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NEW YORKERS FOR CHILDREN HAS LAUNCHED A NEW EDUCATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND FOR COLLEGE-ENROLLED YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE.

Due to the lack of traditional resources and support networks, an unforeseen financial emergency could result in youth and young adults in foster care dropping out of school, becoming homeless, unemployed, or involved with the juvenile justice system.

To combat this reality, New Yorkers For Children launched *The In-Care Emergency Fund* in August 2018. The Fund was created for New York City youth currently in foster care who are enrolled in a two or four-year vocational or educational program working towards an Associate's, Bachelor's Degree, or Certificate. It was designed to provide a safety net for these hardworking young people when they encounter an unforeseen or unusual financial emergency that would prevent them from continuing their education without interruption.

"Continuing to improve outcomes for older youth in foster care is a critical initiative in our Foster Care Strategic Blueprint," says **Administration for Children's Services Commissioner David A. Hansell**. "*The In-Care Emergency Fund* is a lifeline for youth in care, and this investment will expand access to education and employment opportunities, positioning them for success in the local economy."

The In-Care Emergency Fund is similar in scope to another of NYFC's Signature Programs – *The Charles Evans Educational Emergency Fund*. However, the two funds each serve a distinct population and purpose. *The In-Care Emergency Fund* was created to support youth currently in foster care and in the custody of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). Eligible youth do not submit their own applications for the *In-Care Fund*, but rather, their agency worker does so on their behalf. Since its inception in August 2018, *The In-Care Emergency Fund* has distributed over \$13,000 to support students in-care.

The Charles Evans Educational Emergency Fund was established in 2012 to support young adults who have aged out of the foster care system and are no longer in custody of ACS. To be eligible, the young adults must be enrolled in a two or four-year vocational or educational program working towards an Associate's, Bachelor's Degree, or Certificate. Each applicant completes and submits their own applications. To date, NYFC has distributed over \$250,000 in emergency aid through *The Charles Evans Educational Emergency Fund*, primarily for tuition assistance.

"We are truly grateful to our extremely generous donor – who wishes to remain anonymous – for making *The In-Care Emergency Fund* possible," says **New Yorkers For Children Executive Director Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez**. Their unwavering support is proof that when we as New Yorkers get involved to empower these young people on their journeys to becoming self-sufficient, successful adults – there is no limit to what they can accomplish."

Both emergency funds were created to assist students facing a financial emergency such as the loss of or ineligibility to receive financial aid, loss of employment, loss of child care, family illness or death, theft of books or essential academic belongings, overdue rent or emergency housing assistance, hefty unforeseen medical bills, and other urgent financial emergencies.

The In-Care Emergency Fund's long-term goal is to use its financial resources to help a wider range of students currently involved in the child welfare system graduate from college.

Founded in 1996, New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) is dedicated to improving the lives of youth in and transitioning out of foster care through education and access to opportunity. In addition to managing innovative pilot programs in partnership with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), NYFC also operates its own signature initiatives, including the Back-to-School Package Program, the Nicholas Scoppetta Scholarship Program, The Youth Advisory Board, Network to Success, The Charles Evans Emergency Educational Fund, and The In-Care Emergency Fund. NYFC's programmatic work is informed by experts in the field of child welfare, including ACS, its foster care agency partners, and youth formerly or currently in care. NYFC has close relationships with all 27 foster care agencies in New York City.