upon request.
  - **Wi-Fi access is just as important as computer access.** Agencies should use their own funds + help students request emergency grant funds for access to mobile wi-fi hotspots.
    - CUNY has recently purchased Wi-Fi hotspots but supply is likely limited.
  - **Proceed as though next semester will be online as well.**
- **Thinking about incoming college students**
  - Expect most colleges to have the same admissions deadlines as usual.
  - **CUNY and SUNY students should be finishing up their applications soon!**
  - Most schools are currently test-optional **(this means that students with low SAT scores should not send their test scores).**
  - The January Regents are canceled – no decision made about June and August. With fewer Regents exams, course grades will be extremely important in avoiding remedials.
- **Contact us: info@atthetable.nyc // http://www.atthetable.nyc/for-students**

At the Table

"FOSTER YOUTH"

- Students who spent any time in foster care after age 13
  - ▸ Includes students who were subsequently reunified with their birth families, OR were adopted after their 13th birthdays

"ORPHAN"

- **Students who became orphans after age 13**
  - ▸ Meaning both parents are deceased
  - ▸ Financial Aid Administrators may use their professional judgment to dependency override in unusual circumstances for students claiming orphan status

Eligible Students also must be enrolled in one of these Higher Education Institutions:

- CUNY

- SUNY

- Private College or University in New York State

  ‣ Private schools must operate a Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)

  ‣ *However, students do NOT need to be enrolled in the HEOP to be eligible for FYCSI*

FYCSI @ CUNY

The FYCSI program at CUNY is a holistic support program designed to help students achieve academic and personal success. Using a layered approach, eligible students receive benefits and services that fall within five major areas:

1) Individualized Intensive Case Management Services
2) Enhanced Academic Support Services
3) Enhanced Academic Advisement
4) Community/Leadership Building
5) Financial Support

Fostering College Success Initiative

- **<u>Overview:</u>**
  - FCSI supports youth in foster care who are attending college through a collaboration with New York Foundling, Administration for Children (ACS), and CUNY
  - FCSI provides college-ready students in foster care with specialized wrap-around support as they pursue their degrees and navigate the complexities of gaining a college education.

- **<u>Program Services:</u>**
  - **Tutoring:** in subjects that students find most challenging and also, in general study skills and writing. Tutoring usually takes place in hour-long, individual sessions, and group sessions are available as well.
  - **College Success Coaching:** students are paired with a College Success Coach with whom they meet at least once a week. At the meetings, coaches support students with socio-emotional needs and general oversight and coordination of the student's life, which includes support with financial plans and life skills.
  - **Career Counseling:** meet with students individually and in groups to help students explore career options and plan for their futures after they graduate. Career counseling includes help with resume writing, interviewing skills, and obtaining internships and externships.

- **<u>Who is Eligible:</u>**
  - Any student in care in NYC can apply to the program no matter where the student attends college, but preference will be given to students attending colleges in NYC.

Fostering College Success Initiative

- **Eligibility Criteria**

  - Maintain a 2.0 grade point average
  - Maintain full-time status
  - Apply for and renew financial aid on a yearly basis (PELL, TAP, ETV)
  - Attend regular meetings with campus support team as required
  - Attend tutoring as required
  - Attend workshops and program events as required

Fostering College Success Initiative

- **Current Application Deadlines:**
  - CUNY students who wish to be considered for coaching, tutoring, career advising and housing in a CUNY dorm must submit this application **no later than November 20th, 2020 at 5pm**.
  - Students attending CUNY or any other college/university who wish to be considered for coaching, tutoring and career advising must submit this application **no later than December 1, 2020.**
  - Here is the link to apply: [Apply Here](#)

- **Contact Information:**
  - Elizabeth Tremblay (Acting AVP) Elizabeth.tremblay@nyfoundling.org
  - Viviane Ouedraogo (Acting AVP) Viviane.Ouedraogo@nyfoundling.org

ASAP-FCI: Eligibility Criteria

- Previously or currently in foster care
- Between the ages of 17-25
- CUNY ASAP Student*

Student Referral Form

- https://cunyasap.formstack.com/forms/fci

ASAP-FCI: Student Supports

Pre-College Support

Assistance with CUNY admissions, financial aid completion, and registration in ASAP

Financial Support

Fee waivers (Admissions, CUNY Start and Math Start)
Full coverage of tuition assistance (summer and winter courses)
Full coverage of MetroCards (replacement MetroCards)
Full coverage of all textbooks (beyond allocated amount)

Comprehensive Supports

Dedicated ASAP Advisor and Engagement/Retention Specialist to provide one-on-one support

Professional development opportunities

Partnerships

- Administration for Children Services (ACS)

- CUNY Administrative Offices

- CUNY Academic Support Programs

More Info …

FCI@cuny.edu

http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/asap/fci/

New Yorkers For Children Programs

Nick's Scholars Scholarship Program:

The Nicholas Scoppetta Scholarship (Nick's Scholars) Program is a comprehensive program for youth in foster care and foster care alumni who are enrolled in college in New York City. For up to 5 years, scholars can receive the following:

- ❖ Academic Advisement
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Mental Health Support
- ❖ Peer to Peer Mentoring
- ❖ Career Exploration
- ❖ Networking opportunities
- ❖ $500 – $750 per month for living expenses
- ❖ $1000 – $1,200 per year for textbooks
- ❖ Up to $1000 per year for tuition
- ❖ $500 move -in allowance

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- ❖ Enrolled or have been accepted to a College/University in New York City
- ❖ In good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 2.5
- ❖ 24 years old or younger

Additional information on all New Yorkers For Children Scholarships may be found here:
https://www.newyorkersforchildren.org/youth-resources/

New Yorkers For Children Emergency Grants...

NYFC provides the following <u>four</u> Emergency Grants to youth:

- **Charles Evans Emergency Educational Fund** (Aged-Out Youth who are currently enrolled in college or vocational program)
- **NYFC In Care Emergency Educational Fund** (In Care Youth who are currently enrolled in college or a vocational program)
- **NYFC In Care Not In School Emergency Fund** (In Care Youth who are not currently enrolled in college or a vocational program)
- **NYFC COVID Emergency Fund** (Youth who've Aged-Out of care and are not enrolled in college or a vocational program)

All Emergency Grants applications can be accessed at this link:
https://www.newyorkersforchildren.org/nyfc-emergency-funds/

Applications are on a <u>rolling basis and contingent on availability of funding.</u>

Back-to-School Package Program

The Back to School Package Program provides youth in foster care who are enrolled in college or an accredited vocational program with up to $2,500 in materials, including a brand new laptop and an amazon gift-card.

Students can receive a package every semester they are enrolled in school.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- ❖ Student is currently in foster care or aged out of care
- ❖ Student is enrolled in a 2-year or 4-year college/university
- ❖ Student is registered for a vocational program that is a minimum of 90 days

For more information, please visit:
https://www.newyorkersforchildren.org/youth-resources/

First Star Academy

First Star Academy

PROGRAMMING includes...

ACADEMY PROGRAM

4 year college prep. program for foster youth focused on academics and life skills

STEAM ACADEMY

Monthly virtual sessions and access to online courses that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math

ALUMNI PROGRAM

Offered to scholars who graduate the Academy as a resources as they transition to adulthood

SUMMER ACADEMY

Intensive 3-4 week residential enrichment program on a university campus

VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Weekly mentoring and tutoring sessions, as well as an open enviroment to connect and build community through virtual hangouts

CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

Seminars and workshops that provide tools to caregivers to become advocates for their youth

SCHOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Leadership opportunity for scholars focused on becoming civically engaged and enacting change in their local communities

OUR STUDENTS

Enrollment

3%   8th Grade
26%   9th Grade
30%   10th Grade
24%   11th Grade
17%   12th Grade

Data Collected in June, 2020

Diversity

41%   African Amer.
34%   Latino/a
15%   White
3%   Amer. Indian
3%   Multi-Racial
2%   Asian/Pacific Isl.
2%   Other

Data Collected in June, 2020

High School Grad.

99% of our scholars graduate from high school and 91% enroll in higher education

First Star Academy

FIRST STAR CUNY, COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY

A free, comprehensive four-year college access program for youth in foster care

First Star's Academies are a long-term college-prep programs for high school foster youth that include four immersive residential summers on a university campus and monthly sessions during each school year. We keep foster youth on track for high school graduation and prepare them for higher education and adulthood by providing specialized programming that addresses the academics, life skills, and adult supports unique to students in foster care.

TO RECOMMEND A STUDENT, PLEASE FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW

1. Ensure your student meets the following eligibility requirements:

   - Currently in foster care
   - Lives in the New York City Metro Area
   - Currently enrolled in 8th grade or high school
   - Able and willing to participate in the 4-week residential component at the university, and monthly Saturday sessions
   - Student is open to exploring supportive services like tutoring, attending workshops on mental health, social and emotional well-being, and further developing their potential.

2. Ask your student to complete Scholar Application and complete the Adult Recommendation Form.

3. Email the scholar application and adult recommendation form (if not completed online) as well as the scholar's transcript/school records to Academy Director, Senemeht Olatunji.

Academy Director Contact Information:
Senemeht E. Olatunji, MSW, LGSW
Academy Director, First Star CSI Academy
Senemeht.Olatunji@csi.cuny.edu
T: 718-982-2426
F: 718-982-2037

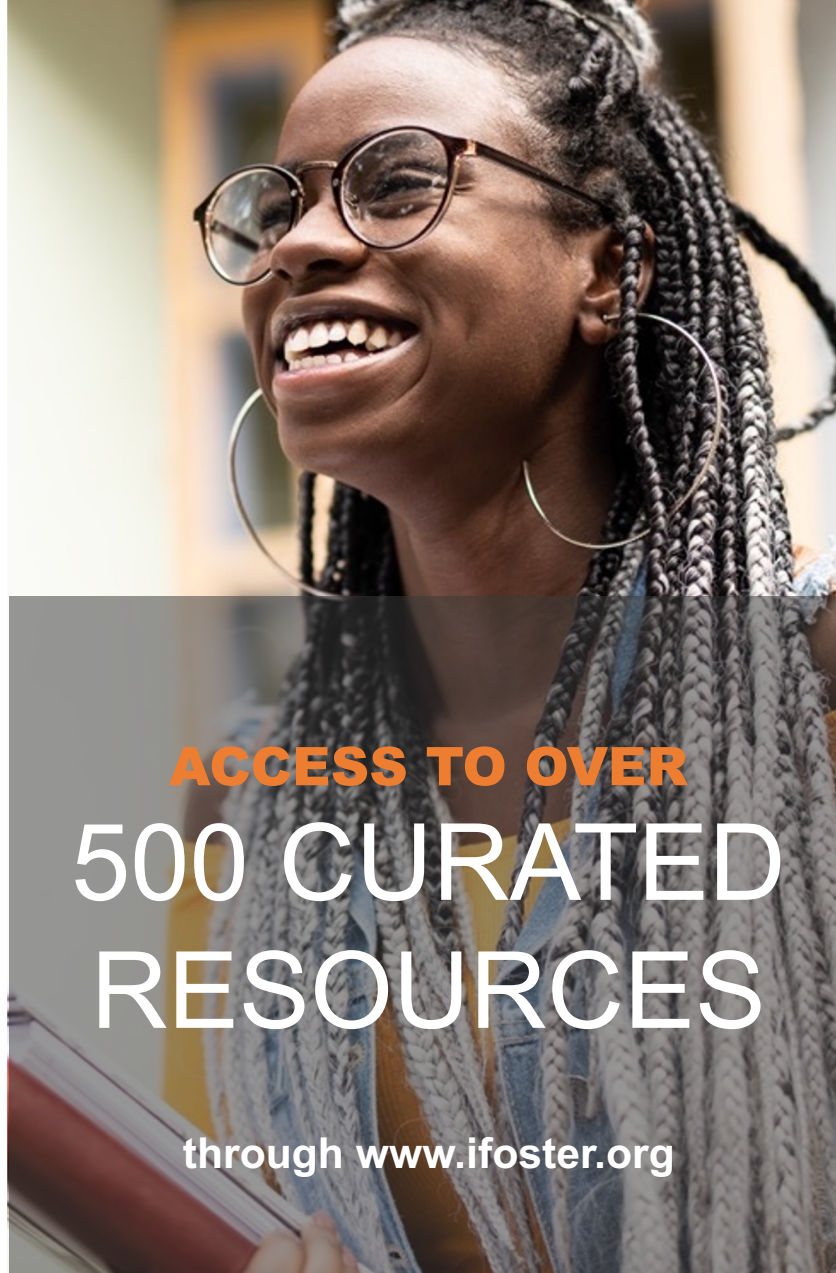Resources sourced across **government, private sector, public sector, and faith community**

TAY(16-24 y.o.), caregivers and organizations are eligible for membership. **Become a member today at iFoster.org!**

Optimize access through discounts, scholarships, eligibility criteria changes, process improvements, and program modifications to best meet the needs of our community

ACCESS TO OVER

500 CURATED RESOURCES

through www.ifoster.org

Available 24/7 online at www.ifoster.org or call iFoster during business hours.

iFoster ensures you get what you are eligible for! We follow-up and can escalate with our partners as needed.

Don't see what you need? **Contact us!**
1-855-936-7837
support@ifoster.org
jill@ifoster.org

jiji

| CONCRETE RESOURCES | TAY ASSISTANT WITH DIGITAL LOCKER | COVID – Phone Program |