



Postsecondary Education Access and Success for Youth from Foster Care: A National Overview



In 2014, an estimated 415,129 youth were in foster care around the country
(AFCARS Report, 2015)



Of those, 22,392 youth transitioned from the foster care system through emancipation or aging out.

(AFCARS Report, 2015)

For those youth transitioning out of foster care, getting to and through college successfully can be difficult without needed supports in place



84% of youth, ages 17-18, with experience in foster care report wanting to go to college

(Fostering Success in Education, 2014)



20% of youth who graduate from high school will attend college (and only 50% graduate high school by age 18)

(Fostering Success in Education, 2014)



Youth with experience in foster care are up to 8 times less likely to earn a college degree, compared to the general population.

(Wolanin, 2005)



On average, for every young person who ages out of foster care, taxpayers and communities pay \$300,000 in social costs (like public assistance and incarceration)

(Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, 2013)



This equals = \$6.7 BILLION for the total 22,392 youth who aged out of foster care this year

(AFCARS Report, 2015) (U.S. Department of Education. 2015)

So what is the cost of doing nothing?

What can be done?

Tremendous return on investment can be achieved by providing effective services and supports. Take a look at what's happening in Michigan to improve outcomes for youth with experience in foster care.





Building a Supportive Educational Pipeline for Youth from Foster Care in Michigan



In Michigan, there are approximately 6300 youth aged 18-25 with experience in foster care. A variety of resources exist to help these students get to and through college, but many don't know about them or how to access them.

(State of Michigan, 2015)

In 2012, Fostering Success Michigan (FSM) was established as a statewide initiative that aims to increase access and success in the education to career pipeline for students from foster care in Michigan.

Within the FSM Network, campus-based support programs offer support to students with experience in foster care via tuition assistance, campus housing, life skills coaching, meal plans and more.



In 2015, 571 students received ETV totaling \$1,926,600--85% of these students attended public colleges and universities in Michigan.

(Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, 2015)

As of Fall 2015, a total of 14 campus-based support programs plus an additional 5+ Designated Campus Champions exist in Michigan to support students across the state.

From 2012-2015, 858 students were supported by campus-based support programs in Michigan, and over 101 students have graduated!



A Snapshot of 2014-2015 Student SUCCESS Stories in Michigan

- 49 students placed on Dean's lists
- 24 students studied abroad around the world
- Over 30 student-led conferences, workshops, and events held
- Personal victories like moving into first apartment, saving money for a car, and maintaining a budget!

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Fostering Futures Scholarship was awarded to 673 students in Michigan, totaling \$1,633,528.

(Student Scholarships and Grants, 2015)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Share this info with students!
- Get to know the campus based support programs in your community!
- Advocate for increased resources for students from foster care!

Visit:
www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com
to learn more!

While we have had lots of success...you can help us do more!