AOI
Aging Out Institute

Higher Education
Foster Youth Programs
2018 Review

A Snapshot of Services Offered by Colleges and Universities to Support Foster Youth

AOI Higher Education Foster Youth Programs: 2018 Review

INTRODUCTION

In the final quarter of 2017, Aging Out Institute (AOI) sent out a short online survey to higher education institutions, primarily targeting those that have undergraduate level programs designed to support youth who are in (or who have aged out of) foster care. The survey asked the institutions about their programs' services so we could learn what kind of support is being offered to these youth around the country.

Eight institutions participated in the survey. Because this did not comprise a large enough sample for our purpose, we supplemented the results of the survey by conducting an additional review of websites of higher education institutions that state that they provide services to support foster youth. We conducted Google searches for phrases like "foster care," "foster youth," "higher education," "school," "program," and so on in order to find relevant programs. As we discovered each program, we ensured that they are currently active by checking the dates on our Internet search results, blog dates, event dates, social media post dates, etc. We decided to select the first 92 active programs that we were able to locate through online searches so that we could – with the 8 that responded to our survey – include 100 programs in our review. We ultimately included a total of 102 higher institutions with programs for foster youth in our review. (We went over our original goal of 100 so we could include all of the VA community colleges, which we happened to find at the same time).

There are four primary challenges that youth transitioning out of foster care and into adulthood face:
- Completing their education
- Gaining steady employment
- Finding reliable housing
- Building strong relationships with supportive adults

According to Casey Family Programs, 70% of foster youth plan to attend school, but only 3-11% actually earn a bachelor's degree.

After looking in detail through each program's website and capturing the information that each provided about the services offered to foster youth, we developed this white paper. The purpose of this paper is to create a "snapshot" of services being offered by higher education institutions to foster youth. We believe that higher education institutions everywhere can learn from this information and make changes to their own programs (or even start programs) based on the data and the recommendations AOI has added throughout.
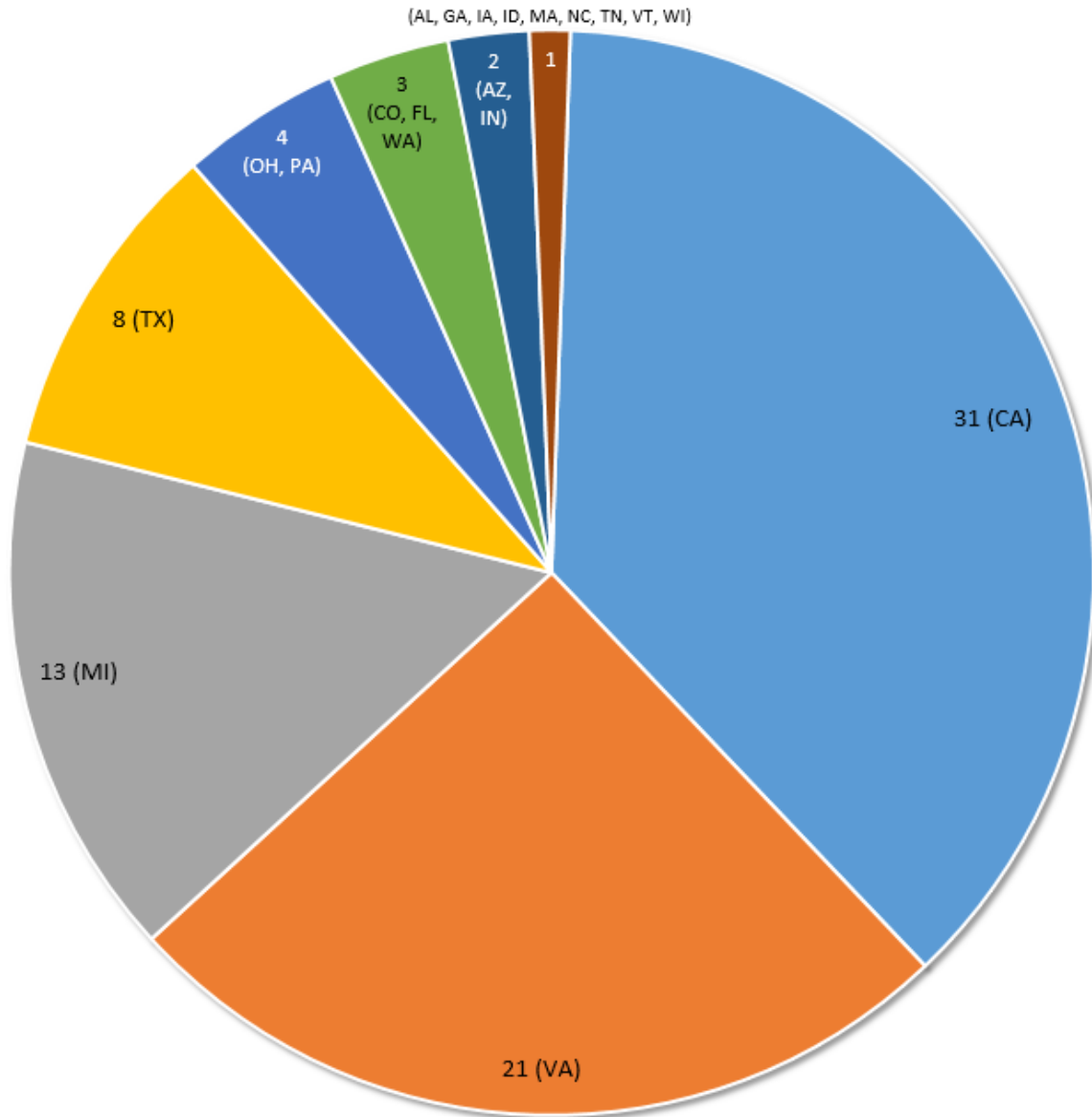
The total list of schools included in this report can be found in *Appendix: 102 Higher Education Institutions Included in This Report*. To clarify, this is not a comprehensive list of all such programs in the United States, but is rather a sample and contains the first 102 foster youth programs we found through Internet searches. The number of programs by state included in this review is represented in the chart below:

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Pie chart data: (AL, GA, IA, ID, MA, NC, TN, VT, WI) = 1; 2 (AZ, IN); 3 (CO, FL, WA); 4 (OH, PA); 8 (TX); 13 (MI); 21 (VA); 31 (CA)

California:

The state with the most programs included in our review is California with 31. California appears to have the most comprehensive, state supported effort throughout its public university system to help youth obtain a higher education degree. Many of the California state schools call their programs "Guardian Scholars" or "Renaissance Scholars. The "Guardian Scholars" program is overseen by an organization called Promises2Kids.

Virginia:

Virginia is represented next with 21 programs. All of these programs are also state supported through a statewide initiative involving community colleges throughout the state known as *Great Expectations* and is led by an organization called Virginia's Community Colleges (VCCS).

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Michigan:

We found 13 programs from Michigan, and many of these programs are supported by *Fostering Success Michigan*, which is another statewide initiative focused on supporting foster youth. The primary strategy of this initiative is to establish a network of support on both school campuses and in the local communities. It is interesting to note that the states with the most youth aging out of foster care annually according to the Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data in 2015 (the latest government numbers available) do not necessarily align with the number of foster care programs we discovered.

# Emancipated Youth in 2015	# of Programs in This Review
California (31,501)	California (31)
Texas (17,502)	Virginia (21)
Florida (14,479)	Michigan (13)
Arizona (10,819)	Texas (8)
Ohio (9,328)	Ohio & Pennsylvania (4)

One would expect that states with the highest number of emancipated foster youth would be more likely to support programs to help these youth succeed. Indeed, California does have the most foster care programs in our review – we easily found 31 of them! However, Virginia only had 2,745 youth who aged out of care in 2015, but because of the statewide coordinated community college programming, Virginia had the second most foster care programs in our review. Michigan is in a similar situation as Virginia – with 7,360 youth who emancipated in 2015, Michigan ended up in "3rd place" in our review because of a statewide initiative to support foster youth achieve higher education.

RECOMMENDATION
Having a statewide higher education initiative to support youth who have aged out of foster care ensures greater accessibility for foster youth due to the higher number of programs available. Other states can use California, Virginia, and Michigan as models to get their own initiatives started.

Terminology

Throughout this paper, when we refer to "***foster youth***," we include youth who are still in foster care when they enter college, those who have aged out, and even those who left foster care for any other reason, such as adoption, kinship care, or reunification as some schools only require that the youth have spent some time in foster care in order to be eligible for their foster youth programs.

For the sake of simplicity, from here on in we will refer to all higher education institutions in this review as "***schools***" or "***colleges***," whether they are colleges, universities, or community colleges. The differences between the three are not relevant to our purpose.

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We use the term "***program***" to refer to the school sponsored set of services dedicated to working with and supporting foster youth. Usually a program has a name that reflects its mission (e.g., "Foster Care to College," "Fostering Success," "Transition to Independence," etc.).

INFORMATION ORGANIZATION

The services and other program details that the higher education institutions provided in the surveys and on their websites were captured and then analyzed. This process revealed several categories in which this information could logically be organized:

- Eligibility
- Admissions support
- Financial support
- Housing support
- Academic support
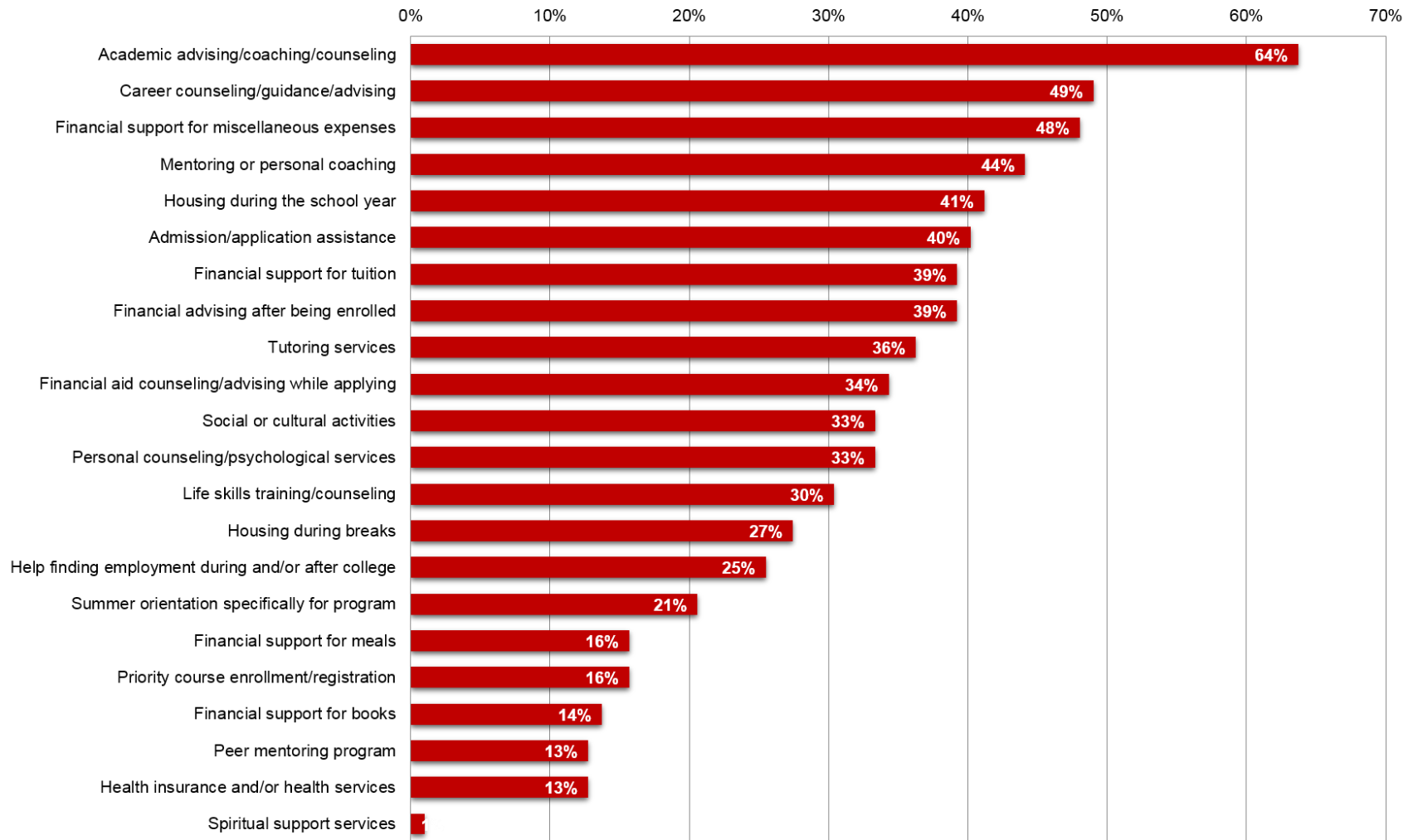- Employment support
- Personal support

Below are the eligibility requirements and services separated into the appropriate categories:

Eligibility	Admissions Support	Academic Support
• Foster Care participation requirements • State residency requirement • FAFSA application requirement • Other requirements (GPA, SAT score, age, potential to succeed, financial need, U.S. citizenship)	• Admission/application assistance • Financial aid counseling/advising while applying • Priority course enrollment/registration	• Academic advising/coaching/counseling • Tutoring services
Financial Support	**Personal Support**	**Employment Support**
• Financial assistance (scholarships, tuition waivers, etc.) • Financial advising after being enrolled • Financial support for books • Financial support for meals • Financial support for miscellaneous supplies (school supplies, emergency funds, household supplies, etc.)	• Mentoring or personal coaching • Social or cultural activities • Personal counseling/psychological services • Life skills training/counseling • Peer mentoring program • Health insurance and/or health services • Spiritual support services	• Career counseling/guidance/advising • Help finding employment during and/or after college
Housing Support		
• Housing during the school year • Housing during breaks		

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Below is a frequency chart to show the percentage of programs in this review that offers each service (Eligibility requirements are not included in this chart.)

## 2018 College/University Foster Care Program Services Offered

Service	Percentage
Academic advising/coaching/counseling	64%
Career counseling/guidance/advising	49%
Financial support for miscellaneous expenses	48%
Mentoring or personal coaching	44%
Housing during the school year	41%
Admission/application assistance	40%
Financial support for tuition	39%
Financial advising after being enrolled	39%
Tutoring services	36%
Financial aid counseling/advising while applying	34%
Social or cultural activities	33%
Personal counseling/psychological services	33%
Life skills training/counseling	30%
Housing during breaks	27%
Help finding employment during and/or after college	25%
Summer orientation specifically for program	21%
Financial support for meals	16%
Priority course enrollment/registration	16%
Financial support for books	14%
Peer mentoring program	13%
Health insurance and/or health services	13%
Spiritual support services	

The following pages provide overviews of the services found in each category.

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ELIGIBILITY

Three major eligibility requirements were identified: 1) time in foster care, 2) state residency, and 3) FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application. There were other miscellaneous requirements for participation, but these were the ones that stood out as being the most significant. The chart below (and all future charts) represent the percentage of programs that stated each requirement or service on their website or survey.

Eligibility

- 39% — FAFSA application requirement
- 9% — State residency required

(Chart y-axis: 0% to 70%)
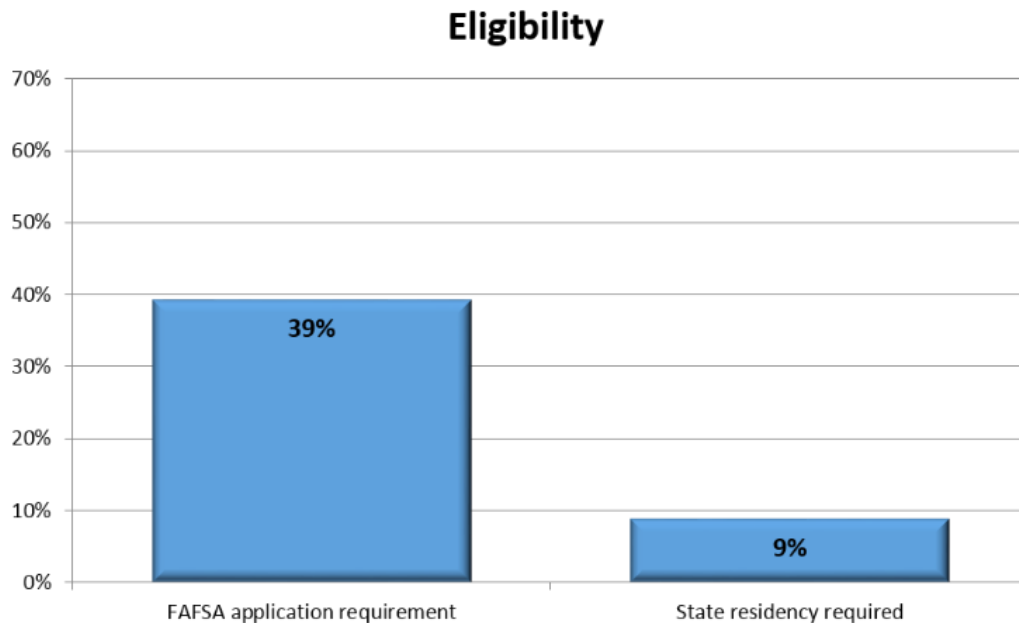
Foster Care Experience

We did not include foster care experience as a separate element in our chart above because all the programs required foster care experience. The amount of time required in foster care differed. Most programs required the youth to have aged out of foster care, but a few only required some time spent in foster care as a youth, with a couple identifying that the time must have been after a certain age, such as 16.

FAFSA Application

Only 48% of the schools listed eligibility requirements. The requirements that were the most common were state residency and the submission of a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Based on our review, our assumption is that most – if not all – schools require FAFSA application. However, on most program websites we reviewed, we could not find any information on a FAFSA requirement.

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State Residency

There were even fewer instances of websites specifically calling out state residency requirements. 9% of the programs state that youth applying for enrollment must live in the state where the institution is located. As with FAFSA, though, most websites did not mention any kind of state residency as an eligibility requirement. Only one school explicitly states that the youth do *not* have to be a resident of the state.

Other Eligibility Requirements

Apart from these three major program eligibility requirements, a few programs highlighted others, such as GPA score, SAT score, age limit, potential to succeed, motivation, financial need, and U.S. citizenship.

RECOMMENDATION

Even if the school's website clearly states that FAFSA or state residency is required, we suggest that the foster youth program highlight these requirements on their program pages, as well. Some youth will find the program overview in their searches and will not consider going to a separate section of the school's website to find eligibility requirements as they may assume that all requirements will be listed by the program.

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ADMISSIONS SUPPORT

The Admissions Support category includes three primary services: 1) admission or application assistance, 2) financial aid counseling, and 3) priority course enrollment.

Admissions Support
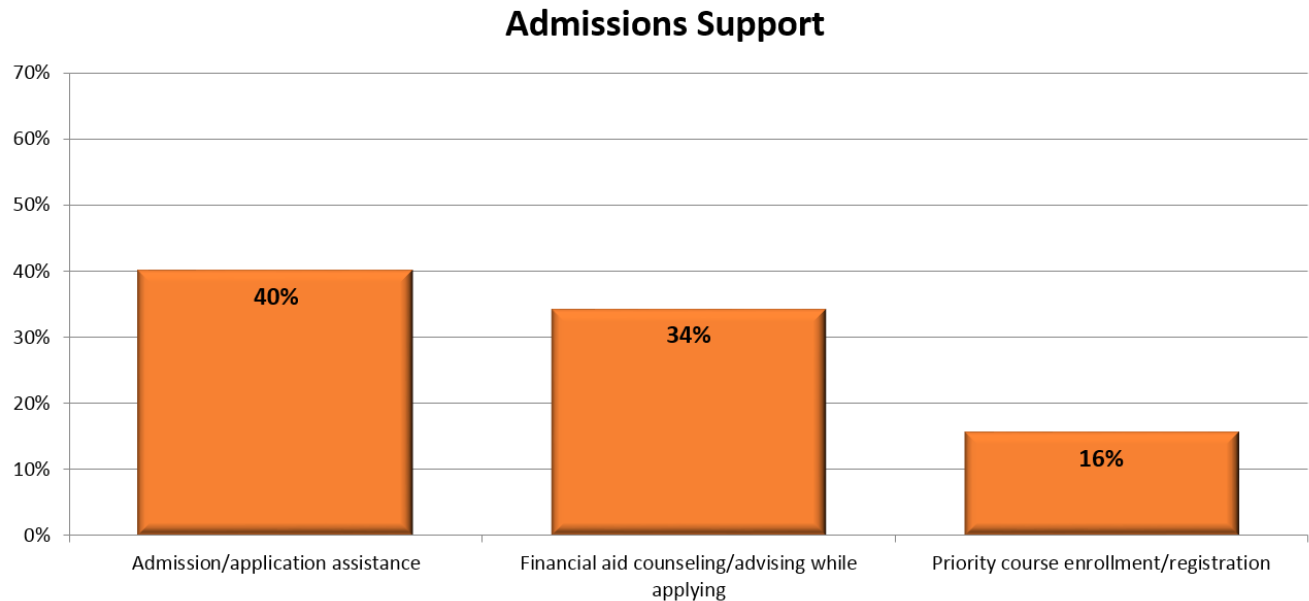
Application Assistance

40% of the foster care programs in this survey claim to offer admissions assistance, which primarily involves helping youth fill out the application and financial aid paperwork needed to apply for school. This is an important service as youth in foster care often do not have parents or other family members available to help them in the application process, while most of their non-fostered peers do. Having a service that assists these youths in undertaking the paperwork will help ensure that they fill out the paperwork correctly, thereby improving their chances of being admitted.

Financial Aid Counseling

34% of the programs state that they offer financial aid counseling prior to enrollment. The variety of scholarships and other financial aid available can be quite confusing, so a financial advisor can not only explain all the options, but they should also identify which financial opportunities would be the best choices for the youth given his/her goals, experiences, grades, etc.

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Priority Course Enrollment

16% of the programs in this survey state that they offer priority course enrollment. This service enables foster youth a level of certainty that they will be able to get into the courses they select. In most cases, the programs emphasizes that the priority course enrollment benefit is not only offered prior to admission, but is also built into each semester's course enrollment process. This is another way that schools can support the academic success of foster youth – by ensuring they can stay on track toward their academic goals and not by waylaid by course enrollment challenges.

RECOMMENDATION

To maximize the chances of academic success for foster youth, it is important that all foster youth programs provide application assistance and financial aid counseling prior to admission. Foster youth have unique needs as they often have no adult support system after leaving state care, so schools must recognize that admissions advisors may need to spend extra time with these youth to help them prepare all the admissions paperwork themselves.

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Most foster youth do not have family to rely on to help pay for school tuition and expenses. They require a significant amount of financial support in order to pay for school while not having to constantly worry about earning money to cover expenses not covered by financial aid or scholarships. The third category of services offered by higher education programs is financial support *after* youth are enrolled. Financial support is represented in five primary services: 1) financial support for miscellaneous expenses, 2) financial advising, 3) financial support for tuition, 4) financial support for meals, and 5) financial support for books.
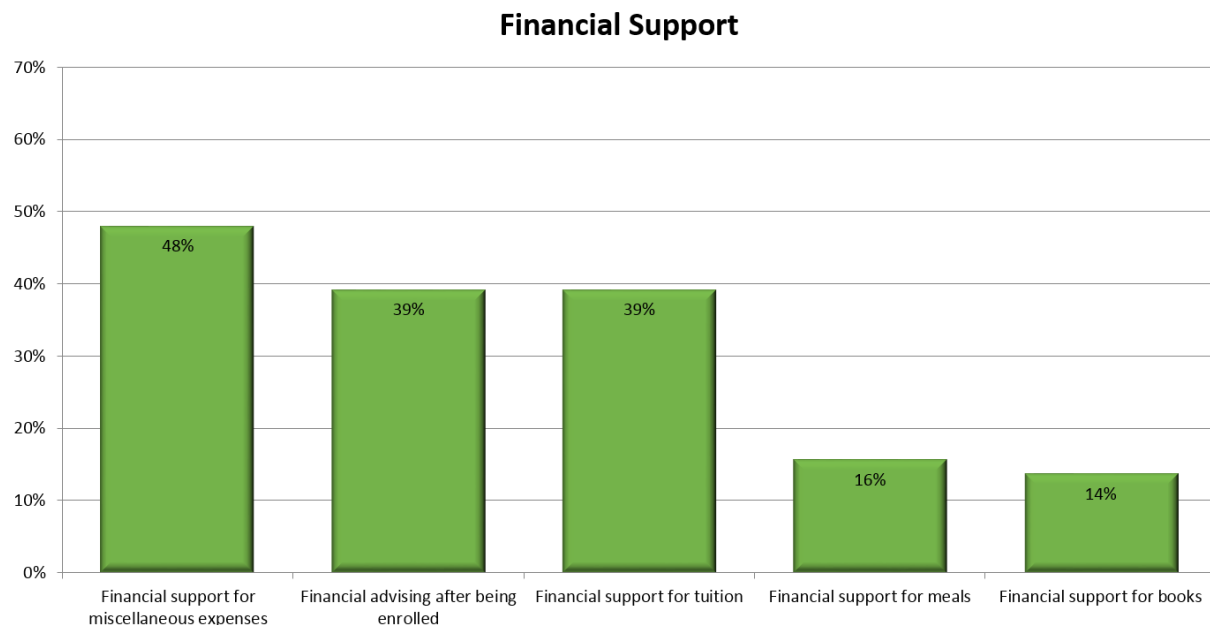
Financial Support

Financial Support for Miscellaneous Expenses
The costs that can come up during school go beyond tuition, meals and books. 48% of the schools we reviewed claim to provide financial assistance for one or more of the following miscellaneous expenses: move-in costs, living expenses, clothing, toiletries, linens, transportation, automobile insurance or repairs, school supplies and laptop computers, furnishing, emergency needs, and graduation supplies (cap, gown, pictures, etc.). The one miscellaneous expense mentioned most frequently is transportation.

Financial Advising after Being Enrolled
39% of the programs state that they connect youth with financial advisors after they are enrolled. The counseling they provide includes guidance on which scholarship opportunities to take advantage of from among those that the school offer, as well as other grants and financial awards, such as the Chafee Educational and Training Vouchers (up to $5,000/year).

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Financial Support for Tuition

Without family support, most foster youth cannot afford to pay for school tuition fees. 39% of the programs state that they provide some kind of financial support for tuition, such as loans, grants, work study opportunities, and scholarships that can be applied for annually throughout the youth's enrollment. Three schools clearly say on their websites that they offer full tuition waivers for eligible youth.

Financial Support for Meals

16% of the programs provide some kind of support to help youth acquire meals while enrolled in school. In some cases, the cost of meals at the school dining service is included in the financial aid or scholarship packages. In other cases, the school has a campus food pantry or supplemental financial assistance to help youth obtain food. Out of all 102 institutions, only one program clearly states on its website that it provides youth with meal support not only during the school year, but over breaks, as well.

Financial Support for Books

Textbooks and other reading materials that are required as part of the course curriculums can add up to quite a lot of money. 14% of the programs claim to provide financial support for books in the form of book vouchers, grants, or stipends. In lieu of covering actual book expenses, a couple of the programs mention that their school has a free textbook lending program.

RECOMMENDATION

Lack of money is one reason that many foster youth do not even bother to apply for school. Schools need to make it extremely clear what financial support is available – not only for tuition, but for all other expenses, as well. Foster youth need to know that a degree is financially within their reach and that they won't be blindsided by multiple expenses not included in the typical scholarships and financial aid packages.

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HOUSING SUPPORT

This is one area where schools are uniquely structured to help foster youth due to their dormitories and on-campus apartments. The housing services include providing housing 1) during the school year, and 2) over breaks.
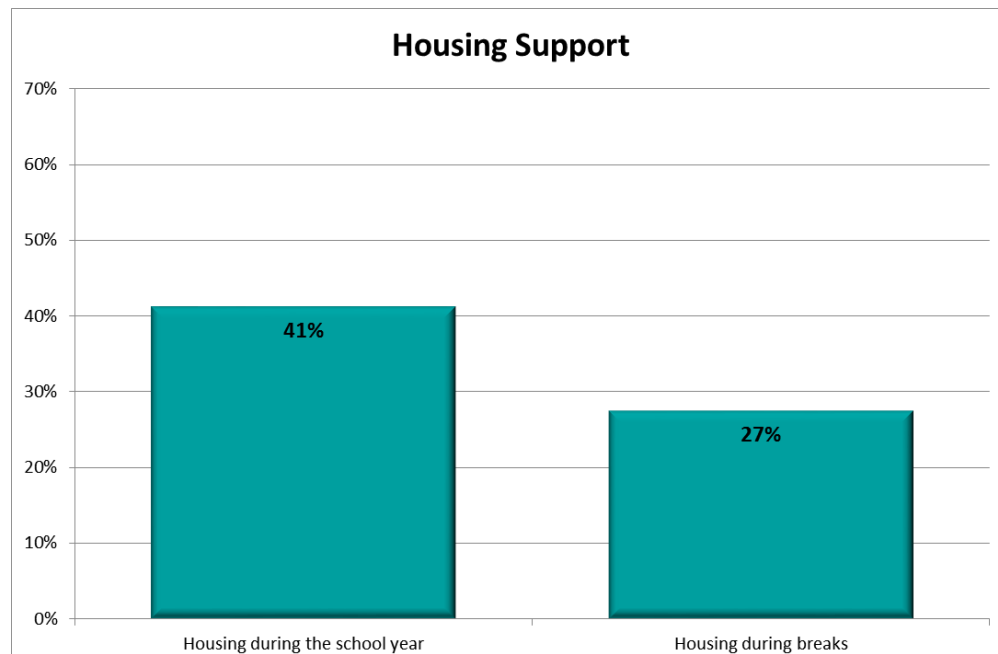
Housing during the School Year

41% of the programs we reviewed specifically state on their websites that they provide housing to foster youth during the school year. A couple of programs even mention that foster youth are guaranteed housing. Housing can be offered on campus, but a few schools do mention providing support for off-campus housing when needed or requested. A few also will advise youth on how to find housing while enrolled, and a couple state that they can provide emergency/temporary housing, if needed.

Housing during Breaks

27% of the programs state that they provide housing during breaks. The websites aren't always clear on what they mean by "breaks." It could mean the breaks during the school year, or it could also include summer break. Foster youth are particularly concerned about where they are going to live when the school closes down, so it would be important for every program to indicate what housing they can have over breaks.

RECOMMENDATION

Most schools have the ability to house foster youth all year. We encourage every foster care program to guarantee housing for foster youth throughout the entire year while enrolled. With the threat of homelessness eliminated, they will be better able to focus on their academic challenges and more likely to see their education through to graduation.

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ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The three primary services under the Academic Support category are: 1) academic advising/coaching/counseling, 2) tutoring services, and 3) priority course enrollment/registration.
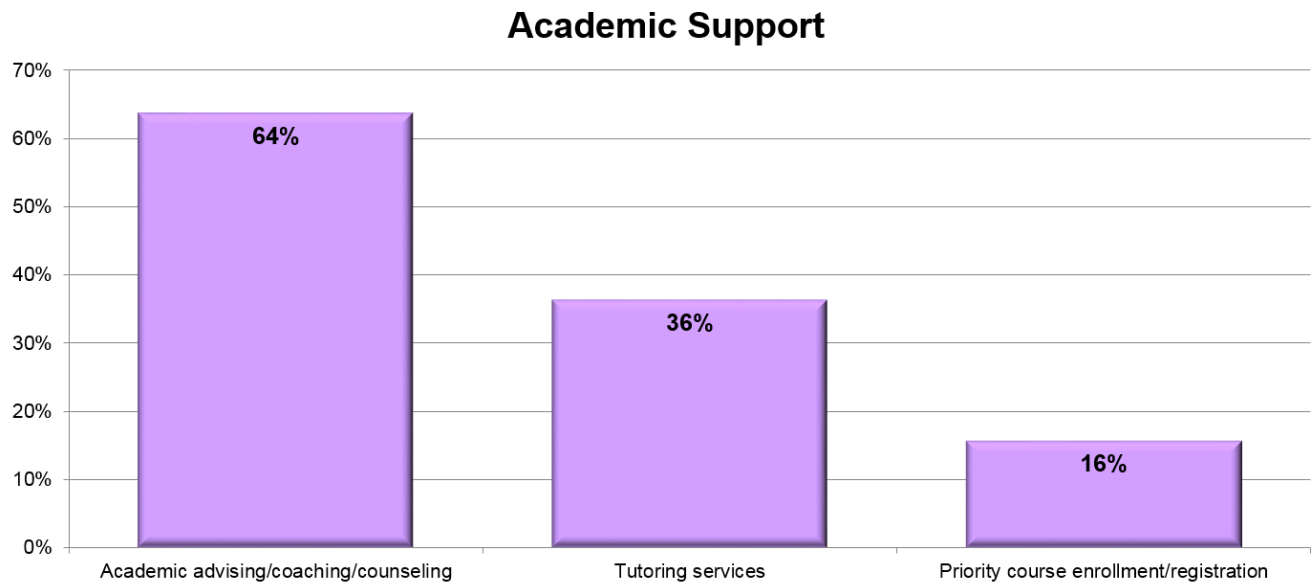
Academic Support

Academic Advising/Coaching/Counseling

Of all the services we uncovered in our review of programs that support foster youth, the one service that stands out as the most common is academic advising (also called academic coaching or counseling). 64% of the programs claim to offer academic advising of some kind. A few refer youth to their school's academic support center ("resource center," "success center," etc.), but most programs don't clarify whether they refer students to the school's academic support center or if they provide proactive, targeted academic advising through the program itself.

Tutoring Services

36% of the programs state that they offer tutoring services to foster youth. As with academic advising, a few of the programs say that they refer foster youth to the school's academic support center to take advantage of the school's tutoring services. Most programs don't clarify whether they refer students to the school's academic support center or if they provide tutoring through the program itself.

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Priority Course Enrollment/Registration

One way to help foster youth be successful in school is to ensure that they do not have any unexpected problems completing their degrees as a result of not being able to get into the courses they need. 16% of the programs support foster youth by offering priority course enrollment/registration for foster youth as long as they participate in the foster youth program.

RECOMMENDATION

Many foster youth have academic challenges when they transition to school. Sometimes the challenges are a result of an education gap due to multiple school changes while in foster care. Sometimes they relate to a need to shore up skills needed to study, complete projects, manage their time, etc. Any academic support services should be targeted to address foster youths' unique needs.

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EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

In our review, we found two primary employment services that youth can leverage: 1) employment/career counseling, and 2) help finding employment during and/or after school.

Employment/Career Support
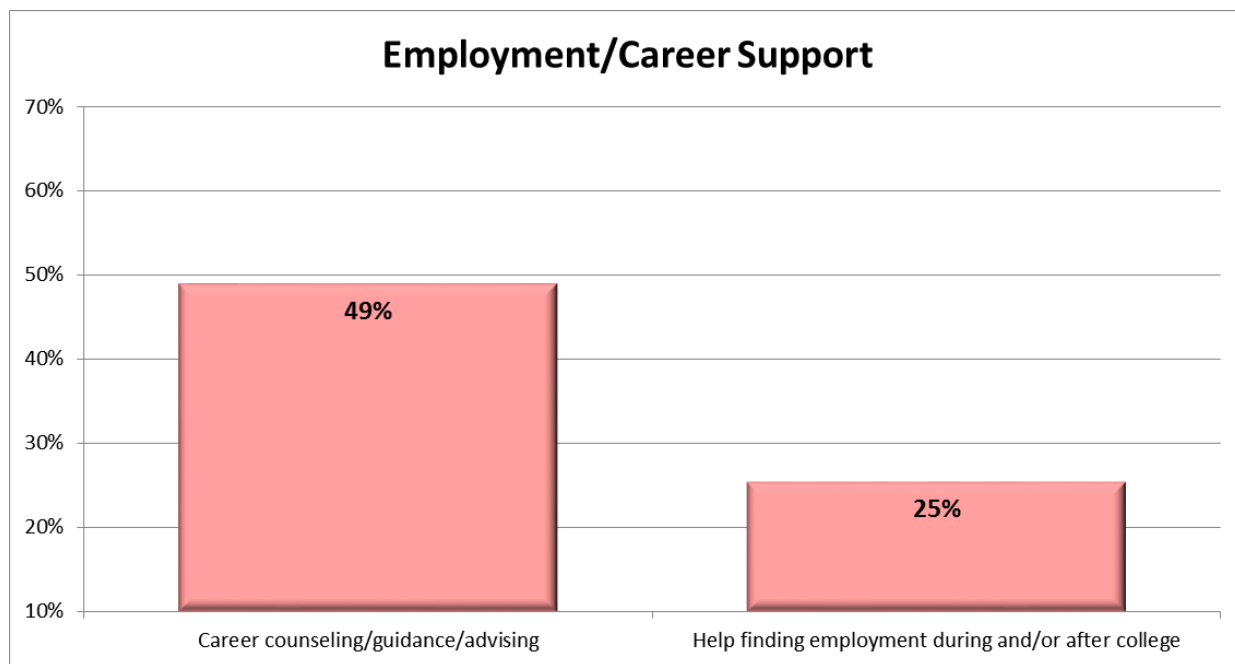
Career Counseling/Guidance/Advising

49% of the programs we reviewed state that foster youth can access career counseling (also called career guidance or advising). They may provide one-on-one counseling and/or organize events or activities that help youth identify and work toward future employment goals. Similar to academic advising, most programs do not clarify on their websites whether they refer students to the school's "career services" center or if they provide career counseling through the program itself.

Help Finding Employment During and/or after College

25% of the programs claim that they help youth find employment while enrolled and/or after graduating. We came across a variety of avenues for this kind of support, including connecting youth with internships, job placement assistance, job shadowing opportunities, and work study programs.

RECOMMENDATION

One of the four primary challenges that foster youth face when they transition out of the foster care system is employment. Of course, earning a degree will ideally help them deal with this challenge effectively, but they still will need assistance as most do not have the opportunity to get a job – even a part-time job – while in foster care. This means that they will need extra assistance and life skills training to help them understand how to obtain and keep a job upon graduation.

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PERSONAL SUPPORT

Many foster youth have not developed sufficient independent living skills to be able to manage studying and living on their own for the first time. They require support and direction to get through. In our review, we learned that many of the foster youth programs offer a variety of personal support services that help youth adjust to living on their own and to school life as they prepare for adulthood. The eight personal support services that we found most frequently are: 1) mentoring or personal coaching, 2) personal counseling/ psychological services, 3) social or cultural activities, 4) life skills training/counseling, 5) summer orientation specifically for program, 6) health insurance and/or health services, 7) peer mentoring program, and 8) spiritual support services.

Personal Support

Category	Percentage
Mentoring or personal coaching	44%
Personal counseling/psychological services	33%
Social or cultural activities	33%
Life skills training/counseling	30%
Summer orientation specifically for program	21%
Health insurance and/or health services	13%
Peer mentoring program	13%
Spiritual support services	1%
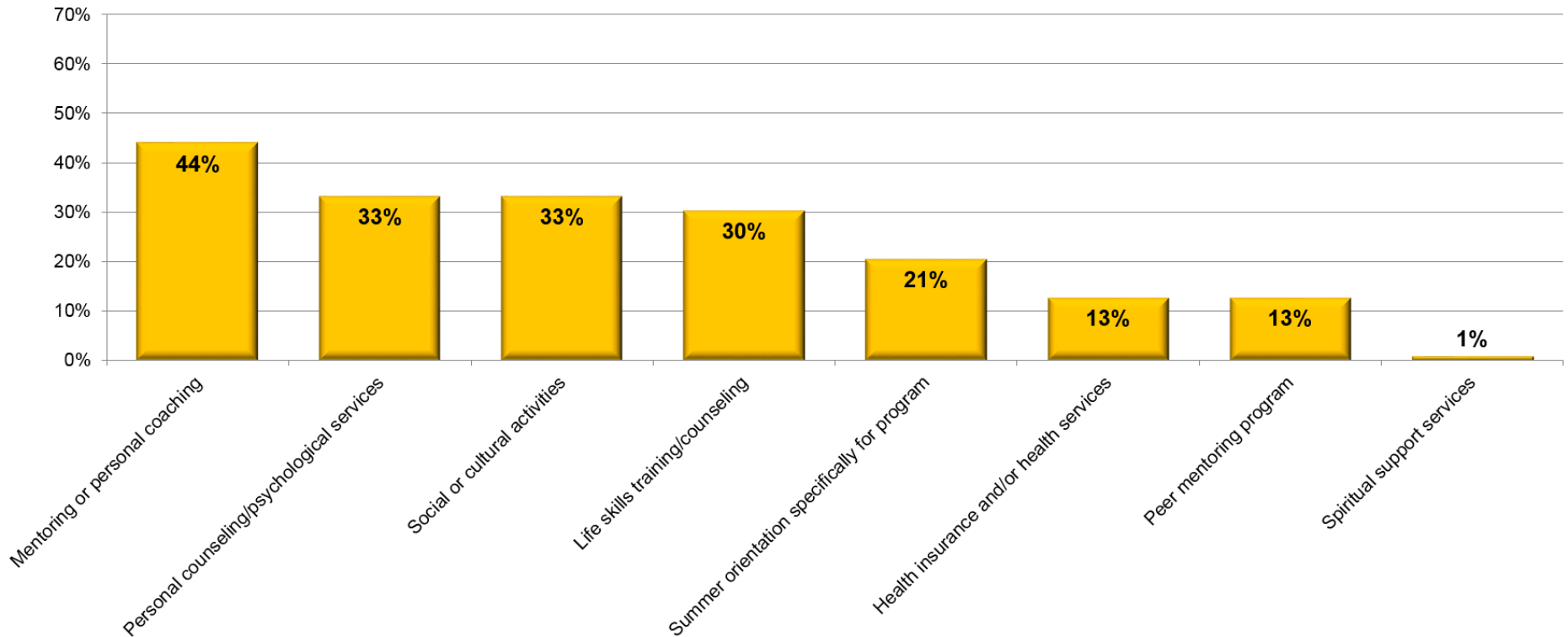
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Mentoring or Personal Coaching

At 44%, mentoring or personal coaching is the most common personal support service of the programs we reviewed. (We separated the mentoring/personal coaching from peer mentoring because the programs did.) Some of the programs require that the youth meet with their adult mentor/coach a certain number of times each month (usually once) in order to stay in the program. One institution identified a "support team" that provided the mentoring/coaching rather than one individual. Typically, the program finds its adult mentors from among faculty and staff.

Personal Counseling/Psychological Services

33% of the programs offer personal counseling or psychological services. About half of these programs identified the school's "counseling center" as the source of the counseling. The other half did not distinguish whether their counseling/ psychological services are provided by the school's "counseling center" or by someone in the program itself.

Social or Cultural Activities

One third (33%) of the programs state that they offer activities to build relationships among students in the program, such as social activities, community building events, or cultural events. Many do not identify whether these activities are organized by the school and open to all students, or if they are organized by the program and targeted to build relationships among the foster youth and program staff, but a few do state that the activities were limited to program participants.

Life Skills Training/Counseling

30% of the programs list life skills training or counseling as a service that they offer. (We included leadership skills as a life skill in this review.) Some life skills are taught during one-on-one coaching sessions, while others are learned during general life skills workshops.

Summer Orientation Specifically for Program

The transition from foster care to school life is challenging on many levels. Not only are many foster youth in need of additional academic support to be successful, many are often the first in their families to attend school and require additional help understanding what to expect and what will be expected of them. A summer orientation helps the youth start to build relationships with both the adults and the other youth in the program – a support system that can be critical in helping the youth transition into school life. 21% of the programs we reviewed offer some kind of summer orientation to help youth prepare for the change to school life before the school year officially starts. Some make the summer orientation a requirement to participate in the program.

Health Insurance and/or Health Services

Although we suspect this number is higher in reality, only 13% state on their websites that they offer health insurance and/or health services to the youth in their programs. In the U.S., the vast majority of schools have a "health center" where any student can go for basic healthcare services, which is why we think this number should be higher. However, many programs do not include it in the list of services offered.

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Peer Mentoring Program

13% of the programs state that they offer a peer mentoring program. Not all are clear about whether the peers are other students (any students), or whether they are peers who have had foster care experience and have participated in the program.

Spiritual Support Services

Only one school (1%) state on its website that it provides spiritual support for the youth in its program. Because this particular school is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, we assume that all students have access to its spiritual life/campus ministry support services, not just those in the foster youth program.

RECOMMENDATION

Any support services that are geared to help with personal issues should be proactive as the youth may not reach out for help on their own. Also, the staff who provide these services should be trained in the unique needs of foster youth so they know how to help. For example, many foster youth have difficulty trusting others because of their experiences in state care, so pairing youth with a mentor should be done thoughtfully after talking with each individual youth, not randomly.

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PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

One thing we thought might be of interest to higher education institutions is which departments ultimately manage the foster youth programs. In our review, we discovered a variety of different departments or divisions in this role. However, we were able to identify only about a quarter of the programs' managing areas:

Admissions

- Department of Admissions

Student Affairs

- Student Life (2)
- Division of Student Affairs (2)
- Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

Ethic/Diversity/Multicultural Areas

- Office of Education Opportunity Programs & Ethnic Affairs
- Office for Diversity and Strategic Initiatives
- Multicultural Academic and Support Services
- Center for Women and Gender Equity
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services
- Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement

Academic/Educational Areas

- Educational Opportunity Program
- Academic Advising Center
- Academic Counseling
- Center for Educational Equity & Excellence
- Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services
- Department of Academic Success Partnerships

Social Science Areas

- Social Science Research Center
- Social Work Department

Miscellaneous Areas

- Center for Fostering Success
- Vocational Rehabilitation Institute
- Extended Opportunities Programs and Services

CONCLUSION

Overall, we were pleased to be able to easily find so many schools that offer programs specifically designed to support foster youth, and we know there are many more out there. We cannot yet estimate the percentage of schools throughout the U.S. that have dedicated foster youth programs, but we are hopeful to be able to calculate this in future reviews.

Higher education institutions can serve as a critical bridge for foster youth, helping them transition from state care into adulthood in a safe and supportive environment. They have the resources to help foster youth in all four of the primary challenge areas: education, employment, housing, and relationships.

Challenge #1: Education

Foster youth typically enter school with a weak academic foundation, so they require a significant amount of academic support to ensure that they can keep up. Academic advising and tutoring services are the most obvious support services, but priority course registration is another that more schools should consider. To be able to attend college, foster youth also require significant financial support and assistance with the admissions process. Staff should be willing to spend more time than usual to help them wade through all the paperwork and possibilities as it is quite possible that they do not have any other adults in their lives to help them.

Challenge #2: Employment

The primary reason for getting a higher education degree is to be able to obtain higher paying, steady employment. In most schools in the U.S., a "career services" center is available to help students think about their career path and (in some cases) find employment upon graduation. Many youth are not given the opportunity to acquire a job – even part-time – while in foster care, so they may come to college with the need for life skills training to learn how to search, apply, and interview for a job, as well as skills needed to maintain a job once acquired. A work study program in conjunction with targeted life skills training would enable foster youth to build their resume and experience success in their on-campus jobs. Then, they will need direction on how to land a job immediately after graduation as they may not have a family with whom they can live while searching for a job.

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Challenge #3: Housing

Housing is a huge challenge to youth who have aged out of foster care. Many of these youth experience homelessness and/or unstable housing (such as couch surfing with friends) after leaving state care as they often do not have any family who can take them in. Even if enrolled in school, foster youth have been known to sleep in places like cars or on park benches during school breaks because they had no other place to stay. Colleges are uniquely set up to provide housing for foster youth…of course in their dormitories during the school year, but they could also implement a policy that would allow foster youth to stay on campus over breaks.

Challenge #4: Relationships

There is one key factor that helps foster youth transition into adulthood no matter what their educational goals, and that is having a strong, supportive relationship with at least one adult who will advocate for them and help them navigate life after foster care. Unfortunately, when youth age out of care, they often lose their connection with their social worker, foster parents (if they had a good relationship), and any mentors that may have been working with them in high school. (Even Big Brothers Big Sisters ends formal mentoring relationships when the youth turn 18.) So, colleges should consider offering services such as summer orientation, mentoring programs, and social activities that provide opportunities for foster youth to connect with someone on campus who can step in the void to be that adult.

Website Design

After reviewing all the foster youth program websites, we have come to the conclusion that a website template for foster youth programs may be needed. Many of the program websites provided limited information, and some were difficult to navigate. AOI is going to take on this challenge and design a website wireframe template for schools to use, if desired. It will provide a structure that will help foster youth find the information they need and want easily. For example, we believe there is a benefit to identifying which services are offered by the school's support centers and which are offered through the program itself, so we will create a format that schools can borrow that highlight all the services that foster youth have access to and if the school or the program is the source.

AOI Higher Education Foster Youth Programs: 2018 Review

Our Goal
AOI plans to survey colleges, universities and community colleges every year so we can track the services being offered to foster youth. We will share the services that schools offer through their foster youth programs and encourage other schools to improve their own offerings, or start their own program if they don't already have one. Ultimately, the goal is to positively impact the statistics on foster youth and higher education. Currently, 70-84% of foster youth want to go to college, but only 10-20% are enrolled (compared with 60% of non-fostered peers), and only 3-11% end up graduating with a bachelor's degree. We believe that we can improve those numbers if we can increase awareness among higher education institutions and spread the implementation of programs and services dedicated to supporting foster youth.

Sign Up for 2019!
Next year, we want to have a significant number of schools participate in our online survey so that we can increase the number of participants in our review and be more targeted regarding the type of data we collect.

If you work at a higher education institution and would like to participate in the *AOI Higher Education Foster Youth Program 2019 Survey*, please send a message through our contact form and type "2019 Review" in the subject line. We will send you the link to the survey during the first quarter of 2019.

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Appendix: 102 Higher Education Institutions Included in This Report

#	College/University	State
1	University of Alabama	AL
2	Arizona State University	AZ
	Northern AZ University	AZ
31	CA State Polytechnic, Pomona	CA
	CA State University, Channel Islands	CA
	CA State University, Domingo Hills	CA
	CA State University, East Bay	CA
	CA State University, Fresno	CA
	CA State University, Fullerton	CA
	CA State University, Los Angeles	CA
	CA State University, Monterey Bay	CA
	CA State University, Northridge	CA
	CA State University, Sacramento	CA
	CA State University, San Bernardino	CA
	CA State University, San Marcos	CA
	CA State University, Sonoma	CA
	CA State University, Stanislaus	CA
	Cypress College	CA
	Fullerton College	CA
	Loyola Marymount	CA
	Sacramento State University	CA
	San Diego State University	CA
	San Francisco State University	CA
	San Jose State University	CA
	Santa Anna College	CA
	University of CA, Berkeley	CA
	University of CA, Davis	CA
	University of CA, Los Angeles	CA
	University of CA, Merced	CA
	University of CA, Riverside	CA
	University of CA, San Diego	CA
	University of CA, Santa Barbara	CA
	University of San Diego	CA
	University of Southern CA	CA
3	Colorado State University	CO
	Metropolitan State University of Denver	CO
	University of Colorado, Boulder	CO
3	Florida International University	FL
	Florida State University	FL
	University of Central Florida	FL
1	Kennesaw State University	GA
1	Buena Vista University	IA
1	Boise State University	ID
2	Ball State University	IN
	Ivy Tech Community College	IN

California: 31
Virginia: 21
Michigan: 13
Texas: 8
Ohio: 4
Pennsylvania: 4
Colorado: 3
Florida: 3
Washington: 3
Arizona: 2
Indiana: 2
Alabama: 1
Georgia: 1
Iowa: 1
Idaho: 1
Massachusetts: 1
North Carolina: 1
Tennessee: 1
Vermont: 1
Wisconsin: 1
TOTAL = 102

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#	College/University	Location
1	University of Massachusetts, Boston	MA
13	Aquinas College	MI
	Eastern Michigan University	MI
	Ferris State University	MI
	Grand Valley State University	MI
	Lansing Community College	MI
	Michigan State University	MI
	Northwestern Michigan College	MI
	Saginaw Valley State University	MI
	University of MI, Ann Arbor	MI
	Washtenaw Community College	MI
	Wayne County Community College District	MI
	Wayne State University	MI
	Western Michigan University	MI
1	J.C. Smith University	NC
4	Cleveland State University	OH
	Miami University Regionals	OH
	Ohio University	OH
	Wright State University	OH
4	Cabrini University	PA
	Community College of Philadelphia	PA
	Temple University	PA
	West Chester University	PA
1	Middle TN State University	TN
7	Austin Community College	TX
	Sam Houston State University	TX
	Texas State University	TX
	Texas Woman's University	TX
	University of TX, El Paso	TX
	University of TX, Austin	TX
	West Texas A&M University	TX

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#	College/University	Location
	Blue Ridge Community College	VA
	Central Virginia Community College	VA
	Danville Community College	VA
	Eastern Shore Community College	VA
	Germanna Community College	VA
	J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College	VA
	John Tyler Community College	VA
	Lord Fairfax Community College	VA
	Mountain Empire Community College	VA
	New River Community College	VA
21	Northern Virginia Community College	VA
	Patrick Henry Community College	VA
	Paul D. Camp Community College	VA
	Piedmont Virginia Community College	VA
	Rappahannock Community College	VA
	Southside Virginia Community College	VA
	Southwest Virginia Community College	VA
	Thomas Nelson Community College	VA
	Tidewater Community College	VA
	Virginia Highlands Community College	VA
	Wytheville Community College	VA
1	College of St. Joseph	VT
	Seattle University	WA
3	University of Washington	WA
	Washington State University	WA
1	University of Wisconsin, Stout	WI

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