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**WEBINAR #1: Using the College Success Guide • Presented Thursday, May 28, 2020**

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**1. How many foster youth attend college in New York?**

This is a complex question to answer. Based on research conducted by the Community Services Society of New York in partnership with FYSA, an estimated 18% to 24% of foster youth in New York go on to college directly after high school. TAP data from 2017/18 showed over 2,500 foster youth attended college full-time in the state. Ultimately, we will need to partner with colleges and universities to implement and collect better data for this metric.

**2. Common Misconception: Foster youth are automatically eligible to receive financial aid through TAP and Pell.**

This is false. Foster youth must complete TAP and Pell applications and meet the stated income requirements. Foster youth are only exempt from providing information about their parents' income for consideration. Youth still must either provide their own income, or verification of non-filer status from the IRS.

**3. Common Misconception: The cost of attendance rate is set at the same level for all students and is unchangeable.**

This is inaccurate. Each college will determine the cost of attendance, however students have the ability to ask for adjustments to categories within the cost attendance based on their specific needs and allowing for a number of factors.

**4. The Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI): Does funding go out directly to students, or is it disbursed to their schools for distribution?**

FYCSI funding flows to schools only. There is no application process. Students can only access these funds if they are attending a CUNY, SUNY, or a private school that operates a Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). It is important to note that students do not have to be enrolled in the HEOP to qualify for FYCSI funding.

*For more details about the Foster Youth College Success Initiative, we invite you to register for Webinar #2 scheduled for June 18, 2020 (or view the recording post-session).*

**5. Campus Recommendation: Foster Youth Identification Question on Applications**

We encourage all colleges and universities to include a foster youth identification question on their applications. While many institutions may be concerned about how this practice might stigmatize foster youth, research shows this question will be answered by significantly more students if it is paired with an explanation of why this information is being requested, and a preview of the available resources for youth in care.