Foster youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on FYCSI Eligibility

**Who is an eligible foster youth?**
- Students adopted from foster care after their 13th birthday;
- Students living with a relative or kin under a kinship foster care agreement;
- Students who have spent time in foster care after their 13th birthday
- Students must reside in New York State.
- Undocumented students who fall within a category of individuals outlined in Section 661(b)(i) of the NY Education Law are eligible for FYCSI consideration.

**Who is an eligible orphan?**
- Orphans are **ONLY eligible** if both parents are deceased and the student was NOT adopted prior to age 13.

**Are students living with a guardian eligible?**
- Guardianship – **NOT eligible** if the student is living with another family member, kin, or friend under a documented guardianship agreement or informal guardianship agreement without foster care history or documented orphan status after 13th birthday. A student whose parents (both) are deceased after their 13th birthday, and then subsequently enters into a legal guardianship agreement, **is eligible**.

**Are homeless students eligible?**
- Unaccompanied / Homeless students – **NOT eligible**. A student who is homeless and DOES NOT have foster care experience after the age of 13 is **NOT eligible**, unless the student’s parents are deceased after their 13th birthday.

**Are FYCSI funds for students pursuing graduate, professional or second bachelor / second associate degrees?**
- No, FYCSI is not for graduate students nor for completing a second baccalaureate / second associate degree.