

Foster Success Expansion

CREATING COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAYS FOR FOSTERS

In 2021, **83%** of Minnesota students graduated from high school in the traditional four years. Meanwhile, only **37%** of their Foster peers were able to achieve the same success.



We know Fosters face significant barriers when it comes to educational success, such as **unstable housing, food insecurity, and multiple school disruptions**. There are many barriers, yet no organizations provide the necessary wraparound, trauma-informed interventions and support.

In Fall 2022, **over 364 Fosters** benefited from the new Fostering Higher Independence Act! The elimination of financial barriers to higher education is critical, but that is simply the first step. Fosters need intervention **early on**, and we aim to do just that.

Support Fosters by supporting SF 1295

A one-time, \$1 million appropriation will expand our Foster Success program statewide and ensure every Foster, ages 16-27, will have access to a coach with lived experience who can provide:

- 1:1 mentoring to support their education journey through high school, through college and onto other career pathways
- Foster specific housing education and navigation of existing resources in their community
- workforce readiness coaching and financial literacy training

foster advocates

What We Do



Relationships

We collectively organize with **Fosters** as they direct the growth of our networks, programs, communication, and advocacy.



Research

We center and elevate the **lived experiences of Fosters** as they identify gaps, barriers, and solutions for systems change.



Reform

We advocate for legislative, policy, and practice reform at **all levels** to improve experiences for Minnesota Fosters.

Who We Serve

- 35,000+ children involved in maltreatment reports
- 13,000+ youth in foster care
- Hundreds of foster youth who age out of care
- Every uncounted former foster youth and their families

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