

PORTERVILLE COLLEGE
PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Program Name:
Foster Youth Success
Program

Contact Person:
Frank Ramirez

Submission Date:
9/20/24

Porterville College Mission Statement:

With students as our focus, Porterville College provides our diverse local communities quality education that promotes intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and lifelong learning, while preparing students for career and academic success.

In support of our values and philosophy, Porterville College will:

1. Provide quality academic programs to all students.
2. Provide comprehensive support services to help students achieve their personal, career and academic potential.
3. Prepare students for transfer and success at four-year institutions.
4. Provide courses and training to prepare students for employment or to enhance skills within their current careers.
5. Provide comprehensive support systems tailored to each student's skill level.
6. Recognize student achievement through awarding degrees, certificates, grants, and scholarships.

Guided Pathways Framework:

1. Clarify the Path: Create clear curricular pathways to employment and further education.
2. Enter the Path: Help students choose and enter their pathway.
3. Stay on the Path: Help students stay on their path.
4. Ensure Learning: Ensure that learning is happening with clear outcomes.

Program Mission Statement:

The Foster Youth Success Program (FYSP) and NextUp provide services to identified and verified current or former foster youth attending Porterville College. Porterville College's foster youth students have varying degrees of need in academics, personal and social adjustment, financial management/assistance and career-related concerns. The goal is to provide student support services to foster youth, which will prepare and invest in the student during their post-secondary educational journey. Porterville College FYSP and NextUp are part of the larger concerted initiative from the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) targeting former or current foster youth who are aging out of the system, to bring issues affecting these youth to the forefront and to improve their ability to access higher education.

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Service Area Outcomes (SAOs):

SAO Statement	Describe assessment results and discussion of this SAO	Describe how the results impact your goals and needs going forward
<p>1. Seventy percent of FYSP students who complete an exit survey during the two weeks prior to finals week will indicate satisfaction with program services.</p>	<p>The survey was emailed to 34 FYSP students, and 8 Responses were received. A majority of the responses indicated “Excellent” and “Good” ratings for the services provided. FYSP parking permit service question was removed from the survey. During the Spring 2023 semester, parking was free.</p> <p>Discussion – We identified that this information was important and this SAO has continued to be satisfactory over the years. We have decided to discontinue this SAO for a new one to be assessed to work on other areas to improve for the program.</p>	<p>Twenty-three percent of the surveys were received. The responses indicated that the services provided to students were making a positive impact on the student experience of each responder.</p>
<p>2. Seventy percent of students who attend FYSP orientation will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the purpose of the program, the services provided, and student responsibilities. Knowledge will be assessed using pre- and post-test.</p>	<p>During a SAO meeting in spring 2023, it was agreed upon to remove this SAO. It was discussed that it would be beneficial for the program to streamline and simplify SAO’s in the future.</p>	
<p>3. Seventy percent of NextUp students who complete an exit survey during the two weeks prior to finals week will indicate satisfaction with NextUp services.</p>	<p>The survey was e-mailed and distributed to students in paper format. It was sent to 12 NextUp students with a 6 responses received. Fifty percent of the responses indicated “Excellent” and “Good” ratings for the services provided.</p>	<p>The responses indicated that the services delivered to students were making a positive impact on the student</p>

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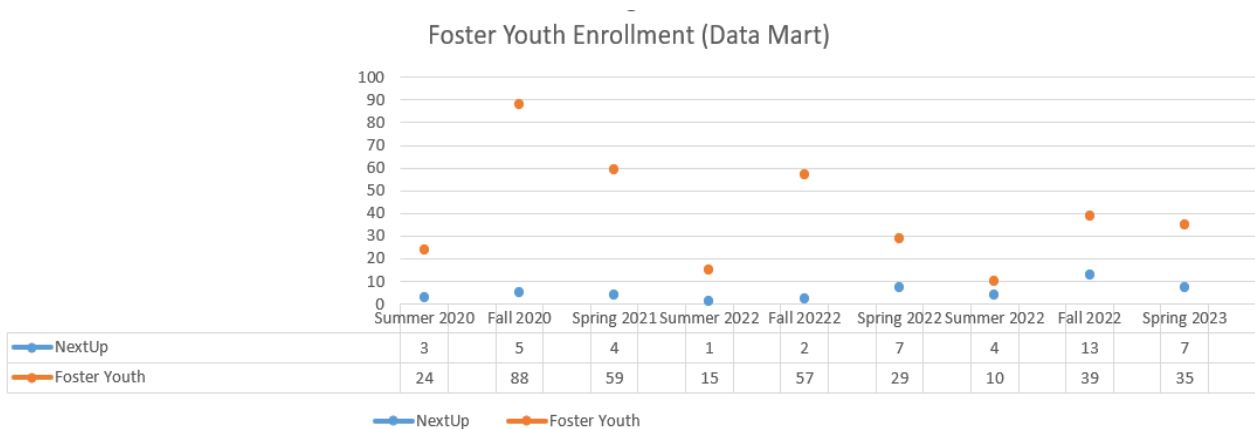
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	Discussion – We identified that this information was important and this SAO has continued to be satisfactory over the years. We have decided to discontinue this SAO for a new one to be assessed to work on other areas to improve for the program.	experience of each responder.
5. Upon attending foster youth workshops, students will be able to identify housing, career, and financial resources available to them.	New SAO	

Program Analysis and Trends:

Data Review



This chart outlines the enrollment by term for foster youth who were not in the NextUp Program and foster youth who were enrolled in the NextUp Program. Foster youth not enrolled in the NextUp program are identified as students who are now, or have ever been, in a court-ordered out-of-home placement. Foster Youth who are eligible for the NextUp program must be in a

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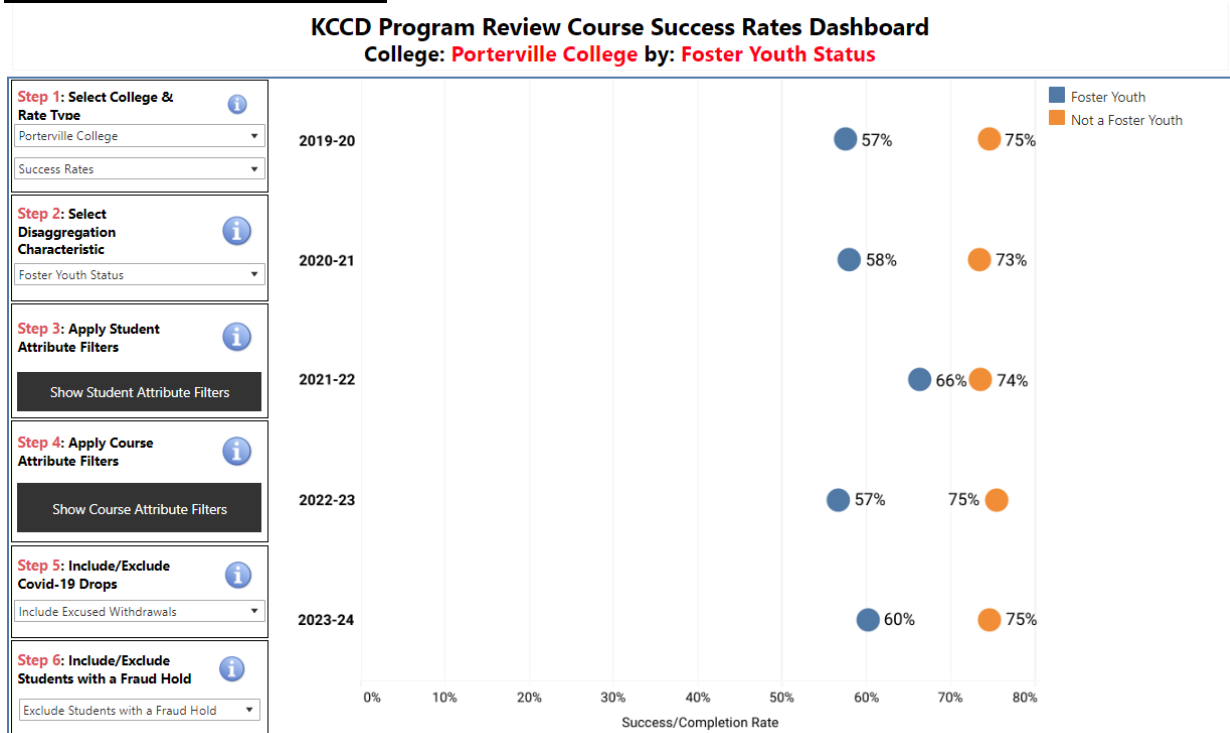
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court-ordered out-of-home placement at or after 16 years of age. This age limit changed beginning fall 2022 when it was updated to at or after 13 years of age. The following charts are broken down by the 2 Foster Youth groups. General Foster Youth maintained the highest enrollment point for fall 2020 (88), but experienced a downward trend in enrollment in subsequent semesters. Students reported the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as a leading reason for dropping their enrollment. They reported a lack of technology, transportation, housing, income, and loss of family members as reasons for not enrolling in subsequent semesters. Summer enrollments dropped to the lowest levels due to students reporting need a break during this emotionally demanding time. Foster youth who participated in the NextUp program demonstrated a consistent enrollment averaging 5 students per semester. This is a smaller group due to the requirements of being in foster care after the age of 16 (13 after Fall 2022). These students received additional grant money, technology, and gas cards that addressed the needs that were impacting foster youth who were not enrolled in the NextUp program.

Foster Youth (Non-NextUp)



Course Success Rate: Percentage of students who successfully completed a course with a grade of: A, B, C, SP or P). The chart notes that Foster Youth are completing courses at a lower rate than non-Foster Youth students. Intervention strategies of maintaining regular check-in appointments with the Foster Youth Counselor, Progress Reports, and Peer Mentor support are

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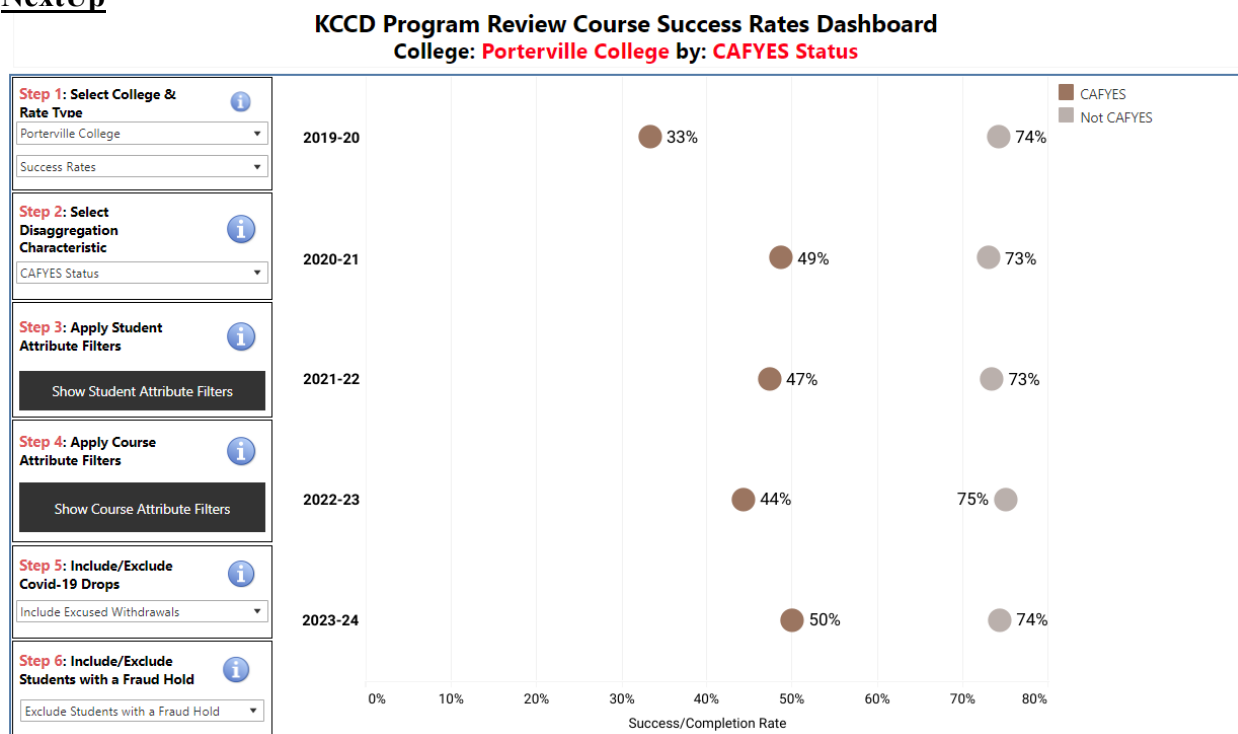
not showing an impact on this trend. Additional interventions will be explored to address factors that are impacting their course success rates.

KCCD Program Review Program Award Dashboard
College: **Porterville College** by: **Foster Youth Status**

		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Step 1: Select College i Porterville College	Awards or Recipients C..	Foster Youth	31	26	31	24	30
		Not foster youth	974	923	902	801	942
Step 2: Select Disaggregation Characteristic i Foster Youth Status	% of Total Awards or R..	Foster Youth	3.1%	2.7%	3.3%	2.9%	3.1%
		Not foster youth	96.9%	97.3%	96.7%	97.1%	96.9%
Awards or R..		Total	1,005	949	933	825	972
% of Total A..		Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Program Award Dashboard: The awards dashboard shows the 5-year trends in the number of awards conferred by the Kern Community College District at Porterville College. The amount of awards issued to foster youth maintained a steady average of 28 per year which represents an average of 3.02% of the total awards. This aligns with the foster youth population representing an average of 2.58% of the unique headcount at Porterville College.

NextUp



Course Success Rate: Percentage of students who successfully completed a course with a grade of: A, B, C, SP or P). Foster youth enrolled in the NextUp program are completing courses at a lower rate than the general foster youth population. NextUp students have recent experiences in the foster youth system (ex. varying placements, unstable enrollment in school) which has an

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impact on their preparation for college courses. Intervention strategies of maintaining regular check-in appointments with the Foster Youth Counselor, Progress Reports, and Peer Mentor support are not showing an impact on this trend. Additional interventions will be explored to address factors that are impacting their course completion rates.

KCCD Program Review Program Award Dashboard
 College: **Porterville College** by: **CAFYES Status**

		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Step 1: Select College Porterville College	Awards or Recipients C..		1		1	8
	Received CAFYES services		948	933	824	964
Step 2: Select Disaggregation Characteristic CAFYES Status	% of Total		0.1%		0.1%	0.8%
	Did not receive CAFYES services	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	99.2%
Awards or R..		1,005	949	933	825	972
Total		1,005	949	933	825	972
% of Total A..		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Program Award Dashboard: The awards dashboard shows the 5-year trends in the number of awards conferred by the Kern Community College District at Porterville College. Students enrolled in the NextUp Program have demonstrated an increase in awards. Further review needs to be made on which services contributed this increase and expanding on best practices that are identified as contributing factors in the success of students who obtained an award.

Changes in Program over Last Three Years

2020-21

This academic year brought us into a new educational environment for both our students and institution. Students entered this academic year in a fully on-line environment due to the COVID-19 lockdown in place at this time. All student and instructional services were online and adapting to delivering services to students using new modalities. Services were provided at the same level using Zoom, email, and phone, but students were experiencing issues utilizing these options. A lack of access to adequate technology impacted Foster Youth students from gaining full access to these services. The Foster Youth Center opened to FYSP and NextUp students during the 2019-20 academic year, but students were not able to access it due to the campus having limited access. The center provides a space where students can engage socially, study, do homework, have access to free printing services, eat a snack, and stay informed of important announcements. This safe space was no longer available.

The FYSP and NextUp counselor continued to work with Porterville Unified School District’s (PUSD) “Fostering Success and Empowering Youth” group at Porterville High School (PHS) during this academic year. All interactions were virtual, but continued to create early connections with potential NextUp students and strengthened collaboration with PHS, district, and Tulare County Office of Education staff. The original goal to expand to all PUSD high schools slowed due to the changing school environment.

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Foster Youth students were issued WiFi hotspot devices and laptops through the program's partnership with College Buys. Students also had the option to check out a laptop, and some students were provided with a Chromebook by community partner City Without Orphans. Remaining students with technology needs were referred to the campus-wide technology support program.

2021-22

This academic year evolved into a hybrid environment with student and instructional services gradually transitioning into an in-person environment with COVID-19 cases remaining a factor that impacted the speed of this transition. The Kern Community College District maintained a focus of student/staff/faculty safety while having the desire to transition services into an in-person format. Virtual services and instruction remained to be needed as we transitioned with safety as a priority. Foster youth continued to be resilient through this transition, but many factors remained prevalent in their retention and academic success.

Technology remained to be a key factor in the engagement of foster youth in their courses and campus services. Many faced unstable housing, living in homes with unstable internet connections, and computers that experience slow processing speeds. NextUp funds were used to address these items by issuing new computers and WiFi hotspots to each foster youth that qualified for the Next Up program. Foster youth who didn't meet the NextUp qualifications were supported through equity funds. Funds provided by the Burton Fund were issued to students for expenses other programs were not able to provide.

In-person services gradually began to return as the demand for in-person appointments increased, but we continued to offer a virtual option. The Foster Youth Center re-opened following all COVID-19 regulations outlined by the KCCD. Students returned to use the center as it provided access to computers, printer, and snacks. The end of this academic year brought an increase in COVID-19 cases which impacted the format of the end of the year celebration. The celebration was converted to a drive-thru format allowing the opportunity to celebrate each student's accomplishments while maintaining a safe environment.

2022-23

This academic year began with a larger transition to fully coming back on campus and expansion of the Foster Youth Center. A new position titled Foster Youth Peer Mentor was added to the program which focused on supporting students between their counselor appointments, assisting with outreach, and expanding the participation in community meetings. The mentor also organized more events to increase the engagement of foster youth with the program. Events included a beginning of the semester check-in, financial literacy workshop, and community

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resource overview. Students appreciated the information obtained at these events and expressed an interest in expanding the events in future semesters.

The continued transition to an in-person environment brought confusion to Foster Youth students due to on-campus teaching modalities changing from the pre-COVID model. Many professors continued to use online platforms such as Canvas and 3rd party websites while returning to the in-person format. Professors continue to use these platforms to submit assignments, complete quizzes, and testing. The foster youth counselor and Peer Mentor worked with students one-on-one and provided them with additional resources to ensure they were successful in their classes.

The NextUp program experienced program updates as program eligibility was updated as follows:

- A current foster youth in California on or after their 13th birthday
- Under age 26 during the beginning of the academic year
- Enrolled in courses

The NextUp program also expanded to all 116 California Community College campuses. This expansion brought a new level of oversight by the California Community College Chancellors Office requiring campuses to move the structure from a temporary to a permanent model since funding was set to be ongoing. Retention was another factor that was identified as a key performance indicator. A greater level of flexibility was added to the program allowing students to remain eligible if the following issues arise:

- Students enrolled in less than 9 units may be accepted into the NextUp program if enrollment is part of an educational plan created to move the student towards at least 9 units.
- Services may be continued after age 26 if a student was first enrolled in a NextUp program prior to that age. This includes returning students. If a student was in a NextUp program and returns after age 26, they are eligible for entry back into the program.
- If a student is NextUp eligible, they are automatically EOPS eligible.

Given the challenges that students had over the past 3 years, they continue to demonstrate their resilience by receiving top awards for their performance and achievements: (1) NextUp student was a recipient of the EOPS Overall Excellence Award, (2) students earned Distinguished Student awards – outstanding in their classroom performance and/or campus service, (2) students completed their degrees in 2 years, and (3) students transferred to the following colleges: Fresno State, Fresno Pacific University, and Chico State

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Report on Previous Goals

Goal	Status/Progress
1. Increase enrollment of NextUp students by 15% each year	Completed
2. Increase the percentage of first-time foster youth students with a comprehensive student education plan by the end of their first year to 100%	Completed
3. Increase foster youth student participation in transfer preparation activities	Completed

Program Strengths

Current and former foster youth face additional challenges and barriers to attaining higher education. Porterville College FYSP and NextUp programs provide the following resources to support retention and persistence:

- Textbook vouchers and lending books
- Intrusive counseling services
- Laptop lending or purchase
- Meal cards/grants
- Gas cards/grant
- Access to free printing
- Hygiene kits
- Grab-and-go snacks and CalFresh application assistance
- FAFSA and Chafee Grant application assistance
- Unmet need grants
- Exclusive workshops focusing on financial literacy, transfer, mental wellness, study skills

The NextUp/Foster Youth Counselor and Peer mentor build a rapport with all students that has been beneficial in maintaining student engagement. Technology resources and platforms offer

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students the means to communicate with program staff in various modes: phone, email, Zoom, and text. The counselor is available for virtual and in-person drop-in hours dedicated to foster youth students. Orientation, exclusive workshops, and end of the year recognition event will continue to be offered, and the program holds events to distribute school supplies and lending books.

There is strong collaboration internally within our campus and with external partners. The counselor and financial aid technician work very closely to obtain required verification documents to ensure timely processing of students' FAFSA, Chafee Grant, and EOPS applications. The Tulare County Office of Education Foster Youth Services, Porterville Unified School District, and Child Welfare Services Independent Living Program/AB 12 refer students to the counselor to facilitate a seamless transition from high school to Porterville College.

Areas for Improvement

The Foster Youth and NextUp program continue to face challenges in retaining students. This population faces ongoing challenges with housing, employment, and finances which impact their academic performance and retention. Funding to provide support services within these areas has been reduced as one-time funds connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, carry forward funds, and Equity Funds have all been eliminated for these programs. We are reliant on our annual allocations which minimal compared to the student needs. Our NextUp funding allocation helps us continue providing support services beyond counseling, but students that are not in the NextUp program are faced with limited resources to provide basic supports. Our Basic Needs program has recently collaborated with our program to help provide assistance with books and food for non-NextUp Foster Youth, but their funds are limited as well. They are only able to assist emergency cases and as funds permit since they are providing services to the entire campus with their Basic Needs funding.

Outreach and recruitment is another area of improvement since building relationships with this population is critical when recruiting them to enroll into courses that our campus provides. Adding the peer mentor and moving the counselor position to a 1-year temporary full-time position will help build a consistent team that can build a relationship with our Foster Youth and increase the involvement in community meetings. The peer mentor will attend foster youth club meetings found in each of our feeder high schools. These meetings provide an opportunity to build relationships with Foster Youth in high school and further assist them with an needs that arise connected to enrolling at Porterville College. The updates to program eligibility during the 2022-23 academic year will allow our team to work with Foster Youth that are enrolled in a dual or concurrent enrollment course which will also assist with student engagement.

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Goals

Goal(s)	Timeline for completion	Needed resources	Person(s) Responsible	Obstacles to completion (if any)	Mission Statement	Guided Pathways Pillars
1. Increase enrollment of NextUp students by 25%	2 years	full-time counselor, peer mentor, and additional funding	Counselor and Peer Mentor	Lack of Funding	2	1 & 2
2. Provide 3 workshops per semester that focus on housing, career, and financial resources	2 years	full-time counselor, peer mentor, and additional funding	Counselor and Peer Mentor	Lack of Funding	3, 4, 5	3 & 4
3. Increase degree and certificate awarding by 25%	2 years	full-time counselor	Counselor	Lack of Funding	2, 4, 5, 6	3 & 4

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Staffing:

Current Staffing Level

Please use the table below to describe current staffing levels, by employee type. Raw numbers are sufficient, not FTE.

Full-time		Part-time	
Faculty		Faculty	1 – Adjunct
Temporary		Temporary	1 – Professional Expert
Classified		Classified	1 – Financial Aid Tech
Management		Management	

Request for New/Replacement Staff

Use one line for each position requested. Justify each position in the space below.

	Title of Position	Classification (Faculty, Classified, or Management)	Full- or Part-Time	New or Replacement
Position 1	Counselor	Faculty	Full-time	New
Position 2	Program Technician	Classified	Full-time	New
Position 3				

Justification:

Counselor – We currently provide services for foster youth and NextUp students utilizing (1) adjunct counselor who works 28 hours per week. A full-time counselor is needed to be available all week and for longer periods of time each day. Students have a limited level of access to the counselor due to their limited schedule. The counselor is also limited on assisting with outreach and recruitment due to focusing her work hours on providing counseling services to current Foster Youth and NextUp students.

Program Technician – We currently utilize a professional expert to serve as the peer mentor. Elevating this position to a Program Technician will increase the role so they can assist with data collection, program planning, and report development. We will have the capability to apply for additional grant funding by elevating our structure due to the level of data that we can collect

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with the skill set required by this position. Moving this position to a full-time level will also increase the stability of this position attracting applicants who will seek permanent employment which is an important component of building relationships with potential students.

Resource Requests

TECHNOLOGY REQUEST

Use this section to list any technology needs for your program. If you have more than two technology needs, add rows below.

	Technology Need	Justification
Item 1	Laptops to award Foster Youth and NextUp students	Professors continue to utilize online platforms as part of their courses. The campus laptop loaner program continues to run out of available units each semester. Current budgets for these programs do not have funds available to make this purchase. This population of students is very mobile due to housing issues making it harder to utilize on-campus computer labs.
Item 2	Wifi Hotspots to loan Foster Youth and NextUp students	Professors continue to utilize online platforms as part of their courses. The campus WiFi loaner program ended Fall 2023. Current budgets for these programs do not have funds available to make this purchase. This population of students is very mobile due to housing issues making it harder to utilize on-campus WiFi systems. Financial hardships also impact the ability of this population to maintain month-to-month service contracts for home internet service.
Item 3	Update computers in the Foster Youth Center	The current units are past their life span of 5 years. Funding is not available in these budgets to accommodate this expense. Providing computers in the Foster Youth Center attracts students to the center since it's a safe space that they can utilize to complete course work.

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FACILITIES REQUEST

	Facilities Need	Justification
Item 1	None	
Item 2		

SAFETY & SECURITY REQUEST

Use this section to list any safety & security needs for your program. If you have more than two safety & security needs, add rows below.

	Safety/Security Need	Justification
Item 1	None	
Item 2		

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUEST

Use this section to list any professional development opportunities you would like to have available for your program. If you have more than two professional development needs, add rows below.

	Professional Development Need	Justification
Item 1	None	
Item 2		

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Budget

	Current Budget	Amount of Change	Revised Total
2000 (Student Workers Only)	\$0	\$0	\$0
4000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
5000	\$2,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
Other – 7000	\$20,000	\$60,000	\$80,000

Justification:

4000 – The reduction in COVID-19 related funding and Carry Forward funding has greatly reduced the funds available to purchase program and outreach supplies. We are not able to purchase marketing material to distribute at community events or in-reach on-campus. Providing this funding will help with the items noted within the Areas of Improvement section.

5000 – Keeping students engaged is a goal that will help with retention and persistence. Our goal is to provide 3 workshops per semester that will engage students with our program and provide important information. Providing food at these events will help attract students to attend. This will also help our program to provide a meal for each event impacting food insecurities experienced by many Foster Youth and NextUp students. Allocating funds for this area will also be utilized to invite 1 or 2 paid speakers that will inspire the students through their academic pathway on our campus.

7000 – Funding for our student grant programs that focus on Foster Youth and Next Up students has dropped from \$60,000 in previous years to \$20,000 in the 2023-24 academic year. Continuing our past levels of financial assistance will impact our retention and success rates in a positive manner. Students report that financial issues are a key factor in whether they will reach their educational goals. Providing grants such as our emergency grant help students who experience sudden financial hardships that can be addressed with a one-time award.