

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
TRANSITION PLAN GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)	ACCES-VR assists individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living.
Advanced Placement (AP)	AP gives students the chance to tackle college-level work while they are still in high school. Through taking AP Exams, students can earn college credit by obtaining a certain score set by the individual college.
Alternative/Private Student Loans (for college)	Alternative loans help bridge the gap between the actual cost of your education and the amount the government allows you to borrow in its programs. Private loans are offered by private lenders, and there are no federal forms to complete. These types of loans should be a student's last choice after pursuing the Education and Training Voucher (ETV), the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI), and government grants or loans such as the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and federal Pell grants.
American College Testing (ACT)	The ACT is a college entrance exam that tests students' knowledge of English, math, reading, and scientific reasoning, plus writing through an optional essay.
Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	APPLA is a permanency planning goal (PPG) for youth 16 and older to assist foster care youth in their transition to self-sufficiency by connecting the youth to an adult permanency resource, equipping the youth with life skills and, upon discharge, connecting the youth with any needed community and/or specialized services. An adult permanency resource is a caring committed adult who has been determined by a social services district to be an appropriate and acceptable resource for a youth and is committed to providing emotional support, advice and guidance to the youth, and to assist the youth as the youth makes the transition from foster care to responsible adulthood.
Apprenticeship	An opportunity to work under the guidance of experienced workers who may be called journey workers. You learn the skills of the trade from them. As you master each skill, you become a more productive employee and valuable part of the workforce.
Bank Account	A financial account (checking or savings) with a bank where you deposit, withdraw, and make transactions with your money in the account.
Bill of Rights	The <i>New York State Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care</i> (Bill of Rights) empowers children and youth in foster care by listing their rights to safe, nurturing, and healthy environments. Youth receive the Bill of Rights upon entry into foster care.
Certified Copy	A copy of a primary/essential document, that has been verified by a governmental or independent agency to be a true copy of the original.
CIN	Client Identification Number
CIS-Males	A person who was assigned male at birth and whose gender identity is male.
College Choice Program (New York City youth only)	"College Choice," is a New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) program that will provide college students in foster care with greater support systems, including financial support. As part of the program, ACS will help pay for remaining college tuition costs, and students in foster care will also receive a daily stipend, which can be used toward food, clothing, transportation, and more.
College Discovery (CD)	The CD program is The City University of New York (CUNY) opportunity program at community colleges. The mission of the program is to assist in providing equality of higher education to students who otherwise would not have such access.
Congregate Care - Setting	Congregate care facilities are residential foster care settings that include group homes, group residences, agency boarding homes, and institutions.
Contraception	Contraception, also known as birth control, is the use of methods such as medicine, condoms, devices, or surgery to prevent pregnancy.
Co-parenting	Co-parenting is a parenting relationship where the parents share the duties of raising a child (used especially when parents are separated or not in a relationship).
Copayment (co-pay)	A fixed amount (\$20, for example) that you pay for a covered health care service after you have paid your deductible (see definition below). Copayments ("copays") can vary

	depending on your health plan and may vary for different services within the same plan, like prescription drugs, lab tests, and visits to specialists.
Credit Card	A credit card is another form of payment, like cash or a check. You must apply for a credit card. If approved, you will have a set amount of money on the card that is available for you to use. When you make a purchase with the card, you're using borrowed money. You have to pay back at least part of what you've borrowed (outstanding balance) on a regular basis (the billing cycle). If you do not pay back the full outstanding balance each billing cycle, you are expected to pay extra in interest on the unpaid amount.
Credit Report	A credit report is a statement that has information showing how much you owe on any bills, loans, or credit cards. It also shows if payments are being made on time. When you are looking to take out a loan or rent an apartment, sometimes the credit report will be used to see if you can afford it or if your application for a loan will be granted. Reviewing your credit report regularly can help you protect yourself against identity theft by ensuring no one else has used your information
Credit Agencies	Credit agencies, also known as credit rating agencies, collect information relevant to your credit and financial history. There are three main credit bureaus: Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion. They provide your credit report.
Credit Score	A credit score is a three-digit number, typically between 300 and 850, designed to represent your credit risk or the likelihood you will pay your bills on time. You will find your credit score on your credit report.
Day Care	A program, facility, or organization offering child care.
Deductible	The amount you pay toward medical bills before your insurance plan starts to pay. (For example, if you have a \$500 bill for a medical procedure, and you have a \$200 deductible, you are responsible for paying \$200, and the insurance company will pay the rest. Check your plan details.)
DREAM Act	The Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act gives undocumented and other students access to New York State-administered grants and scholarships that support their higher education costs.
Education and Training Voucher (ETV)	The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program of New York State is designed to help eligible youth who are currently or were in foster care pay for post-secondary education or training by awarding students up to \$5,000 a year for qualified school related expenses.
Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)	The State University of New York's Educational Opportunity Program provides access, academic support, and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college but who may not have otherwise been admitted. Available primarily to full-time, matriculated students, the program supports students throughout their college careers within the university.
Emergency Contraception	Emergency contraception is a method of birth control you can use if you had sex without using birth control or if your birth control method did not work correctly. You must use emergency contraception as soon as possible after unprotected sex. There are options available for emergency contraception. Contact your health care provider for more information including the limitations.
Emotional Safety	An experience in which one feels safe to express emotions, security, and confidence to take risks and be challenged and to try something new.
Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI)	Supportive housing for persons identified as homeless with special needs, conditions, or other life challenges. Young adults interested in applying must be between the ages of 18 and 25 years of age without a permanent residence. Also eligible are youth or young adults who left foster care within the prior five years and who were in foster care at or over age 16, and who are without permanent and stable housing.
EMPOWER Programs	EMPOWER programs are licensed and certified by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to provide high-quality residential care to youth who are eligible for foster care placement and have experienced or are at-risk of sex trafficking.
Essential Documents	Essential documents include an official or certified copy of a United States birth certificate, a Social Security card, health insurance information, medical records, official documentation necessary to prove that you were previously in foster care if you were in

	foster care for at least six months, and a driver's license or identification card issued by a state
Excelsior Scholarship Program	The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a State University of New York (SUNY) or CUNY college tuition-free. The program covers tuition for eligible SUNY and CUNY students.
Expectant Parent	The term "expectant" is not exclusive to mean a pregnant youth. It can also refer to the partner of the pregnant youth who is typically the father of the unborn child or an individual who is committed to caring for the unborn child after the child's birth.
Exploitation	Treating someone unfairly to benefit from them. To use or take advantage of someone for another's benefit.
Family Unification Program (FUP)	A program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that allows for public housing agencies to partner with local departments of social services to request housing choice vouchers to serve eligible families and youth. Rental assistance and supportive services are provided for up to 36 months. Eligible candidates must be between the ages of 18-24 and must have left or will leave foster care within 90 days.
Federal Pell Grant	A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances. A Pell Grant may need to be repaid if a student falls below satisfactory academic progress (SAP) or withdraws, etc.
Federal Student Loans	A loan is money you borrow that must be paid back with interest. There are four types of federal student loans: Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans.
Final Discharge	No longer in the care and custody or custody and guardianship of a local department of social services commissioner or OCFS. You can still have a case open and receive services after your final discharge.
Foster Care Placement Verification Form (OCFS-5184)	A letter obtained from the local department of social services that had care and custody or custody and guardianship of you and states the dates you were in foster care.
Foster Youth Independence (FYI)	Housing assistance to young people aging out of foster care and who are at risk of homelessness. Only your caseworker or child welfare agency can make a referral to the local public housing agency on your behalf. If a voucher is approved, you will have 60-90 days to find housing.
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	The FAFSA is the official form to apply for federal financial aid to pay for college. Federal grants and student loans cannot be accessed without completing the FAFSA. The FAFSA determines who will receive aid in the form of loans, scholarships, and grants based on the information collected from the application.
Grants	A sum of money given by a government or other organization for a particular purpose, such as Pell and TAP grants. Grants, unlike loans, do not need to be repaid.
Health Care Proxy	A Health Care Proxy is someone you choose who can make health care decisions for you when you are not able to make them for yourself.
Health Insurance Plan	A health insurance plan (or policy) covers a percentage of doctors' visits and hospital bills.
Health Insurance Premium	The amount you pay for your health insurance every month.
HEARS Family Support Line	The HEARS (Help, Empower, Advocate, Reassure, and Support) Family Support Line assists individuals by providing resources and referrals to a variety of services. Representatives guide individuals to services including food, clothing, housing, medical and behavioral health care services, parenting education, and child care. HEARS is program operated by OCFS.
Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)	The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) is an academic support program available at private colleges and universities in New York state. It helps students who need additional preparation and financial resources for college attendance to pursue a college degree.
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	HEAP can help eligible New Yorkers pay for heat and to cool their homes.

Housing Choice Voucher Program (AKA Section 8 Voucher)	The Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as Section 8, aids eligible low- and moderate-income families to rent housing in the private market. Eligibility for this program is based on a family's gross annual income and family size.
International Baccalaureate (IB)	The IB program allows students to take college-level courses while in high school.
Internet Safety	Internet safety is also known as online safety, cyber safety, and electronic safety. Internet safety means having an awareness of the risks to private information and property while using the internet. Remember to use a strong password on all accounts.
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)	Physical, mental, and emotional abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. "Intimate partner" refers to both current and former spouses and dating partners. This can occur at any age and may also be known as teen dating violence.
Job Corps Program	Job Corps is a free residential education and job training program for young adults ages 16-24.
Local Department of Social Services (LDSS)	The State of New York is divided into 58 local departments of social services (also known as districts). The five boroughs of New York City comprise one district. Each district provides a full range of publicly funded social services and cash assistance programs.
Local Workforce Development	Local agencies and programs that prepare you for employment, help advance careers and provide skill-based programs.
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)	The program helps low-income households pay for the cost of water and sewer services. They can assist households pay past due bills (arrears) for water and/or sewer services.
New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS)	ACS is the department of social services in New York City (NYC) that provides child welfare, juvenile justice, early care, and education services in the five boroughs of NYC.
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)	NYCHA is the public housing authority in NYC that provides affordable housing for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers.
New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)	TAP helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in New York State. TAP is a grant and does not have to be paid back if you maintain good academic standing.
OCFS-5561 Readiness Assessment Form	A budget tool mentioned in Section 1 ("My Housing Goal" of the New York State <i>Transition Plan Form</i> (OCFS-5112) The Standardized Supervised Setting Readiness Assessment is a tool used to help determine a youth's readiness to live in a Supervised Setting Program. This same form can also be used to help youth determine a budget and other supports needed to live on their own.
O*NET OnLine https://www.onetonline.org/	O*NET OnLine is a tool for career exploration and job analysis with detailed descriptions of the world of work.
Permanency Planning Goals (PPGs)	A process that aims to provide a child/youth with consistent, healthy, and permanent connections. PPGs are return to parent, release to a relative, adoption, legal guardianship, and Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement with a permanency resource (APPLA).
Physical Safety	Physical safety means to be free from present and possible threats of danger to yourself in your environment.
Prenatal Care	Prenatal care is the health care you get while you are pregnant.
Pre-natal Postpartum Parenting (PPP)	The PPP programs are certified by OCFS to provide residential care to youth. These programs serve youth including all prenatal, expectant, postpartum, parenting youth in foster care and their children.
Private Employment Agency	An agency or person who recruits and places workers in a job for a fee that is charged directly to the workers or employers, or both.
Renters Insurance	This is insurance you purchase and pay for monthly. It may cover unexpected financial losses from fire, flood, theft, etc. in various types of rental residences, such as apartments or houses.

Reproductive Health	A state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to the human body's reproductive processes, functions, and system at all life stages. Examples include maternal health and infertility.
Safe Sleep	Appropriate sleep arrangements for your infant's health and safety. (See the <i>New York State Transition Plan Resource Guide</i> [OCFS-5111] for more information.)
Scholarship	An award that an eligible student receives from a third party or individual school toward the cost of school that does not need to be paid back.
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	A standardized test widely used for college admissions in the United States.
Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) Program	The Percy Ellis Sutton Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) Program is offered at four-year CUNY schools. It is a program designed to meet the needs of students who are considered to be economically disadvantaged and academically underprepared.
Sexual Health	A state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to sexuality and sexual relationships.
Sexual Safety	Sexual safety can include not only contraception but also topics like Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) prevention and safety in all sexual context, such as consent and having a trusted adult to discuss sex-related topics.
Social Media Safety	Protecting the safety of yourself, your loved ones, and even your personal belongings by avoiding posting names, phone numbers, addresses, school and work locations, and other sensitive information as text or in a photo. When you post personal information on social media, you, your loved ones, and your personal property can become a target for local and online criminals.
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	The WIC program supports pregnant people, new parents, and their children (under age 5) with healthy food, nutritional education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other services. Pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding parents, infants, and children up to 5 years old may be eligible for the WIC program. In addition, fathers or other legal guardians may also be eligible to receive WIC benefits for their infants and children up to age 5.
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	The inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug, alcohol, or prescription medicine even when there are harmful consequences.
Supervised Setting Program (SSP)	A foster care program that serves youth ages 16-21 who may be ready to live independently in an approved or certified supervised setting with supervision and support. This can include, but is not limited to, SILP units, college dorm rooms, apartments, room rentals, and shared housing with non-foster care individuals.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	SNAP provides electronic benefits that can be used like cash to purchase food.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	TA, also known as Public Assistance (PA), is temporary help for needy adults and children. If you are unable to work, can't find a job, or your job does not pay enough, TA may be able to help you pay for your expenses.
Test Optional College	The SAT or ACT is not required for acceptance to a college/university.
Trade/Vocational Program	Training in a specific skill or trade to be pursued as a career.
Trial Discharge	You remain in the care and custody or custody and guardianship of the local department of social services for a short period of time, but you reside with a parent, guardian, relative, or on your own until final discharged from foster care (final discharge).
Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM)	A person who has not yet turned 18 years of age, who has no parent(s) in the United States, who entered the United States unaccompanied and is not going to be with a parent, an adult relative, or an adult who can verify custody of the child.
Unhealthy Relationships	A relationship that is based on power and control and threatens your well-being in some way. Unhealthy relationships are often imbalanced, lack of mutual respect, lack boundaries, trust, communication, or support. Unhealthy relationships can occur at any age and can also fall under teen dating violence.
Vocation	A trade, profession, or career in which you are trained in.