Rising Above the Odds: Supporting Foster Youth Through On-Campus Housing Collaborations

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Behavioral health services

Foster, EFC, RHY participants

Navigating the university system

Personalized counseling, advising & referrals

"A place of their own"

ACE Scholars Services
Who’s in the room?

• Social workers?
• Educational liaisons? Counselors?
• Community based agencies/NPOs?
• Housing folks? ILS/ILP?
• Students?
• Policy folks?
• Other?
• Out of state?
Just 3% graduate college

Just 26% of FY persist in higher ed

Freshmen who live on campus are more likely to graduate

Freshmen who live on campus have higher GPAs

Social integration on campus
The Freshman Balancing Act

- Transition needs
- Basic needs
- Navigating higher education
- Class load
- Housing costs
- Requirements
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<th>High Risk Behavior</th>
<th>Trauma</th>
<th>Study Skills</th>
<th>Food Insecurity</th>
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<td>Peer &amp; Familial Relationships</td>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Medical Needs</td>
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<td>Mental Health Needs</td>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>Developing Connections</td>
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On Campus Subsidized Housing

Social-Emotional Support

Basic Needs

Academic & Personal Counseling

On Campus Navigation & Support

Academic Supports

**THE PILOT**
Formal Partnership

- MOU
- Regular Meetings

Advocacy

- Local level
- Campus level

Communication

- CMs and Counselors communicate regularly
San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services

YMCA: THP+FC/THP+/TYH Contractor

University Corporation 501 (c) (3)

University Village Apartments (640 Beds)

McDonald Group (Private Company)

Quad Apartments (900 Beds) (Privately Owned)

California State University San Marcos

ACE Scholars Services

8 THP+ OR THP+FC BEDS

dorms

quasi-dorms
Transition support + Campus Connection

Crisis management & intervention

Maintaining balance

Basic needs acquisition & fiscal management

Navigating educational expectations
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<th>Academic</th>
<th>Approach</th>
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<td>• Weekly meetings w/ CM</td>
<td>• Mandatory early start/summer bridge</td>
<td>• Compassion</td>
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<td>• Freshman Seminar</td>
<td>• Individual Semester Preparedness</td>
<td>• Awareness</td>
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<td>• Advocacy</td>
<td>• Advocacy with university</td>
<td>• Validation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Resource &amp; Referral</td>
<td>• Tutoring (writing center/math center)</td>
<td>• Empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• $$$$$</td>
<td>• Working scholarships</td>
<td>• Accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ILS</td>
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<td>• Hands-on assistance</td>
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<td>• Therapeutic services</td>
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<td>• Med management</td>
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<td>• Monthly groups</td>
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PILOT PROS & CONS

Crisis support
Mental health treatment
Counselors on site
Structured activities
24 hour access to support
Daily living assistance
Safe spaces
Peer support
Relationship building with roommates
Basic needs provided
Housing stability

Attendance
Coping skills
Time management
Transition/Adjustment phase
Distractions
Lack of educational preparedness
Lack of independent living skills
Academic issues
Financial management
• In depth interview with Y Program Director & Clinician
• In depth assessment aimed at evaluating student needs in specific domains*
• Roommate matching services
• Reference check
• Sharing collateral information
• Strengths based and youth focused vision planning and guidance

*Need to better assess academic readiness and motivation
Need to better assess readiness and motivation:

- Not via SAT/GPA
- Competing policies
- Summer early start/remediation requirements may show readiness
- When to disconnect?
CASE STUDY

Transition

Health Issues

Familial Crisis

Damage Control
Pilot Year

Increased Support Available

Subsidized Housing On Campus

Pervasive Issues

Scholastic Aptitude
Coping Skills
Financial Management
Crisis Situations

Persistency

Improved vs. non-housed
Still not what we expected

Still not what we expected
Our Students’ Thoughts:

• video
Licensing issues

THP+FC issues

Logistics

Engagement
recommendations

- Start small
- Pilot (or two)

- Build relationships
- Identify champion
- Community collab

- License “dorms” for THP+FC
- Consider age at entry

- Invest in specialized CM
- Extra attention