



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Date: June 2, 2021

To: Presidents/Chief Executive Officers for State University of New York Institutions of Higher Education

From: Dr. Anael Alston, Assistant Commissioner

Re: Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) funding for 2021-2022

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with the necessary information and steps for your institution to receive the 2021-2022 Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) funding for the upcoming academic year. In our efforts to maximize awareness and eligible student participation, the Financial Aid Director/liaison, and the Opportunity Program Director (where applicable), are being copied on this correspondence. See below for the next steps and pertinent information.

In order to receive FYCSI funding for the 2021-2022 school year, each institution must submit a list of its **new** and **continuing** eligible students as well as the enclosed Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Student Consent Form for its **new** FYCSI students by **July 15, 2021**.

Significant Points of Information

Education Law §6456 defines the population of students eligible to receive funding under the FYCSI. There are four important matters to be aware of:

1. FYCSI funding is available to all students who meet the definition of Ed Law §6456 and are enrolled at a SUNY or CUNY college or university OR at a private college or university that hosts* a HEOP project.

a student attending a private college or university is **not required to be enrolled in its HEOP program to be eligible of FYCSI funding.*

2. An eligible student includes any student—**including undocumented youth**—who is currently a resident of New York State and who is an orphan or spent time in foster care at any time after his or her 13th birthday.
3. Institutions of higher education (IHEs) must award FYCSI funds to eligible students **based on their need, as determined by the IHE**. FYCSI funds can be used for costs necessary for eligible students to attend college, as listed in Ed. Law §6456 and 8 CRR-NY 153-3.4(c), including but not limited to:

- Tuition and fees
- Books
- Transportation
- Meals and housing, including recess/intersession/winter break/summer break supplemental housing
- Summer college preparation programs
- Advisement, tutoring, and academic support
- Medical expenses including vision, dental, behavioral and primary health care which is not otherwise covered by an eligible student's health plan.

Steps to Gain Foster Youth Funding

1. *Establish FYCSI liaison(s) on your campus to be in communication with SUNY System Administration at FYCSI@SUNY.edu.* The FYCSI liaison is typically a financial aid officer and will serve as the point of contact at the school regarding FYCSI program matters. The initial email must include the name, title, and email address of your campus FYCSI liaison. This person is responsible for maintaining the list of FYCSI eligible students and submitting the attached spreadsheet by July 15, 2021 to SUNY System Administration. (SUNY Admin will provide more detailed instructions in a follow-up message to your designated liaison.)
2. *Begin the process of eligibility determination* by emailing a copy of the enclosed OCFS Student Consent form to **new** prospective eligible students. The form is **REQUIRED** to verify FYCSI eligibility for **new** students and allows their funding eligibility status to be shared. New students are required to complete the form and return it to the Office of Financial Aid at your institution by July 10, 2021 for forwarding to OCFS at FCY4College@ocfs.ny.gov and SUNY at FYCSI@SUNY.edu by July 15, 2021.
3. Using the attached spreadsheet, identify **all** FYCSI eligible students who will be enrolled on your campus for the 2021-22 academic year as defined by Ed Law §6456. The spreadsheet of your IHE's FYCSI eligible students must be submitted by July 15, 2021 to SUNY System Administration (SUNY Admin will provide more detailed instructions in a follow-up message to your designated liaison).

For New Students

New *students*, those enrolled students who did not receive FYCSI funds the prior year, who may be eligible for FYCSI funding **MUST** submit a consent form for proper eligibility verification. List these students in the "NEW FYCSI Applicant" tab of the attached spreadsheet.

For Returning Students

Students who received FYCSI funds the prior year may skip the verification process. List these students in the "Previous FYCSI Recipients" tab of the attached spreadsheet.

If you have any questions about the content of this memo, please contact Osei Agyeman (FYCSI@SUNY.edu) at SUNY System Administration or Richard McMillan (fosteryouth@nysed.gov) at NYSED.

Cc: Dr. William Murphy, Deputy Commissioner