

Fostering Success Michigan Collective Impact Framework

May 10, 2013

Fostering Success Michigan is utilizing the Collective Impact framework to support the work of “organizing Michigan” around the large-scale social problem of increasing access and success in postsecondary education and professional careers for students from foster care ages 12-25 in Michigan. We have assessed the 5 conditions as follows:

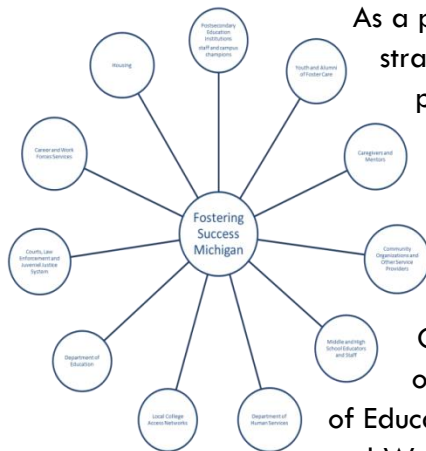


- **Backbone Organization:** Focused on building a supportive pipeline through education to career for youth and alumni of foster care, Fostering Success Michigan is a hub for support, resources and networking. As a backbone organization, Fostering Success Michigan supports Michigan’s network of experts versus being an “expert organization”. Bringing together the combined energy and efforts from partners across the State of Michigan allows Fostering Success Michigan to identify areas where resources are lacking and collaborate with partners to fill these gaps.

- **Common Agenda:** Fostering Success Michigan has adopted the Lumina *Big Goal* of increasing the number of students from foster care who obtain high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025. The available estimate to date is that 21.5% of Michigan alumni of foster care have earned a diploma, certificate or college degree beyond high school graduation¹. By aligning ourselves with the Lumina *Big Goal*, Fostering Success Michigan is joining the Michigan College Access Network and other stakeholders in education toward their efforts to achieve this goal.



- **Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** Each partner in the Fostering Success Michigan Network plays a vital role in the education to career pipeline for youth and alumni of foster care.



As a partner in the Fostering Success Michigan Collective Impact strategy, partners agree to work collaboratively and share best practices, knowing full well that the best solution in one community may need adaptation for success in another community, or may not fit at all. Fostering Success Michigan Partners include:

Postsecondary Education Institutions’ staff and campus champions, Youth and Alumni of Foster Care, Middle and High School Educators and Staff, Community Organizations and Other Service Providers, Caregivers and Mentors, the Department of Human Services, Local College Access Networks, the Department of Education, Courts, Law Enforcement and Juvenile Justice System, Career and Work Forces Services and Housing champions. Through working together with the common goal everyone plays an important role in postsecondary education and professional career access and success for students from foster care.

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- **Shared Measurement:** A shared measurement strategy to track the progress of student access and success in postsecondary education is being established through the collaborative efforts of the Fostering Success Michigan Higher Education Consortium (FSM HEC). To provide a realistic understanding of how Michigan’s youth from foster care transition to young adulthood and move through postsecondary education and into professional careers, the FSM HEC has identified indicators in each of the 7 domains, adapted from the Casey Family Programs *It’s My Life* framework. The data gathered will allow the Fostering Success Michigan Network to better inform policies and practices that lead toward increased outcomes that benefit youth and alumni of foster care in a holistic way.



- **Continuous Communication:** To ensure that our diverse group of partners maintains an awareness of successes, challenges, priority issues and shared solutions, FSM will support continuous communication through the FSM Google Group listserv, FSM Regional Network Meetings and the FSM Annual Summit. To be effective, communication must be shared at state, regional and local levels across, and within, the 7 domains. Our statewide resource website provides another space for partners to share resources and communicate about upcoming events relevant to youth and alumni of foster care, educational institutions, community organizations and governmental agencies/departments.

FSM Website: www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com

FSM Google Group:

<http://groups.google.com/group/fostering-success-michigan>

ⁱⁱ Source: White, C. R., O’Brien, K., Pecora, P.J., Kessler, R.C., Sampson, N., Hwang, I., and Buher, A. (November 2012). *Michigan Foster Care Alumni Study Technical Report: Outcomes at Age 23 and 24*. Casey Family Programs: Seattle, WA. Note: the authors caution generalizability of the study findings due to the low response rate. The estimate—13.8% have any diploma or certificate beyond high school and 7.7% completed college (bachelor’s degree)—may be higher than is true for the population of 23 and 24 year old alumni of foster care in Michigan.