

The Foster Youth College Success Initiative



WHAT IS THE FYCSI?

The Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) was established in 2015 to increase the population of foster youth, orphans, and wards of the court who apply, attend and graduate from college in New York State.

By providing financial assistance and support services, FYCSI also makes college completion a reality for eligible students.

Foster Youth College Success Initiative

How Can the FYCSI Program Help You?

FYCSI was designed to remove financial barriers that may prevent students from completing college as attending college can be very expensive, funding through the Foster Youth College Success Initiative supports the cost of college attendance including, but not limited to:

- Tuition and Fees
- Meals & Housing, including recess/intersession housing
- Books & Supplies
- Transportation
- Advisement, Tutoring, and Academic Support
- Personal Expenses



Am I Eligible?

All students — regardless of immigration status — are eligible to access funding and resources through FYCSI, if they meet the eligibility criteria defined below:

1. Are currently resident of New York State;
2. Became a foster youth, orphan, or ward of the court at any time after your 13th birthday. Students will have to present official documentation from the family court, a school official, a caseworker, or a foster care agency or death certificates in order to confirm they are/were a foster youth, orphaned, or a ward of the court; and
3. Are admitted and enrolled in a SUNY or CUNY college or university, or at a private college or university that participates in the FYCSI program. **It is recommended that you check with the Financial Aid and/or the Opportunity Program Office to determine if the college that you are interested in attending participates in FYCSI.**

How do I participate in the FYCSI?

FYCSI operates as part of New York State's opportunity programs. An opportunity program is designed to provide college access to students who are considered academically underprepared and financially disadvantaged, but demonstrate the potential to complete college. Opportunity Program students receive a variety of services to help them achieve success. Services include counseling, tutoring/academic support, skill development workshops (time management, organizational skills, and study skills) and developmental instruction.

Not all colleges and universities in New York State offer an Opportunity Program. However, based on recent changes to the law, there may be opportunities for students attending schools without Opportunity Programs to access FYCSI funding and services. Interested students should check with a school's Financial Aid and/or Opportunity Program Office to determine if that college participates.

Participating colleges and universities include, among others:

Private Colleges/Universities

Alfred University
Bard College
Barnard College
Boricua College
Canisius College of Buffalo
Cazenovia College
Clarkson University
Colgate University
College of Mount Saint Vincent
College of Saint Rose
Columbia University
Cornell University
Daemen College
Dowling College
D'Youville College
Five Towns College
Fordham University
Fordham University: Rose Hill Campus
Hamilton College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Ithaca College
Keuka College
LeMoyne College
Long Island University
Manhattan College
Maria College

Marist College
Marymount Manhattan College
Mercy College
Molloy College
Mount Saint Mary College
Nazareth College
New School
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
Niagara University
Nyack College
Paul Smith's College
Polytechnic University
Pratt University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Russell Sage College
Sage College of Albany
St. Bonaventure University
St. John Fisher College
St. Lawrence University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Siena College
Syracuse University
Trocaire College
Union College
University of Rochester
Utica College
Vaugh College of Aeronautics & Technology

Most students who receive FYCSI support will apply and be admitted to an Opportunity Program. For students participating in an Opportunity Program there is no separate application for FYCSI. New York State Opportunity Programs include:

- College Discovery (CD) & Search for Education Elevation Knowledge (SEEK)- City University of New York (CUNY)
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) - State University of New York (SUNY)
- Higher Educational Opportunity Program (HEOP) - Private Colleges and Universities

Recent changes to the Foster Youth College Success Initiative program provide access to students who either attend colleges that do not participate in Opportunity Programs or attend colleges with Opportunity Programs but are not enrolled in them. **If you attend a private college or university that does not offer an Opportunity Program, or they do offer one but you are not enrolled, reach out to your school's Financial Aid office to learn if you may be eligible for funding.**

For more information about the FYCSI and the eligibility requirements to participate in an opportunity program, please follow the instructions based on where you plan to attend college.

• **CUNY Students or Applicants:**

Contact Shirley DePena,
Director of Youth Matter.
Shirley.depena@cuny.edu

• **SUNY Students or Applicants:**

Contact the EOP office at the SUNY college(s) to which you are applying or Osei Agyeman, Foster Youth College Success Initiative Coordinator and Campus Liaison.
Osei.Agyeman@suny.edu

• **SUNY Non-EOP Students or**

Applicants: Contact the financial aid office at the school you are attending or plan to apply to.

• **Private Colleges/Universities**

Students or Applicants: Contact the HEOP office and/or Financial Aid Office at the private college(s) to which you are applying.

Some college applications may ask if you are a foster youth, orphaned, or ward of the court. Although not mandatory, identifying yourself on the application will increase the likelihood that you will be considered for participation in the FYCSI.

For additional information or questions relating to the statewide policy that established the FYCSI please contact:
FYSA@childrensaidnyc.org

CUNY

Baruch College
BMCC
Bronx Community College
Brooklyn College
City College of New York
College of Staten Island
Hostos Community College
Hunter College
John Jay College
Kingsborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Lehman College
Medgar Evers College
New York City College of Technology
Queens College
Queensborough Community College
York College

SUNY

University Centers and Doctoral Degree Granting Institutions

Albany
Binghamton
University at Buffalo
Stony Brook
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
NYS Ceramics at Alfred University
NYS Colleges at Cornell University
Environmental Science and Forestry

University Colleges

Brockport
Buffalo State
Cortland
Fredonia
Geneseo
New Paltz
Old Westbury
Oneonta
Oswego
Plattsburgh
Potsdam
Purchase

Colleges of Technology

Alfred State
Canton
Cobleskill
Delhi
Farmingdale
Martime
Morrisville

Community Colleges

Adirondack
Broome
Dutchess
Erie
Fashion Institute of Technology
Finger Lakes
Fulton Montgomery
Genesee
Hudson Valley
Jefferson
Monroe
Nassau
Niagara
Onondaga
Orange
Schenectady
Suffolk
Ulster
Westchester



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 **ALLIANCE**
Improving policy. Uplifting lives.

For questions about the production of this brochure, please contact
FYSA@ChildrensAidNYC.org