



## Supporting Success: Improving higher Education outcomes for students from foster care

John Emerson, Casey Family Programs  
Lee Bassett, Consultant  
Torhon Barnes, Orangewood Children's  
Foundation, Graduate Students and University  
of Southern California  
Diana LaMar, Orangewood Children's  
Foundation

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## Casey Family Programs' Involvement

- Mission: provide, **improve**, and prevent the need for foster care.
- Founded in 1966 operates by providing direct service and **promoting advances in child welfare**.
- Collaborates... **to improve services and outcomes**...
- Develops **tools**, practices, and policies...

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Some of the ways CFP works to improve foster care, promote advances in child welfare and improve outcomes.

- Casey Family Scholars (<http://orphan.org/index.php?id=30>)
- Sponsoring National Convenings of College Student Affairs professionals
- Creating awareness and advocating through collaborative partnerships
- Publications ([www.casey.org/Home](http://www.casey.org/Home))
  - It's My Life: Postsecondary Education and Training
  - Supporting Success: Improving higher education outcomes for students from foster care
  - Casey Life Skills – Education Supplements Levels III & IV high school and postsecondary ([www.caseylifeskills.org/pages/assess/assess\\_supplement.htm](http://www.caseylifeskills.org/pages/assess/assess_supplement.htm))
  - Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Children in Foster Care ([www.abanet.org/child/education](http://www.abanet.org/child/education))
- Providing technical assistance and support to targeted jurisdictions

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### Supporting Success: Improving higher education outcomes for students from foster care

- **Purpose:** Assisting Student Affairs professionals in developing supports for their students from foster care
- **Process:** Research current practices, articulate findings in draft publication, field review, publication, and dissemination
- **Product:** A short publication that provides a framework for program enhancement and/or development

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## Researching Current Practices

- Extensive interviews and/ or site visits with 11 colleges that have a systematic approach to supporting their students from foster care.
- Interviews with foundations and governmental organizations that collaborate with one or more colleges
- Review the published work of foundations and youth advocacy organizations including previously described models

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## Findings – Success Depends on:

- **Awareness** of the need for support and a **will** to provide that support
- **Collaboration** within the college and with off-campus resources
- **Designated leadership** including one or more individuals who take the time to develop a trusting relationship with students from care

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## Findings – Success Depends on:

- **Meeting Basic Needs:** housing, financial aid, health care (including mental health), child care, etc.
- **Educational Supports:** Intrusive advising, mentorship, and tutoring
- **Opportunities for Community:** Advocacy, social encounters, leadership, engagement in campus activities.

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## Supporting Success

- **12 Core Elements**
  - Foundation for program development
  - Phase 1 priority
  - Phase 2 priority
- **Descriptions of 5 programs**
- **Developmental Indicators:** features of beginning, developing and developed programs
- **Program Planning and Improvement Guide**

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## Core Elements: Building a foundation for program development

- Designated Leadership
- Internal and external champions
- Collaboration with community partners
- Data-driven decision making
- Staff peer support and professional development
- Sustainability planning

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## Core Elements: Phase 1 priority

- Year-round housing
- Financial Aid
- Academic advising, career counseling and supplemental support

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## Core Elements: Phase 2 priority

- Personal guidance, counseling and supplemental support
- Opportunities for student community engagement and leadership
- Planned transition to college, between colleges, and from college to employment

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## Indicators for Program Development

(see page 53 in *Supporting Success*)

Phase I: Core Elements of Student Support and Phases of Program Development			
Core Element	Indicators of Early Stage Program Development	Indicators of Mid-Stage Program Development	Indicators of Advanced Program Development
Year-round housing and other basic needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DL develops detailed knowledge of college and community housing resources.</li> <li>• At colleges with housing, the DL refers youth to the housing office, monitors student housing status, and intervenes to find solutions to problems as needed.</li> <li>• At colleges without housing, the DL refers youth to community housing resources, monitors housing status, and intervenes to find solutions to problems as needed.</li> <li>• DL and housing office plan to meet unmet housing needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DL and housing liaison share knowledge regarding housing resources.</li> <li>• Colleges with housing provide priority access to 12-month housing, with meal plan, to youth from care.</li> <li>• DL and housing liaison form partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies providing housing resources.</li> <li>• DL and housing liaison develop plan to meet emergency housing needs.</li> <li>• DL and housing liaison work with students to develop a long-term housing plan.</li> <li>• DL and housing office provide advisory committee and administration with housing data. Advisory committee makes recommendations to solve unresolved problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colleges without housing contract with nearby colleges with housing to meet unmet housing needs.</li> <li>• College advocates for stable housing options for youth.</li> </ul>

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# Program Planning and Improvement Guide (see Page 66)

Status and Need for Program Development											
Core Elements and Key Activities	Yes	Status Not Met	No	Priority			Notes/Action	Target Date	Start Date	Completion Date	Responsibility
				Low	Medium	High					
<b>7. Housing and other basic needs</b>	Youth from foster care need to have priority for available campus housing and access to year-round housing. For campuses without dormitories, they need assistance in finding stable, safe, affordable housing, transportation, and food services.										
	Notes:										
7.1 Does our campus currently provide access to housing and food services to youth from foster care in the summer and during academic breaks?											
7.2 If no to 7.1, what program needs to be followed to gain such access?	Notes, priority, target dates, and responsibility:										
7.3 Does our campus currently provide priority access to housing for youth from foster care?											
7.4 If no to 7.3, what can be done to gain priority access?	Notes, priority, target dates, and responsibility:										
7.5 For colleges that do not have housing, are there other segments of the student body (such as foreign students) for whom we provide or facilitate housing?											
7.6 If yes to 7.5, how can we expand to include youth from foster care?	Notes, priority, target dates, and responsibility:										
7.7 Who are the IL providers in our area and what resources do they have available for existing or prospective students?	Notes, priority, target dates, and responsibility:										
7.8 What governmental or private agencies address the low or no income housing issues in our area? How can we collaborate with these agencies?	Notes, priority, target dates, and responsibility:										