
WEBINAR #3: Guide Navigation for Advocates, Parents, Caretakers, Child Welfare Staff, and Students • *Presented Wed., July 8, 2020*

1. If a foster youth is attending college outside of New York State, and they have a difficult semester, are there any resources for financial assistance while they work to improve their grades?

If a student loses their financial aid, typically, there aren't any resources available to assist them. The Fostering Youth Success Initiative does not have any Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements (SAP). Students may be able to enroll in a state school (CUNY, SUNY or Private) and access these funds.

2. Is supportive housing available in New York City?

Supportive Housing is available through the New York/New York III program to current or former foster youth between the ages of 18 -25 years old. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

3. For the Dorm Project, how does a student become aware of their assigned advisor?

Students are assigned a success coach and upon admission into the program the assigned success coach will reach out to the student to schedule an appointment and introduce themselves.

4. Is there any information about the status of the Dorm Project for Fall 2020?

Program information for the fall semester is pending. Additional details will follow.

5. Are all of your resources available to all counties within New York State?

Every resource discussed today has its own set of eligibility and access requirements. Please visit the college success resource guide website for specific criteria related to each resource.

6. Is there ever a conflict in financial aid between EOP/SEEK/CD funding and foster youth funding?

EOP/SEEK/CD are not financial aid programs. They provide students with academic support to successfully compete in college. These programs may have resources attached (such as book vouchers and tutoring services), but do not provide support towards the cost of college. HEOP programs may provide some financial support towards the cost of college (this depends on the HEOP, College Campus, and student needs).

7. Are students that go out of state for school eligible for college stipends?

The NYC Administration for Children's Services' Fostering College Success Stipend Program is available to all students enrolled in college and living in a dormitory (both in state and out of state). Students must be originally from New York City and in foster care in New York City.

8. From the perspective and personal experience as a student from foster care, when do you think High School students with similar backgrounds to your own would benefit most from learning about fee waivers, EOP/HEOP/SEEK programs, and the various resources/services available to college-seeking students with enough time left to still affect their GPA and correct any early HS missteps?

Answered by Nikolas Vasquez, FYSA Student Advocate: Personally, I think we should be hearing about all these programs and services as soon as our freshman year of high school. This way, the idea of going to college is already planted in the minds of students early on. We need to remind young people from foster care that college definitely IS an option for them. I do believe junior year would also be a good time for students to be made aware of available support and programs. At this point, students still have the chance to undo prior mistakes they've made and better their grades. Also, junior year in high school is an important one because those are the grades that get sent to colleges.

NOTE: You may contact Nikolas directly at vasqueznick25@gmail.com.