GET TO KNOW

FOSTER YOUTH COLLEGE SUCCESS INITIATIVE (FYCSI) AT SUNY

Providing Resources and Support Services for College-Bound Youth in Care

A Guide for SUNY EOP Students/Applicants
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

~ Nelson Mandela
Every student deserves a bright future. A degree from SUNY can be your ticket to becoming an independent successful adult. The Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) provides resources for young adults who have received foster care services to continue your educational journey. This state-funded program connects youth in care, eligible orphans or wards of the court who are accepted into SUNY’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) with academic support services and critical financial assistance to help you enroll in, pay for and successfully complete college.
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) operates as part of SUNY’s highly successful Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) which makes college possible for academically underprepared and economically disadvantaged students.

• You are eligible to seek FYCSI aid if you are currently a resident of New York State and have spent time in foster care at any time after your 13th birthday, are an orphan or ward of the court.
• You meet the federal Higher Education Act definition of a foster youth or orphan

HOW TO APPLY?

Applicants must self-identify as a youth in care and provide appropriate documentation at the time of your application and/or admission to an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) on a participating SUNY campus. EOP currently operates on 48 of SUNY’s 64 campuses, including 19 community colleges.

Please note: the Foster Youth College Success Initiative also provides supplemental housing and meals to those foster students who are not enrolled in an opportunity program on a SUNY campus.

For more information visit: https://www.suny.edu/attend/academics/eop/
WHAT BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE

FOR YOUTH IN CARE ATTENDING SUNY?

In addition to the comprehensive support services provided to you through your participation in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) (pre-freshman summer program, academic advisement, individual and group tutoring, counseling, mentoring and supplemental instruction) eligible foster youth receive an award each academic year to help pay for expenses above and beyond tuition. FYCSI funding can be used for:

- Tuition and fees
- Housing
- Meals
- Books and supplies
- Transportation

For more information visit:
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EOP VOICES

WHAT EOP STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ARE SAYING ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Meet Kimberly Alcequiez

“I’m currently receiving foster care funding, which is helping me raise my daughter, while reducing my financial stresses. This funding allows for me to be on track to graduating on time as well as provide for my daughter’s daily needs.”

Meet Gaetan Fleurentin

“The foster care money that I’ve been receiving has been very helpful to me. My sister, who has helped me since our mother passed away when I was 16, doesn’t have to worry about taking out any loans to help me out. Basic college needs are not a problem for me anymore.”
Meet Xavier Roberson

“Foster care has been the theoretical parent that held me when I fell and is actively putting me through college, despite the fact that I have a son. If foster care lost funding or disappeared I’d be lost again, alone and homeless struggling to live my life and make one livable for my son. I will always be grateful for everything foster care has done for me.”

PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

The SUNY Office of Opportunity Programs administers the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) for students admitted through the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).