

NYC Children
YOUTH
EXPERIENCE
SURVEY
2026

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Each year, the Foster Care Youth Experience Survey gives us something incredibly valuable: the opportunity to hear directly from young people about their experiences in foster care. I want to begin by thanking every young person who took the time to complete this year's survey. Your honesty, your willingness to share your experiences, and your trust in us are what make this report possible. Your voices are not simply reflected in these pages; they help shape how we think, how we lead, and how we continue to improve the work we do together.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to our foster care provider agencies and all of the staff who encouraged and supported young people in participating in the survey. Ensuring that youth voices are heard requires partnership, commitment, and intentionality, and I am grateful for the many people who helped make that happen.

This report is the result of the dedication and collaboration of so many across the Administration for Children's Services. I am especially grateful to Deputy Commissioner for Family Permanency Services, Ina Mendez, and Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Planning, and Measurement, Andrew White, for their leadership and steadfast commitment to strengthening our foster care system. My thanks also extend to the many ACS staff whose expertise and hard work made this survey and report possible, including the ACS Youth Leadership Council, Emma Delaporte, Nisha Shrinivasan, Sara Workman, Eileen Johns, Fouad Yared, Serena Ohene, Lucy Antoine, Polly Mygatt, Wesley Santos, Lorna Guthrie, Myra Soto-Aponte, Neil Freedman, Sabine Chery, Sophonie Taylor, Steven Gordon, Bianca Lopez, Alathia Barnett, Christopher Tan, Sonia Gonzalez, Stephanie Gendell, and the staff of the Office of Permanency Consultation, Office of Shared Response, Office of Older Youth Development Services, and Office of Youth Success Services. I also want to recognize John Taylor and Ryan Moritz for their thoughtful design of this report, helping to bring these findings to life in a way that is both accessible and meaningful.

I am grateful to Mayor Mamdani for his commitment to New York City's children, youth, and families and for his support of ACS's work to strengthen opportunities and outcomes for young people in foster care.

As you read this report, I encourage you to see it as more than a collection of survey findings. It is a reflection of the lived experiences of young people who have entrusted us with their stories. Their perspectives remind us of what is working, where we must do better, and what is possible when we listen with intention and act with purpose.

At ACS, we are committed to using these findings to inform our decisions, strengthen our partnerships, and continue building a foster care system where every young person feels seen, supported, connected, and empowered to thrive. That work belongs to all of us, and I am grateful to everyone who continues to walk alongside our young people every day.



Rebecca Jones Gaston
Commissioner,
NYC Administration for Children's Services

The New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), in partnership with our foster care provider agencies, conducted the ninth annual Foster Care Youth Experience Survey in accordance with Local Law 146 of 2016 and Local Laws 37 and 46 of 2025. The legislation requires ACS to conduct a biannual survey of all youth in foster care ages 13 and older. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the experiences of youth in care and identify any unmet needs that may impact their safety, permanency, and well-being.

The survey questions focused on youths’ experiences related to their education, employment, health care, mental health, connections to family and friends, and permanency planning. The survey also includes various ways that youth identify including sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and race and ethnicity. Across the survey themes, responses reflect youth’s perceptions of their needs and the support they receive in a variety of areas.

The survey launched on December 3, 2025, and closed on March 1, 2026. The response rate for the FY 2026 survey was 63%; 1,232 out of 1,963 eligible youth completed the survey. This is an excellent response rate for a survey of this type, which typically have a response rate of 30% - 40%.¹



Youth in 24-hour foster care² for at least 90 days between the ages of 13-20 were eligible to complete the survey. Of those responding, 54% were female; 64% were age 16 years or older; 61% identified as Black or African American, and 43% identified as Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish origin.

At the time they were surveyed, most respondents resided in family foster care (82%), with 33% in kinship foster homes and 49% in non-kinship foster homes. The majority of respondents (59%) had spent fewer than three years in foster care.

The survey was voluntary and confidential; however, it was not anonymous. Youth were informed that ACS would follow up if their responses indicated any health or safety concerns. ACS staff contacted individual youth and/or foster care agencies to address such concerns and confirm that youth’s needs were met.

¹ Hart, N., Dykema, J., Schaeffer, N., & Stevenson, J., University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Survey Fundamentals: A Guide to Designing and Implementing Surveys. 2010.

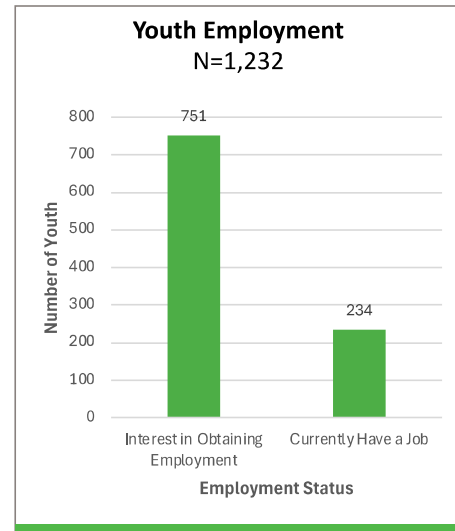
² Twenty-four hour foster care means the youth is residing in a foster care placement; they are not on trial discharge, hospitalized, incarcerated, AWOC, or otherwise temporarily out of placement.



Education

The majority (86%) of the youth who completed the survey were in school. Among the 1,105 youth currently in school, 72% were in high school, 14% were in middle school, 8% were in college, and 6% were in a high school equivalency program. Among the 173 youth not currently enrolled in school, 49% had a high school diploma or equivalency degree, 32% had completed at least one high school grade but had not received a high school diploma, and 14% had completed some college.

Youth were interested in continuing their education and were receiving academic and other support. Among youth in high school or who left high school without graduating, 92% plan to finish high school and 81% of youth who have started college plan to finish their degree. Help preparing for the high school equivalency test, guidance/mental health counseling, and help paying for needed school supplies/activities were the educational services that respondents in grades 9 and above most frequently said they needed. Over 85% of the youth who needed these services also reported receiving them. For youth in middle school, guidance/mental health counseling, tutoring, and help with transportation to/from school were the most common needs, and the vast majority (87% or higher) who needed these supports were receiving them.



Note: 246 youth responded, "No, I do not need a job."

Employment

Most of the youth in foster care want to work. Sixty-one percent of respondents reported interest in obtaining employment, and 19% of youth currently have a job/paid internship. Youth who were working or wanted to work were asked if they were getting the career-related support they needed.

The most desired types of support were around finding job openings (90%), completing an application and/or a resume (90%), learning interview skills (88%), creating a career goal and plan (88%), and getting proper clothing (87%). The majority of youth who needed these supports received them. The greatest unmet needs were for help finding job openings (43%), help with interview skills (36%), and help with applications and/or resumes (33%).



Emotional Support

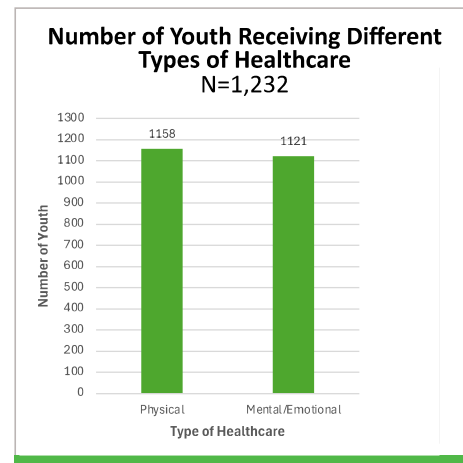
Most youth reported that they feel very supported by their foster parents or residential facility staff. Seventy-three percent (73%) of youth living with a foster family (including kin and non-kin) said they felt very supported by their foster parents and 20% felt somewhat supported. Just over half (56%) of youth in residential care said they felt very supported by their residential staff and 34% felt somewhat supported. Comparing LGBTQIA+ youth with their non-LGBTQIA+ peers, the percentage feeling either “very supported” or “somewhat supported” by foster parents was similar, 94% and 93%, respectively. However, LGBTQIA+ youth in residential care were less likely to feel supported by staff; 82% answered “very” or “somewhat supported” versus 93% of their non-LGBTQIA+ peers.

Youth were asked how often, over the last 30 days, they have had a friend, family member, or a significant other they enjoy spending time with, who makes them feel wanted, who makes them feel included as part of a community, who will listen to them, whom they can talk to when feeling lonely, and with whom they can share their private worries and fears. At least 70% of youth reported having someone who meets these needs “almost all” or “most” of the time. Youth identifying as non-binary, gender non-conforming, or another gender were less likely than their peers to say they have someone who makes them feel wanted “most” or “almost all” of the time (67% versus 76% - 79% for other gender identities). For each of these needs, fewer than 10% of youth said their needs were met “none of the time.” If a youth answered “none” in all six categories, ACS staff reached out to them and contacted their foster care agencies as necessary to follow up on their emotional well-being.



Recreation and Social Interactions

Most youth reported spending time with friends, using social media, and engaging in outdoor activities as their primary activities during their free time. The most common activities youth did in their free time were spending time with friends (84%), using social media (84%), doing outdoor activities (74%), playing video games (70%), and reading a book (59%).



Healthcare

The majority of youth reported that their needs for health care were met. Among all survey respondents, 94% reported having their needs met for physical health care and 91% for their mental/emotional health. Respondents reported receiving needed vision (90%) and dental (87%) care. One quarter (25%) of respondents stated that they need and receive care for alcohol or drug use. Forty-two percent of respondents stated that they need and receive care for sexual health/family planning. For any youth who reported an unmet health need, ACS conducted outreach to address the concern.



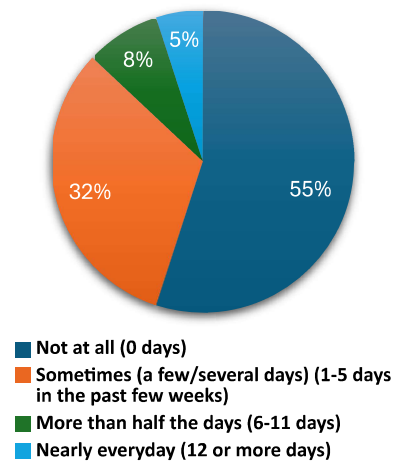
Supportive Services and Permanency Planning

Most youth receive support from their foster care agencies on education, job readiness, and connecting with their attorneys. When asked what types of support they needed from their foster care agencies, the largest group of youth (91%) said they needed help reaching educational goals, and 92% of those youth were receiving it. This was followed by youth needing help with job readiness (82%) and connecting with their attorneys (82%), and at least three quarters of these youth were receiving what they needed (76% and 84%, respectively). Youth were supported to engage in permanency planning most frequently by their foster care case worker (65%), foster parent (63%), and attorney (36%).

Youth were also asked if they have a Fair Futures Coach and how satisfied they were with the services and support received from them. Fifty-nine percent of youth reported that they were assigned a Fair Futures Coach. The majority of these youth reported that they were completely satisfied with the support they received from their Coach in all six categories: coaching, social and emotional support, academic planning and support, career planning and support, connections to services, and housing planning and support.

Youth Reporting Feeling Down, Depressed, or Hopeless

(N = 1,232)



Depression

Youth were asked to report frequency of feeling down, depressed, or hopeless within the last two weeks.

Responses varied by gender. Sixty-five percent of male youth and 49% of female youth reported that they did not feel down, depressed, or hopeless during the last two weeks. Twenty-six percent of male youth and 38% of female youth reported that they felt down, depressed, or hopeless “sometimes” (1-5 days in the past two weeks).

Among youth who identify as a gender other than male or female, or who declined to answer the gender question, the survey showed more frequent feelings of depression, though the majority still said they felt depressed sometimes or not at all. Five percent of all youth reported feeling depressed nearly every day. All youth who indicated that they would like someone to follow up with them were contacted by ACS staff. ACS staff automatically contacted all youth who had indicated feeling depressed almost daily.



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression

Youth were asked about their gender identity, and 51% of youth identified as female/woman while 44% identified as male/man. Four percent of youth selected “non-binary,” “another gender,” and/or “decline to answer.” Separately, youth were asked, “Do you identify as transgender?” Eighty-one percent said “no,” 3% said “yes,” 9% declined to answer, and 5% said they were unsure or did not understand the question.

Youth were also asked how they describe their sexual orientation, and 56% selected “straight” while 13% selected “bisexual.” Eleven percent chose “decline to answer.” Six percent or fewer selected each of the other options, including asexual, gay, lesbian, pansexual, queer, questioning, another sexual orientation, not sure, or do not understand the question.



Housing

Youth ages 18 and older were asked if they were aware of the various housing supports available for youth who are exiting foster care. Many of these youth (64-72%) knew about supportive housing, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), and housing vouchers. Slightly fewer knew about Housing Connect affordable housing lotteries and the ACS Housing Academy Collaborative training (55% and 38%, respectively).



Basic Food/Clothing Needs

The vast majority of youth reported that their basic food and clothing needs were met. Youth were asked if they had three meals a day, appropriate clothing and shoes that fit. Ninety-five percent of youth stated they are currently getting three meals a day, 94% reported having appropriate clothing, and 93% stated they have shoes that fit. For every youth who answered no to any of these questions, ACS conducted outreach to address the concerns.¹

A. Background and Purpose of the Survey

The New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) disseminated and analyzed the responses from the FY26 Foster Care Experience Survey to comply with Local Law 146 of 2016 as well as Local Laws 37 and 46 of 2025. The laws require ACS to provide all youth in foster care, ages 13 and older, an annual survey regarding their experiences in foster care. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the experiences of youth while in foster care, especially as it pertains to their safety, permanency, and well-being. The law requires that the survey cover the following topics:¹

- Access to food and clothing;²
- Religious practices;
- Social connectedness (i.e., relationships with foster families, biological families, and friends);
- Personal allowances (i.e., money received on a regular basis from the caregiver, or stipends for participating in agency program);
- Access to technology (i.e., internet and phone);
- Educational needs and progress; and
- Participation in extracurricular activities.

ACS chose to include three additional topics:

- Support related to education and employment;
- Support related to permanency planning; and
- Health and mental health care.

ACS collaborated with its contracted foster care agencies to disseminate the survey to all eligible youth residing in 24-hour foster care status, in all types of foster care placements (foster homes, group homes and residential treatment programs). ³ACS worked closely with foster care agencies to implement a range of strategies to ensure that all eligible youth were aware of the survey, knew how to access it, and encouraged to complete it. Youth who completed the survey received a \$20 gift card. The survey launched on December 3, 2025, and closed on March 1, 2026. The overall response rate was 63%.

³ This does not include Close to Home juvenile justice placements.

B. Survey Methodology

Survey development and analysis

For the annual survey conducted in FY26, ACS modified the questions about sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and race and ethnicity; all other questions that were asked were the same as last year's Youth Experience Survey. Findings from the modified questions have been included in this report.

Survey dissemination

For the survey launch, foster care provider agencies were instructed to enter email addresses for all older youth in care into the New York State database, Connections. ACS sent an electronic notification of the survey to all eligible youth with an email address available in Connections. The notice explained the purpose of the survey and included instructions for youth to access the survey. ACS also sent the relevant information to each provider agency, including the youth names and their unique PINs⁴ to help support further engagement of youth to complete the survey. All communications included ACS staff contact information in case the youth had any questions. To encourage survey participation, youth received an electronic \$20 gift card upon completion of the survey.

ACS and the provider agencies used a wide range of strategies to follow up with non-respondents. For example, ACS provided weekly updates to the agencies showing overall response rates, along with a list of youth who had not yet completed the survey. ACS staff worked with foster care agencies to identify and resolve any completion barriers and reiterate the importance of completing the survey. Additionally, ACS responded to any questions from youth and foster care agencies through a survey help desk and offered translation services for youth who requested to complete the survey in another language.

Survey population and response rate

The survey population was comprised of all youth aged 13 or older who had been in foster care for at least 90 days as of November 2025. Of the 1,963 youth eligible for the survey, 1,232 completed it, for a response rate of 63%. The response rate increased from 55% responding in FY25 to 63% responding in FY26.

⁴ Each eligible young person was given a unique identification number (PIN) with which to access the survey.

C. Survey Respondent Placement Types & Demographics

This section provides an overview of the demographic characteristics and placement types of the youth responding to the survey and the total population of foster care youth eligible to participate in the survey, based on ACS administrative data.⁵

Placement Type Of the 1,232 youth who responded to the survey, 82% were living either in foster homes or in kinship foster homes (Table 1). Forty-nine percent resided in non-relative foster homes and 33% were placed in kinship family homes. Eighteen percent of youth were living in a congregate residential setting.

Length of time in foster care. Based on information available in ACS administrative records, slightly more than half of the survey respondents had been in care for fewer than three years, including 18% in care for less than one year at the time of the survey distribution and 41% in care for one to under three years. Slightly less than half were in care for three years or more.

Number of foster care spells (placement episodes). Consistent with the population of youth aged 13 or older in foster care overall, 69% of the survey respondents were experiencing foster care placement for the first time, or their first spell. An additional 22% of respondents were in their second spell of foster care, meaning they had previously been discharged from care and then reentered care. The remaining 8% had been placed into foster care three or more times.

Table 1. Indicators of placement in foster care: Survey respondents and population eligible to respond to the survey.

Placement Indicator	Foster Care Youth Responding to Survey		Foster Care Youth In Population Eligible to Participate In Survey	
All Youth	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
	100%	1,232	100%	1,963
Current Placement Type	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
(FBH) Foster Home	49%	602	47%	930
(Kinship) Kinship Family Home	33%	409	33%	651
Residential/ Group Home	18%	221	19%	382
Length of Time in Foster Care	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Under 1 year	18%	224	19%	371
Between 1 and 3 years	41%	500	40%	779
Between 3 and 5 years	18%	216	18%	344
Between 5 and 8 years	14%	176	14%	277
Over 8 years	9%	116	10%	192
Number of Foster Care Spells	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
One Spell	69%	848	68%	1,334
Two Spells	22%	276	23%	447
Three or More Spells	8%	99	8%	166
Unknown Number of Spells	1%	9	1%	16

SOURCES: Youth Experience Survey FY26 and ACS Administrative Records

⁵ Youth were eligible to participate in the survey if they were age 13 or older and had spent at least 90 days in foster care.

Demographics

Sex and Age. Information on the sex and age of respondents was analyzed from ACS administrative records.⁶ Of the 1,232 youth who responded to the survey, over half (54%) are female and 46% are male. Thirty-six percent of the youth aged 13 to 15 responded to the survey, 30% of youth aged 16 to 17 responded, and 34% of youth aged 18 to 20 responded (Table 2).

Table 2. Response Rate: Overall and by Sex and Age.

Demographic Indicator	Youth Responding to Survey	Foster Care Youth in Population Eligible to Participate in Survey	Response Rate
All Youth	1,232	1,963	63%
Sex	-	-	-
Female	664	1,068	62%
Male	568	895	64%
Age	-	-	-
13 to 15	440	752	59%
16 to 17	371	586	63%
18 to 20	421	625	67%

SOURCES: Youth Experience Survey FY26 and ACS Administrative Records

The survey gathered information on the race and ethnicity of youth in foster care (Table 3).⁷ Unlike previous years where race and ethnicity were asked separately, the FY26 survey combined the two and allowed youth to select multiple options. Youth who identified themselves as Black or African American accounted for a substantial share of the youth responding to the survey (61%), while the next largest group (43%) identified as Hispanic or Latino. Small percentages identified as Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, White, Middle Eastern or North African, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

It was not possible to compare the racial or ethnic background of survey respondents with the total eligible population of youth in foster care because the survey requested that the information be reported in a different format than that used in ACS' administrative records.

⁶ Gender information was pulled from the New York State CONNECTIONS system. This data does not reflect youth's self-reported gender identities.

⁷ ACS' administrative records do not distinguish between race and ethnicity (Hispanic is reported as a race in New York State CONNECTIONS, the system of record, so data are not available, for example, about the number of youth in care who are Black/African American and Hispanic).

Table 3. Race/ethnicity of survey respondents.

Demographic Indicator	Foster Care Youth Responding to Survey	
	Percent	Number
Race/ Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3%	41
Asian	4%	45
Black or African American	61%	757
Hispanic or Latino	43%	532
Middle Eastern or North African	1%	16
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*	*
White	3%	40

NOTE: The sum of percentages is greater than 100% because youth could select more than one race/ethnicity. Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*).

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Sexual orientation and gender identity/expression

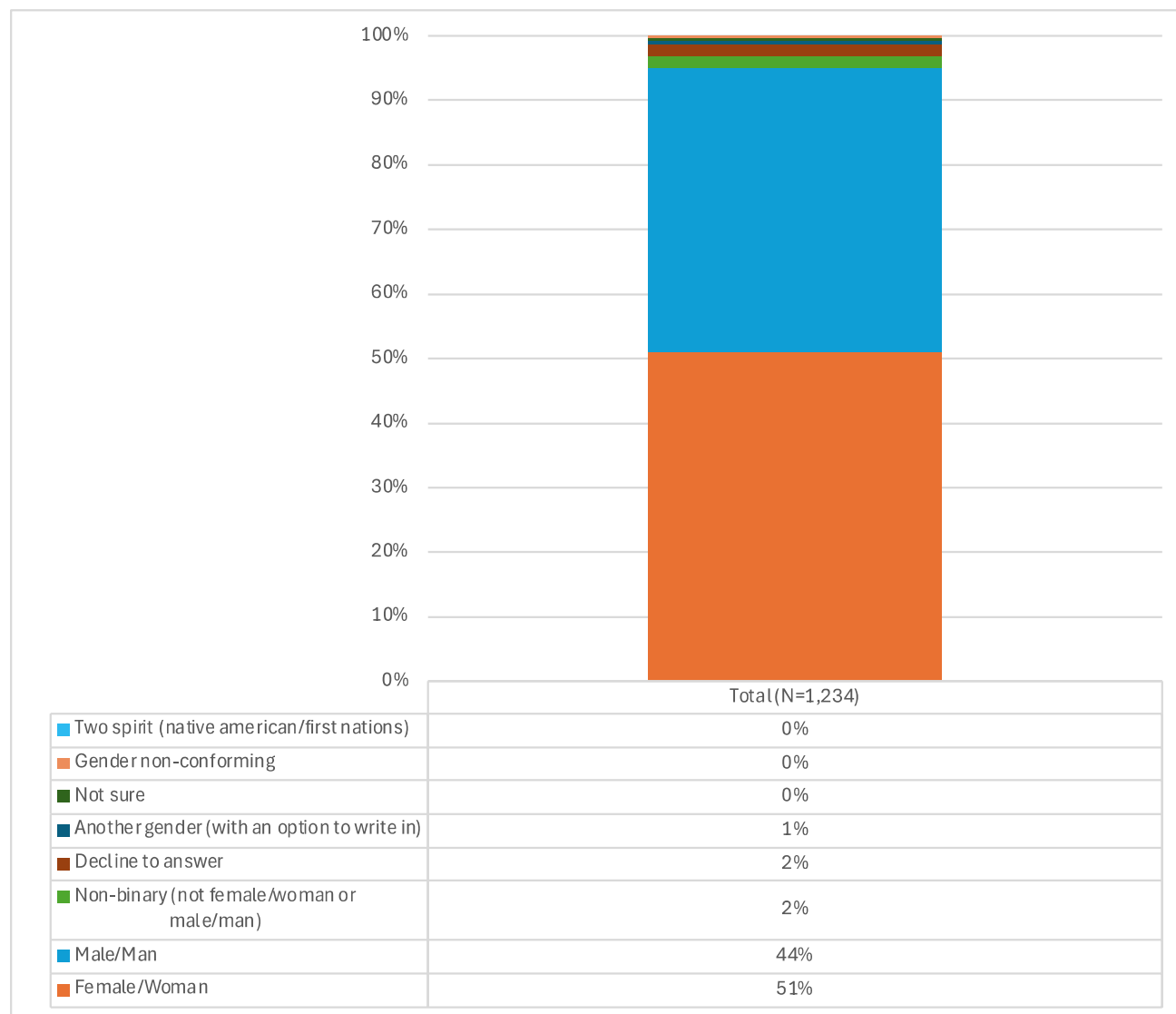
The LGBTQAI+ Action Plan⁸ reflects ACS' continued commitment to identifying and addressing the unique needs of youth whose sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression differ from heterosexual, cisgender or binary norms.

Youth were asked about their gender identity, and 51% of youth identified as female/woman while 44% identified as male/man. Four percent of youth selected “non-binary,” “another gender,” and/or “decline to answer” (Figure 1). Separately, youth were asked, “Do you identify as transgender?” Eighty-one percent said “no,” 3% said “yes,” 9% declined to answer, and 5% said they were unsure or did not understand the question (Figure 2).

Youth were also asked how they describe their sexual orientation, and 56% selected “straight” while 13% selected “bisexual.” Six percent selected “asexual.” Eleven percent chose “decline to answer.” The remaining options were selected by 4% or less of the respondents; these included gay, lesbian, pansexual, queer, questioning, another sexual orientation, not sure, or do not understand the question.

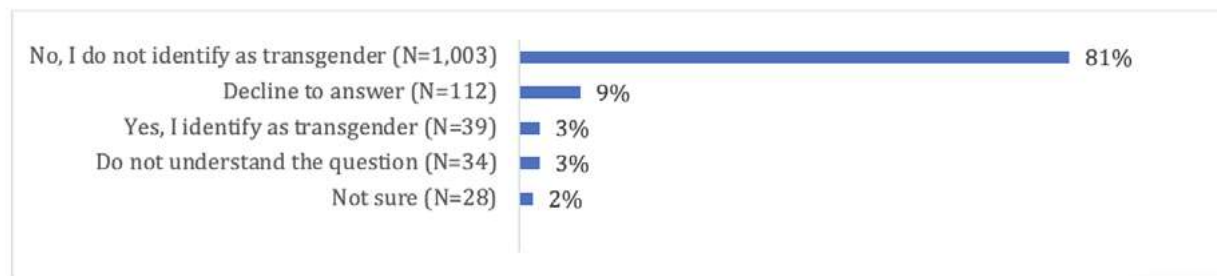
⁸ ACS LGBTQAI+ Action Plan can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/about/2020/LGBTQActionPlan.pdf>

Figure 1. How do you describe your gender?



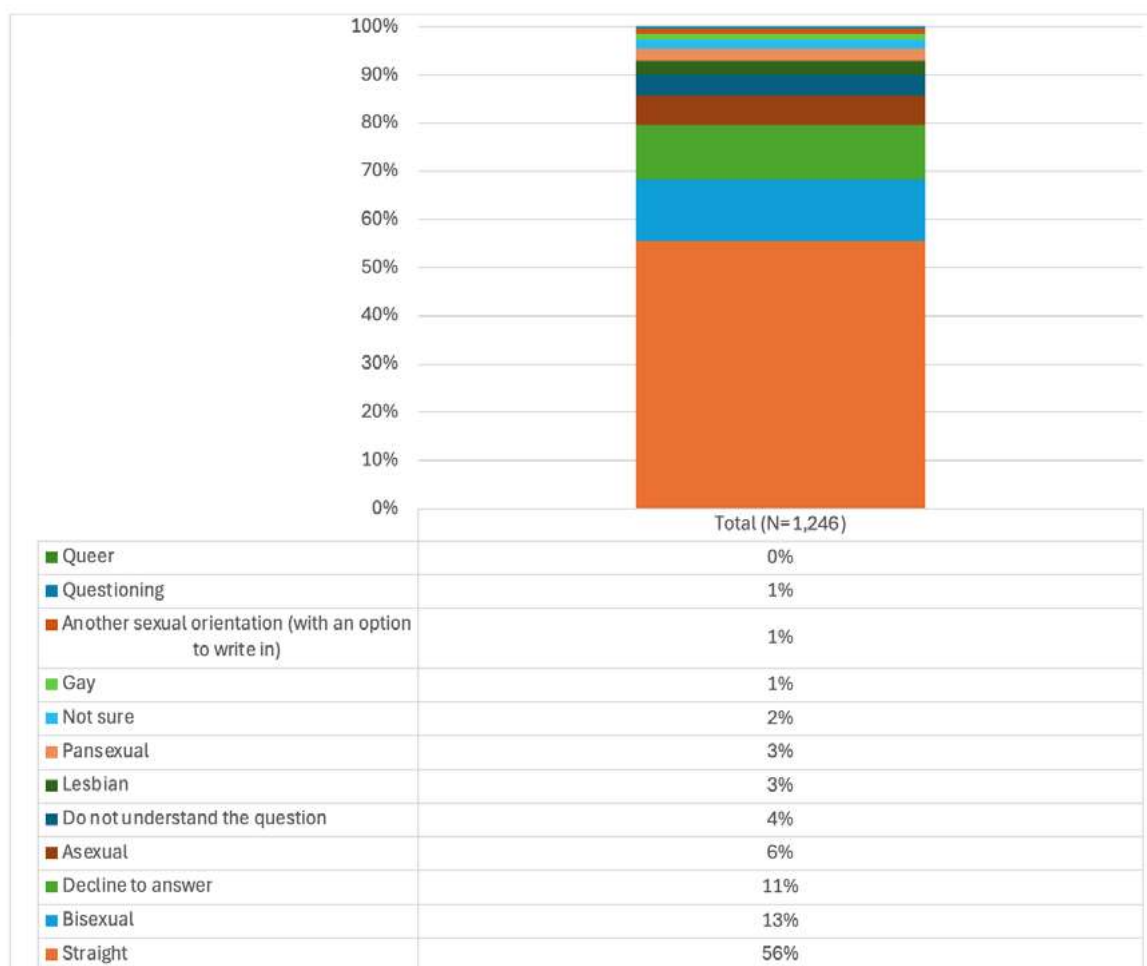
NOTE: Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*) and 0% in this chart.
 SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Figure 2. Do you identify as transgender?



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Figure 3. How do you describe your sexual orientation?



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Data processing and analysis

Analysis of the survey was completed utilizing the same methodology as the previous year's survey, allowing for a comparison of the findings. This report highlights any areas where the finding from this year's survey was 10 or more percentage points above or below last year's finding. For some of the questions, a comparative analysis could not be completed due to the question being revised with new or updated response options. These instances are noted in the applicable sections of this report.

D. Limitations of the Survey

This survey was disseminated to a NYC population of youth ages 13 and older who had been in foster care for at least 90 days as of November 2025. The survey was confidential; and no individual youth are identified in this report or in any survey data analysis shared with provider agencies. However, the survey was not anonymous; ACS followed up with the youth, or foster care provider, if necessary, if there were concerns about a youth's health, safety, or overall well-being. As with all surveys, the findings are subject to nonresponse bias that stems from youth choosing not to complete the survey. Findings are also subject to response bias from those who may over report "socially desirable" answers and underreport or over report negative feedback, which may lead to a deviation of answers from their true value.

A. Help with Education

A.1 What is the educational background of youth in foster care?

The majority of respondents (86%) were in school (Table 4). Of those enrolled, 14% were in middle school, 72% were in high school, 6% were in a high school equivalency program, and 8% were in college (Figure 5).

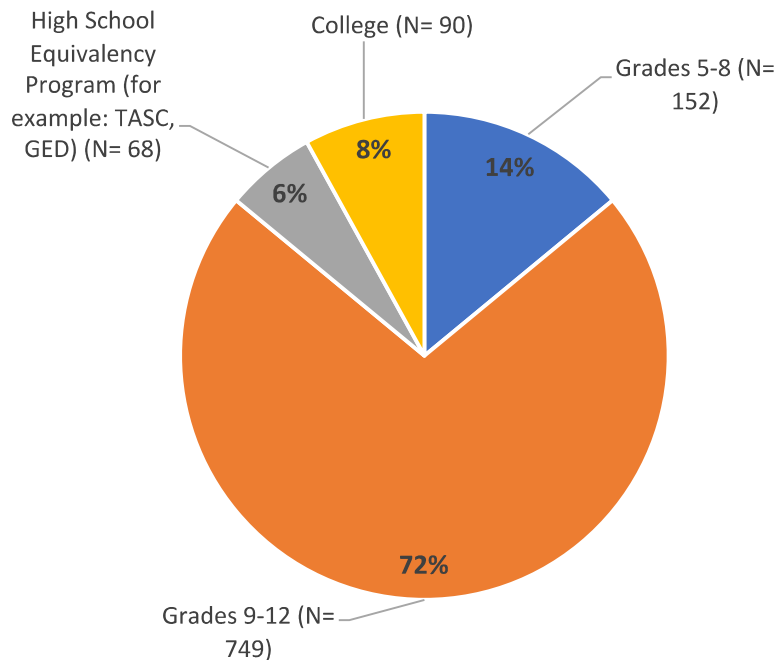
Table 4. Current school enrollment status of youth in foster care.

	<u>Yes, I am currently in school.</u>	<u>No, I am not currently in school.</u>
<u>Age</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
<u>13 to 15 years (N = 440)</u>	<u>99%</u>	<u>1%</u>
<u>16 to 17 years (N = 371)</u>	<u>93%</u>	<u>7%</u>
<u>18 to 20 years (N = 421)</u>	<u>66%</u>	<u>34%</u>

Note: This question was mandatory, so all 1,232 youth answered it.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

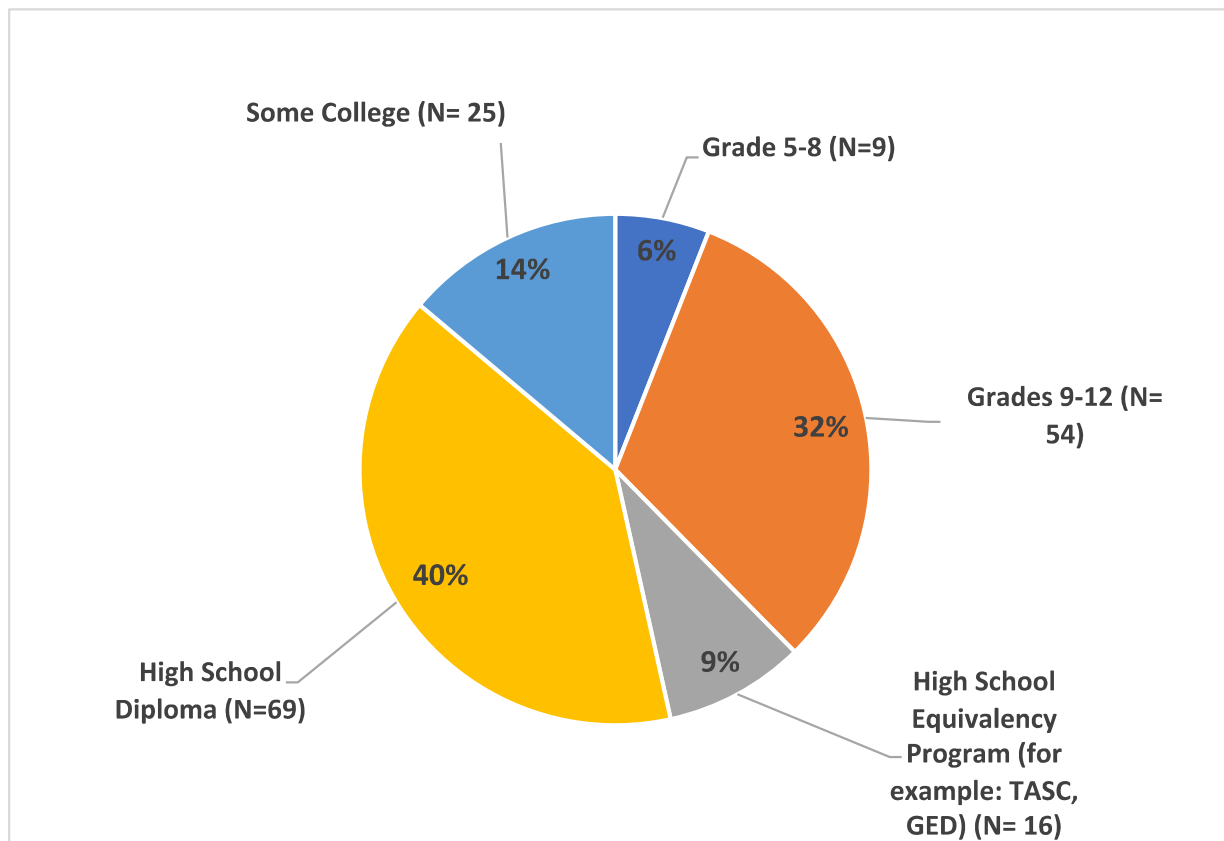
Figure 5. Level of education for youth currently enrolled in school (N=1,059).



NOTE: This question was mandatory, so all 1,059 youth currently enrolled in school answered it.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26 Of the 173 youth not currently enrolled in school, 40% reported receiving a high school diploma, 9% had completed a high school equivalency program, 32% stated that their highest level of education completed was a high school grade level, 14% had attended some college, and 6% were in grades 5-8 (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Highest level of education completed by youth not currently enrolled in school or a training program (N=173).

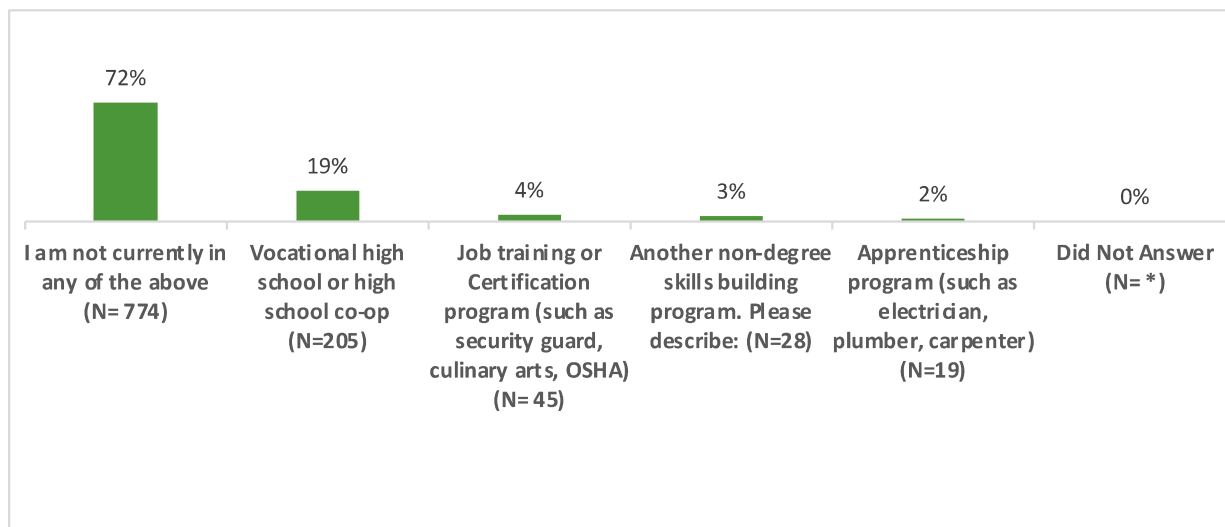


NOTE: This question was mandatory, so all 173 youth not currently enrolled in school answered it.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Youth enrolled in high school, a high school equivalency program, in college, and not enrolled in school were also asked if they were enrolled in a vocational high school or high school coop, job training or certification program, another non-degree skills building program, or apprenticeship program (Figure 7). Most respondents (72%) indicated they were not in any of these programs or trainings.

Figure 7. Whether youth are enrolled in a vocational school or job training program.



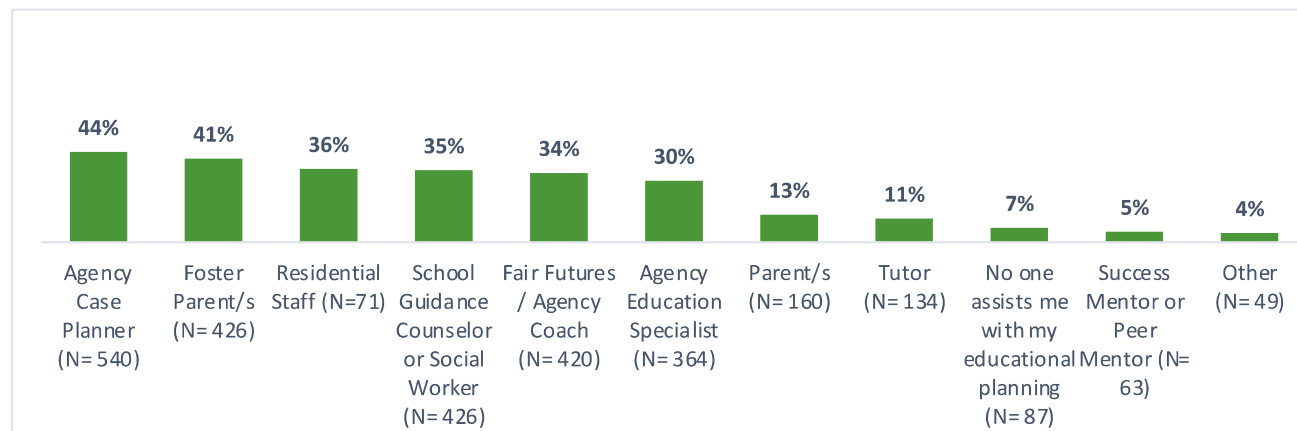
NOTE: Response to question was optional and only shown to respondents in grades 9+. Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*).

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

A.2 What support do youth need to continue with their education?

Youth were asked who assists them with their educational planning. Forty-four percent of the respondents indicated their case planner helped them with their educational planning (Figure 8), followed by their foster parent (41%), residential program staff (36%), school guidance counselor or social worker (35%), Fair Futures/Agency Coach (34%), and agency education specialist (30%). A small percent of youth indicated their parent(s) (13%), a tutor (11%), and others assisted them with their educational planning. Seven percent of youth report that no one assisted them.

Figure 8. Who assists youth with educational planning?



NOTE: Total N = 1,232 for all items except Foster Parents where N = 1,035 and Residential Staff where N = 197.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

The survey asked youth in grades 9 and above whether they plan to continue with their education and the type of support needed. Response options were tailored to the youth based on their answers to previous questions. Due to this, the N's differ for plans to continue with education. For example, those indicating they were currently in grades 9 – 12 were shown the option, “I plan on finishing high school,” while those stating that they were in a vocational school or college had the option to select, “I plan on finishing my degree.”

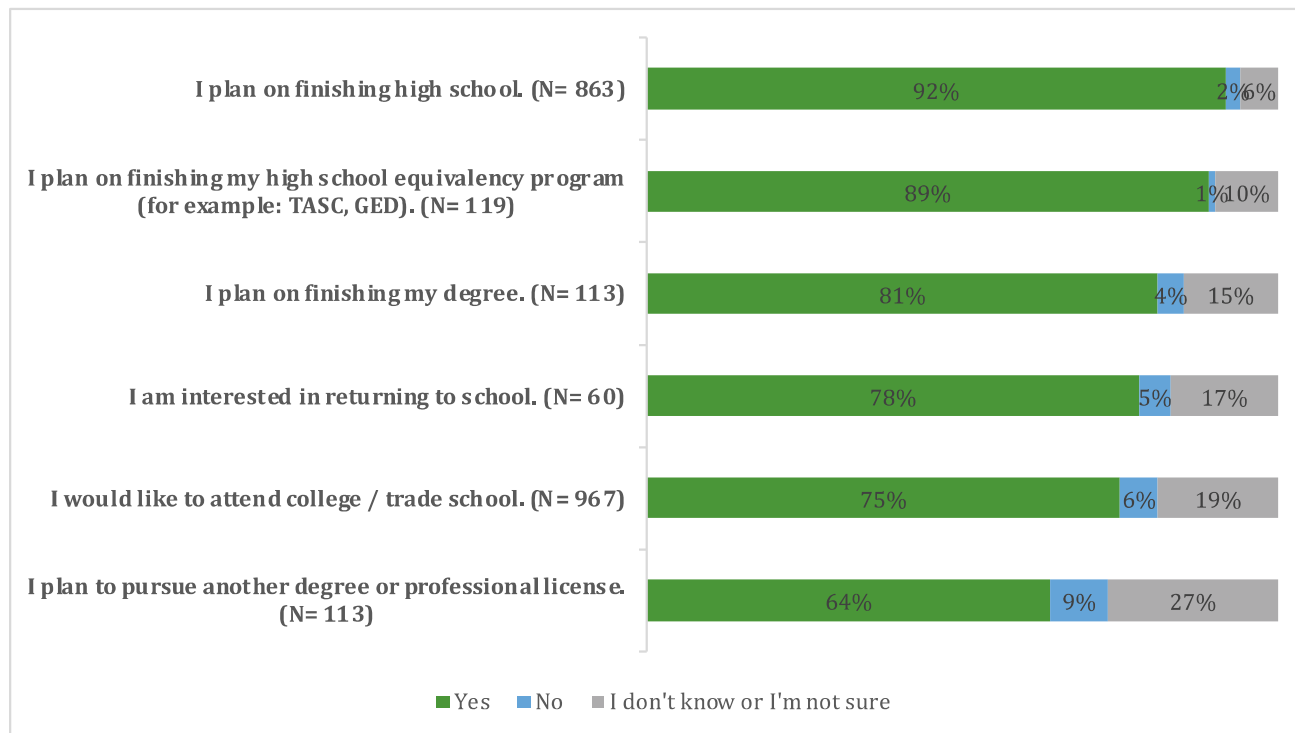
Youth shared the following regarding their desires to continue their education:

- 81% of youth who have started college or a vocational school plan to finish their degree
 - Note: There was a 10 percentage points decrease from last year. This is a relatively small group with 113 respondents to the question. In FY25, 93 youth reported they will finish their degree, as compared to 90 youth in FY26.
- 92% of youth in high school or who left high school without graduating plan to finish high school
- 89% of youth current in high school equivalency (HSE) program or who left high school without graduating plan to finish a high school equivalency program
- 75% of youth in high school or HSE program, or who whose highest level of education completed is at least 9th grade, would like to attend college/trade school.
- 78% said they were interested in returning to school.
- 64% of youth in college or vocational school plan to pursue another degree or professional license

Figure 9 shows detailed findings for each of these answer choices.

ACS' Office of Youth Success Services provides information and technical assistance to foster care agencies to ensure that they are providing support and resources to help all youth advance their education. See Section V for additional details.

Figure 9. Whether youth in grades 9 and above plan to continue with education.



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

A.3 What education services did the youth need and receive?

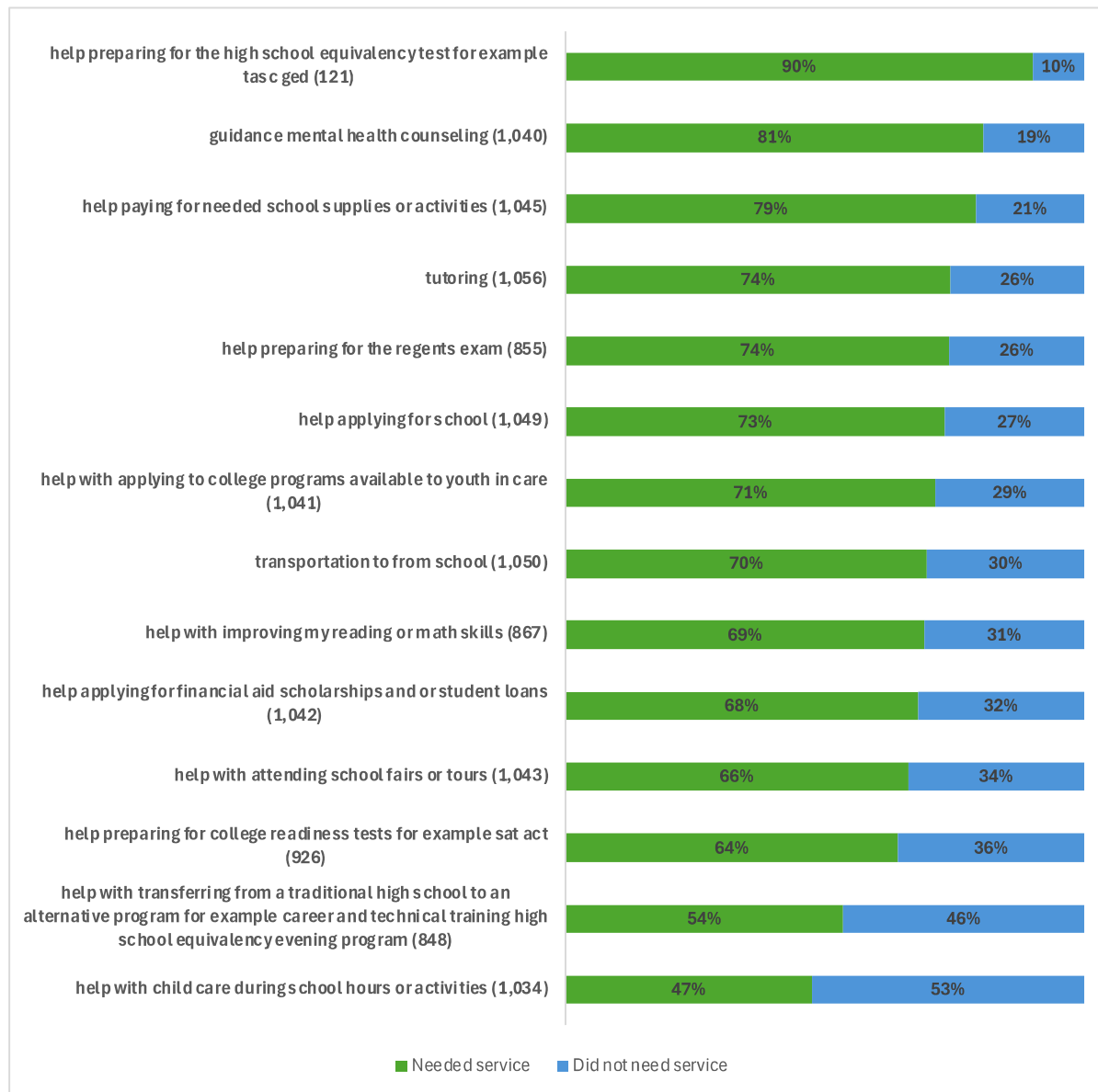
The survey asked youth in grades 9 and above whether they needed and received each of thirteen types of education services in the past year. Youth in grades 5 through 8 were asked whether they needed and received each of six types of education services.

Education services needed and received: Grades 9 and above

To explore whether current educational needs were met, youth in grades 9 and above were asked whether they needed and received each of the following services: help preparing for the high school equivalency test, guidance/mental health counseling, help paying for needed school supplies or activities, tutoring, help applying for school, help with applying to college programs available to youth in care, help preparing for Regents exams, transportation to/from school, help applying for financial aid and/or student loans, help preparing for college readiness tests, help attending school fairs or tours, help with transferring from a traditional high school to an alternative program, and help with children during school hours or activities.

Need for services: Among youth in grades 9 and above, the most frequently reported needs were guidance/mental health counseling (81%), help paying for needed school supplies or activities (79%), tutoring (74%), help preparing for the Regents exam (74%), help applying for schools (73%), and help applying to college programs available to youth in care (71%) (Figure 10). Youth also reported needing transportation to/from school (70%), help improving reading or math skills (69%), and help applying for financial aid and/or student loans (68%). Of the youth enrolled in a GED/TASC program or those who are not currently in school, and their last grade completed was in high school, 90% needed help with preparing for the high school equivalency test. Figure 10 shows detailed findings for each of the answer choices.

Figure 10. Youth in grades 9 and above reporting education services needed

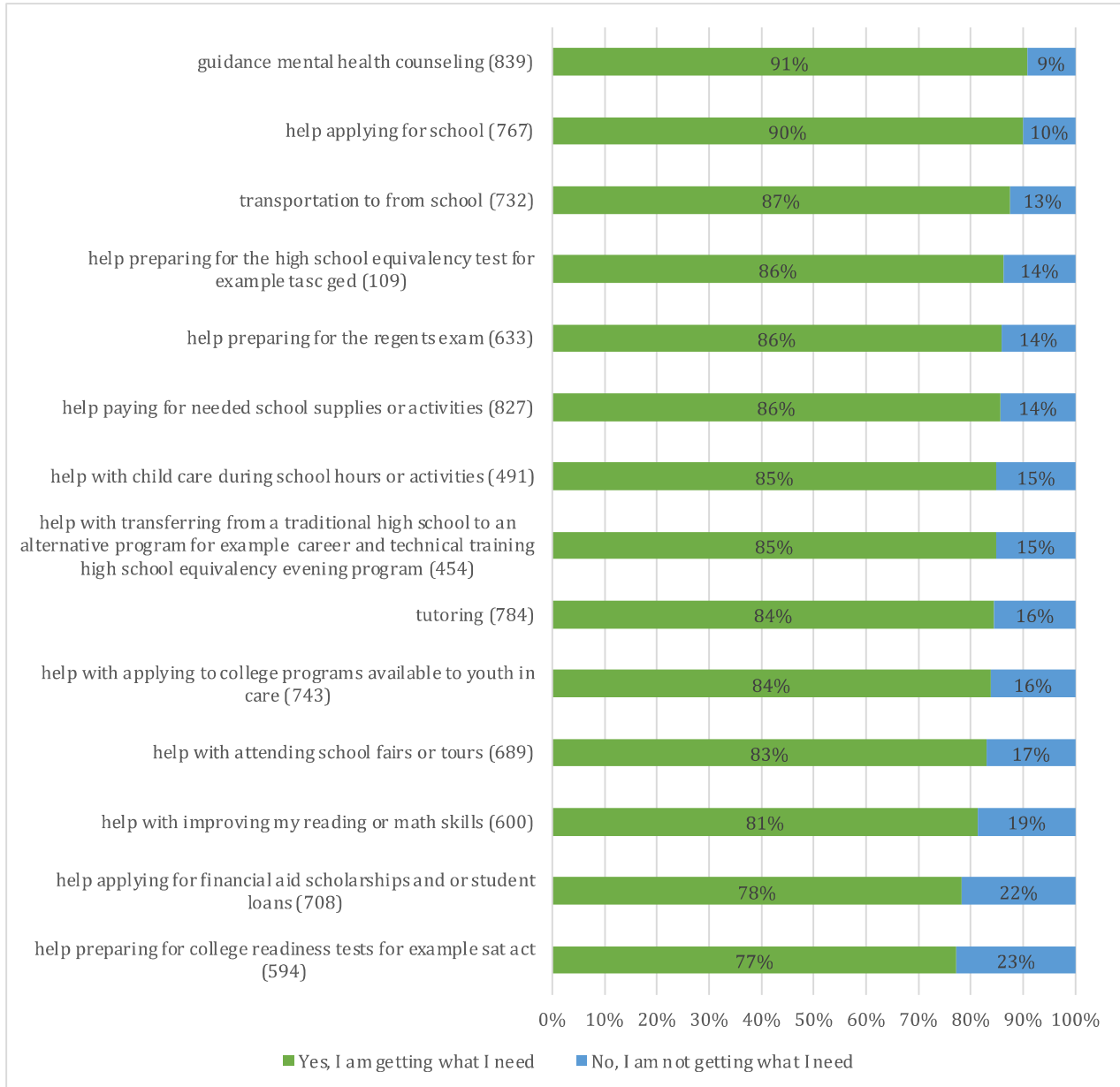


SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Extent to which needs were met: The information presented in Figure 11 reflects the extent to which youth's needs for specific education services were met. The following results indicate the extent to which the needs of youth in grades 9 and above were met for each of the thirteen services examined from the survey.

- Guidance /mental health counseling: 91% of the 839 youth who needed this education service reported that they received it, while 9% did not (i.e., the need was unmet).
- Help applying for school: 90% of the 767 youth who reported needing this support received it (i.e., the need was met), while 10% did not.
- Transportation to/from school: 87% of the 732 youth who reported needing transportation received it, while 13% did not.
- Preparing for the high school equivalency test: 86% of the 109 youth in a GED/TASC program who needed help preparing for the high school equivalency test received it, while 14% did not.
- Help preparing for the Regents exams: 86% of the 633 youth who needed help preparing for Regents exams received it, while 14% did not.
- Help paying for needed school supplies and activities: 86% of the 708 youth who needed help paying for needed school supplies and activities received it, while 14% did not.
- Help with childcare during school hours or activities: 85% of the 491 youth who needed assistance with childcare received it, while 15% did not.
- Help with transferring from a traditional high school to another: 85% of the 454 youth who needed help transferring schools received it, while 15% did not.
- Tutoring: 84% of the 784 students who needing tutoring received it, while 16% did not.
- Help with applying to college programs available to youth in care: 84% of the 743 youth who needed help with applying to college programs received it, while 16% did not.
- Help with attending school fairs or tours: 83% of the 689 youth who needed assistance with attending school fairs or tours received it, while 17% did not.
- Help improving my reading or math skills: 81% of the 600 youth who needed this educational service reported receiving it, while 19% did not.
- Help applying for financial aid/student loans: 78% of the 708 youth who needed this educational service reported receiving it, while 22% did not.
- Preparing for college readiness/specialized tests: 77% of the 594 youth who reported needing help with preparing for tests received it, while 23% did not.

Figure 11. Youth in grades 9 and above reporting they received the education services needed.



NOTE: Ns for this chart are slightly lower than the total number of youth asked. This is because a small number of youth left the question blank. “Received service needed” was calculated as youth who said “Yes, I am getting what I need” divided by the sum of youth who said either “Yes, I am getting what I need” or “No, I am not getting what I need,” Blanks were not included in this calculation.

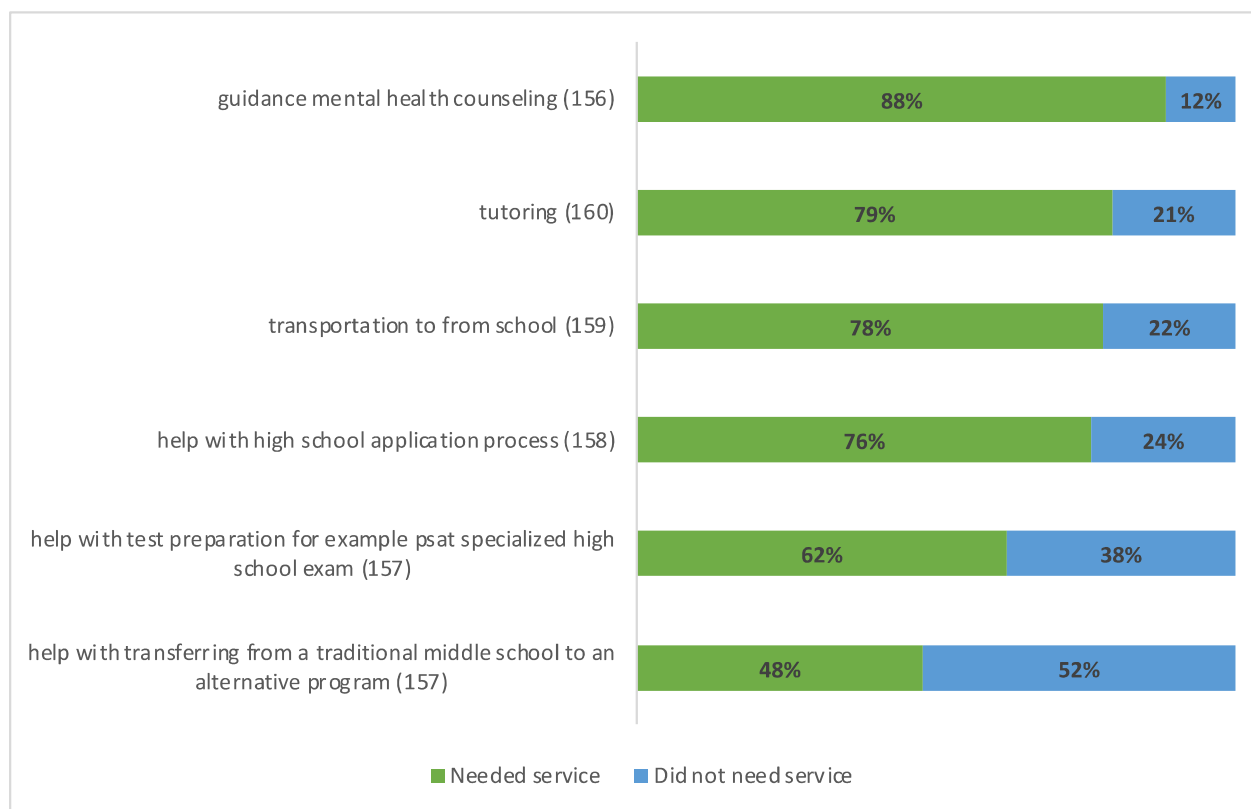
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Educational services needed and received: Grades 5 through 8

Youth in grades 5 through 8 reported whether they needed and received each of six services over the past year: guidance/mental health counseling, tutoring, help with the high school application process, transportation to/from school, test preparation (PSAT, specialized high school exam), and help with transferring from a traditional middle school to an alternative program.

Need for services: Eighty-eight percent of middle school youth responded that they need guidance/mental health counseling (Figure 12). Seventy-nine percent of youth reported needing tutoring services. Seventy-eight percent of youth reported needing help with transportation to/from school. Seventy-six percent reported needing help with the high school application process. Sixty-two percent reported needing help with test preparation, and 48% reported needing help with transferring from a traditional middle school to an alternative program.

Figure 12. Youth in grades 5 through 8 reporting education service needed.



Note: “Needed Service” was calculated as the sum of youth who said “Yes, I am getting what I need” or “no, I am not getting what I need” over youth who said “Yes, I am getting what I need,” “No, I am not getting what I need,” and “I don’t need this.”

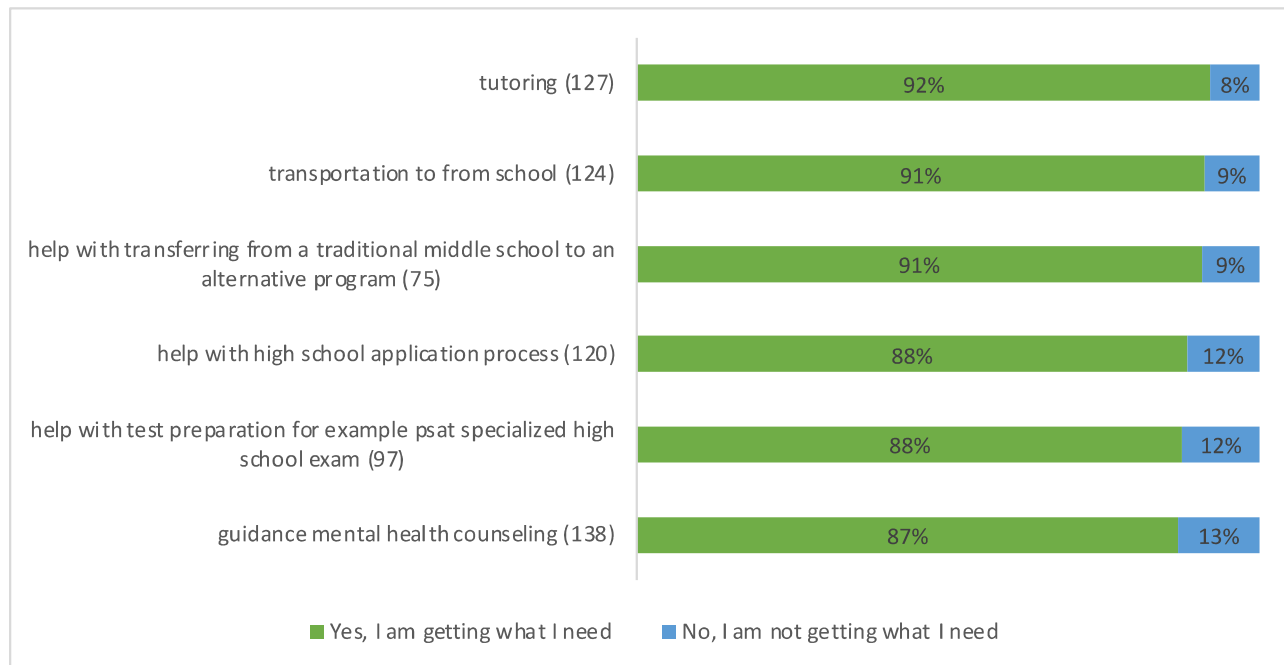
Note: The N for services needed also includes youth not in school who reported their highest grade completed as grade 5-8.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Extent to which needs were met. Figure 13 reflects the extent to which youth's needs for specific education services were met or unmet. Overall, most education service needs were met as reported by youth in grades 5 through 8.

- **Tutoring:** 92% of the 127 youth who needed tutoring services received it, while 8% did not.
- **Transportation:** 91% of the 124 youth who reported needing transportation to and from school received it, while 9% did not.
- **Help with transferring from a traditional middle school to an alternative program:** 91% of the 75 youth who responded received the services, while 9% did not.
- **Test preparation:** 88% of the 97 students who needed test preparation services received it, while 12% did not.
- **Help with the high school application process:** 88% of the 120 youth who needed help with the high school application process received it, while 12% did not.
- **Guidance/ Mental Health Counseling:** 87% of the 138 youth who reported needing guidance/mental health counseling received it, while 13% did not.

Figure 13. Youth in grades 5 through 8 reporting they received the education service they needed.



NOTE: "Received service" was calculated as youth who say "Yes, I am getting what I need" divided by the sum of youth who said either "Yes, I am getting what I need" or "No, I am not getting what I need."

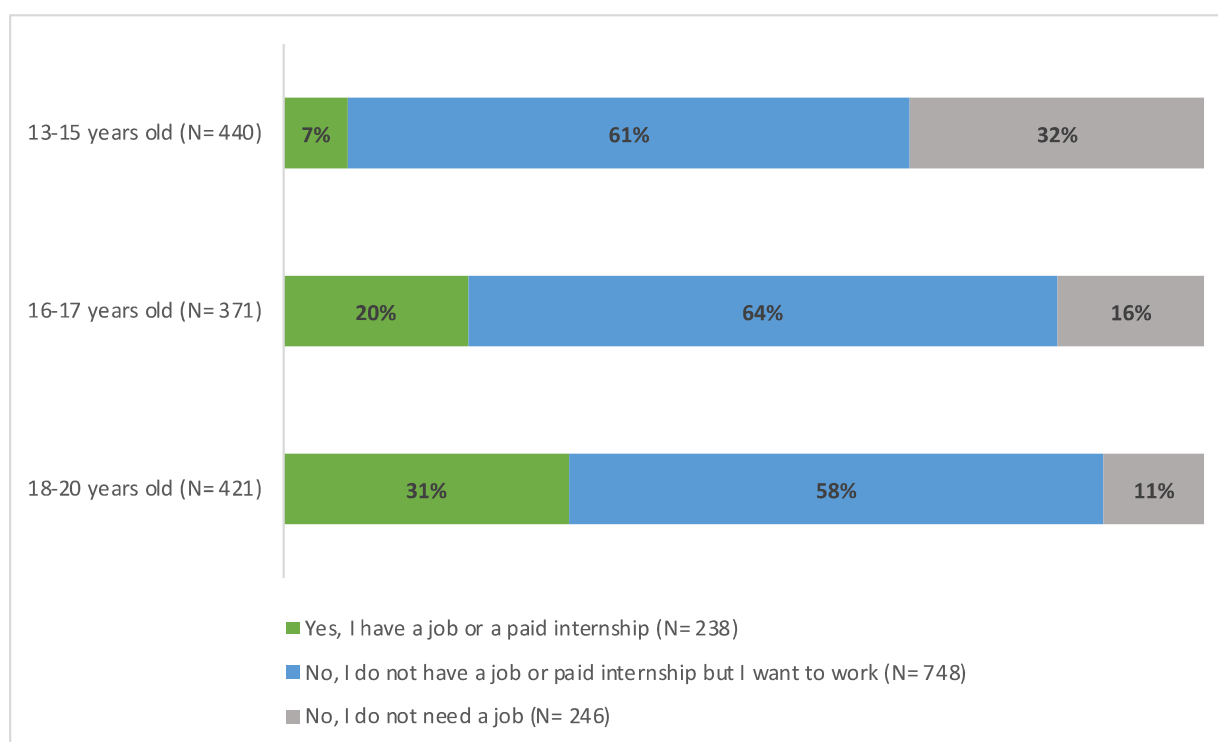
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

B. Help with Employment

B.1 What is the employment status of youth in foster care?

Figure 14 shows the distribution of youth in foster care by age group who are actively employed or would like to be employed. The majority of youth across all age groups did not have a job or paid internship but would like to work. Thirty-one percent of youth ages 18-20 years, 20% of youth ages 16-17 years, and 7% of youth ages 13-15 years reported having a job or paid internship. Eleven percent of youth ages 18-20 years, 16% of youth ages 16-17 years, and 32% of youth ages 13-15 years reported that they do not need a job.

Figure 14. Employment status of youth in foster care, by Age Group.



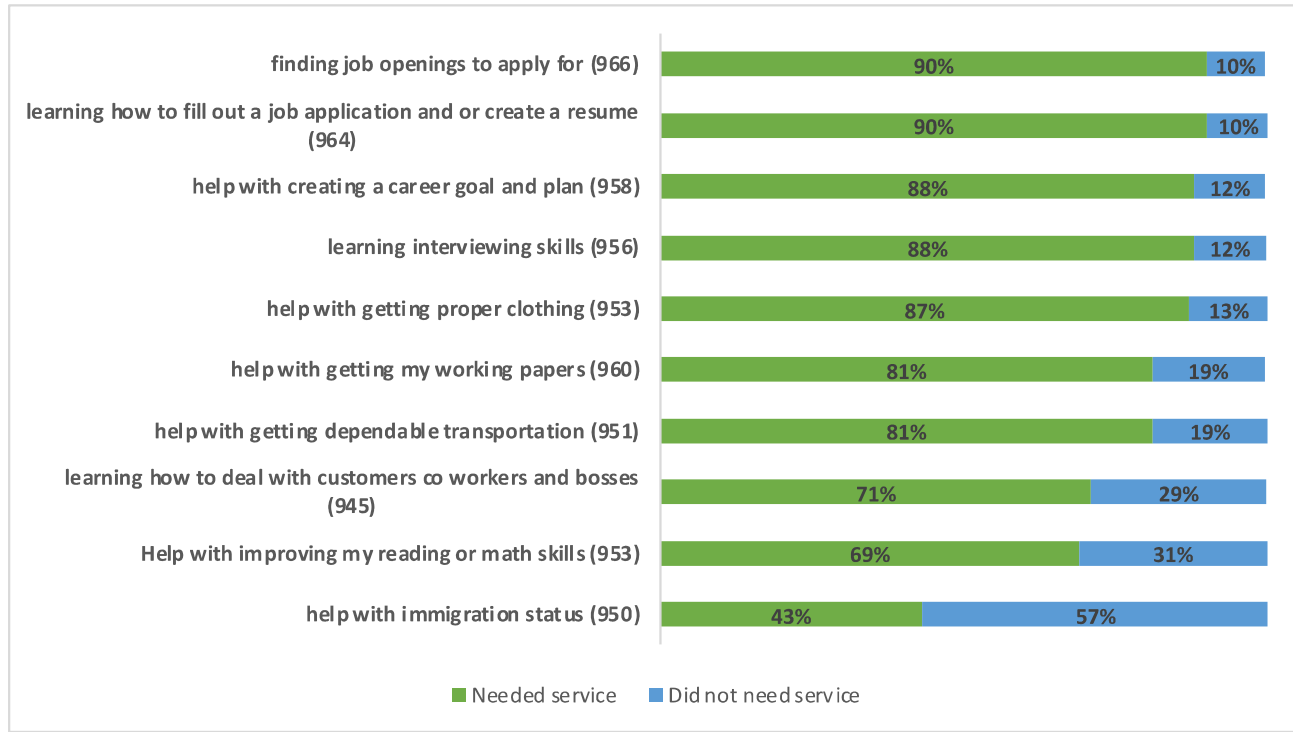
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

B.2 What help did youth need and receive to find a job?

Help needed in finding a job. The top five employment-related needs were: help with finding job openings to apply for (90%), learning how to fill out a job application and/or create a resume (90%), creating a career goal and plan (88%), learning interviewing skills (88%), and help with getting proper clothing (87%). Eighty-one percent of youth reported that they need help with transportation. Eighty-one percent of youth also reported needing help with getting working papers. Seventy-one percent of youth reported needing help with learning how to deal with customers, coworkers, and bosses. Sixty-nine percent reported needing help with improving their reading and math skills. Forty-three percent of youth reported needing help with their immigration status. See Figure 15 for details.

ACS's Office of Immigrant Services and Language Affairs (ISLA) is dedicated to assisting all youth in foster care who have immigration needs. Please see Section V for more information.

Figure 15. Youth reporting the help they needed to find a job.

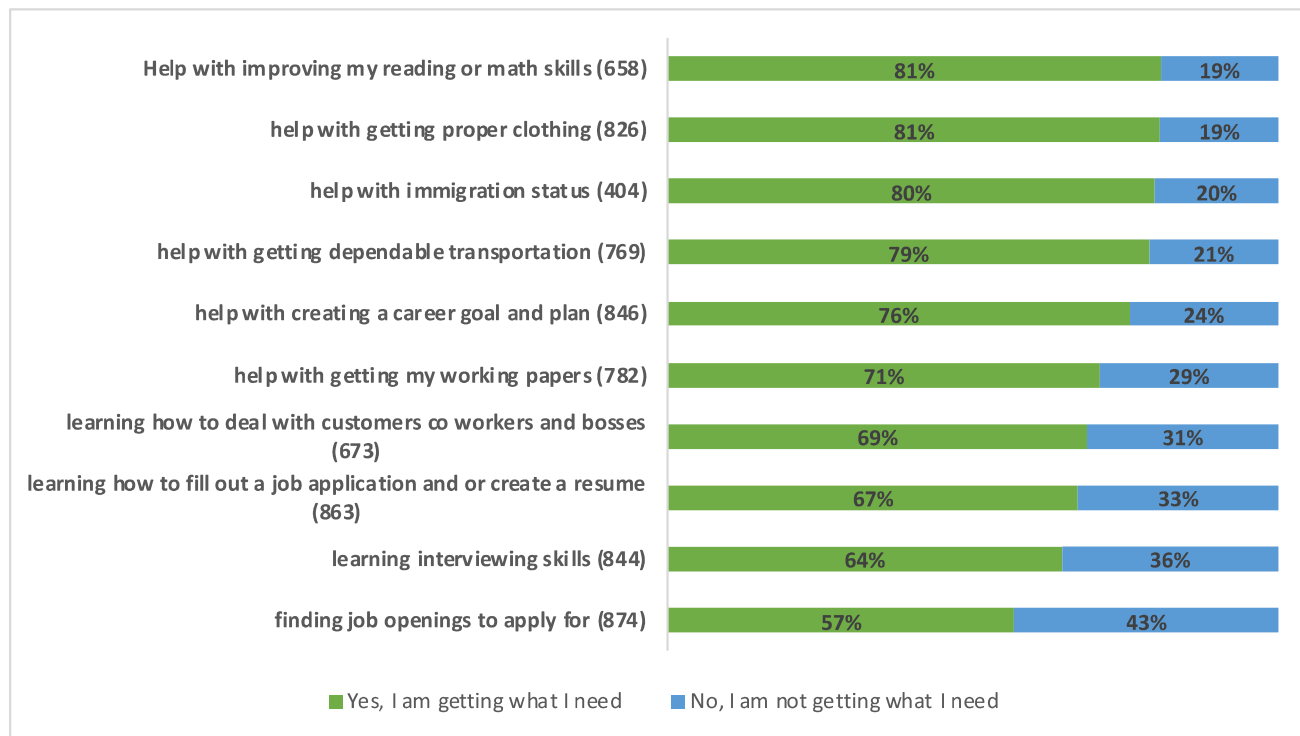


NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Help received in finding a job. For every type of job support, most of the youth who needed specific job support received it (Figure 16). By percentage, the best-met needs were for help improving reading and math skills and help with getting proper clothing, each at eighty-one percent. These were followed by help with immigration status (80%), transportation (79%), and career planning/goal-setting (76%). The greatest unmet needs were for help finding job openings (43%), help with interview skills (36%), and help with applications and/or resumes (33%).

Figure 16. Youth reporting the help they received to find a job.



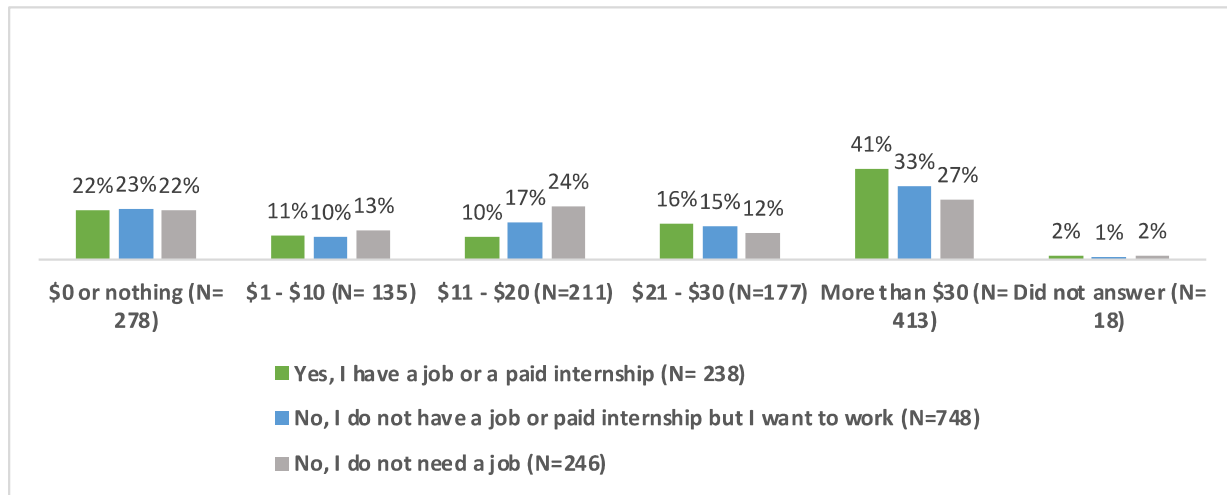
NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

B.3 How much weekly allowance do youth receive? Do youth have bank accounts?

The survey asked youth about the allowance they receive weekly. Approximately 77% of youth reported receiving an allowance. Figure 17 shows the amount of allowance for all youth by youth with a job or paid internship, those without a job or paid internship, and those who do not need a job.

Figure 17. Weekly allowance by employment status of youth in foster care.

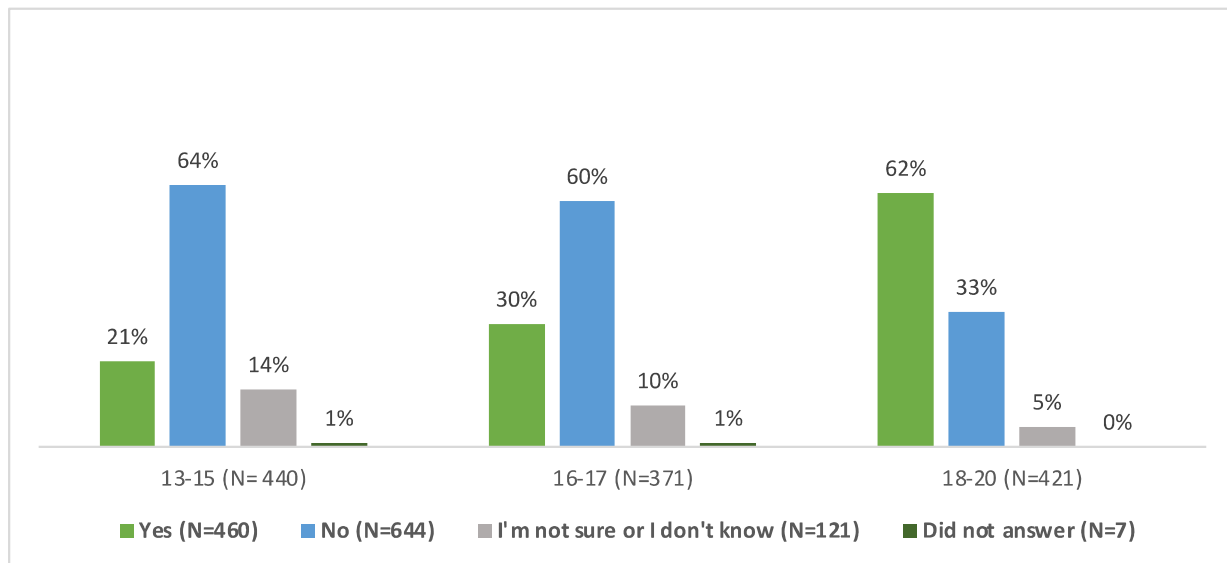


NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

The survey asked youth to indicate if they have a bank account. Reflected in Figure 18 are youth responses broken down by age. Almost two-thirds of youth ages 18 and older (62%) stated that they have a bank account, while 30% of youth between the ages of 16-17 and 21% of youth between the ages of 13-15 stated that they have a bank account.

Figure 18. Youth reporting that they have a bank account.



NOTE: A total of 1,232 youth were asked this question; Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

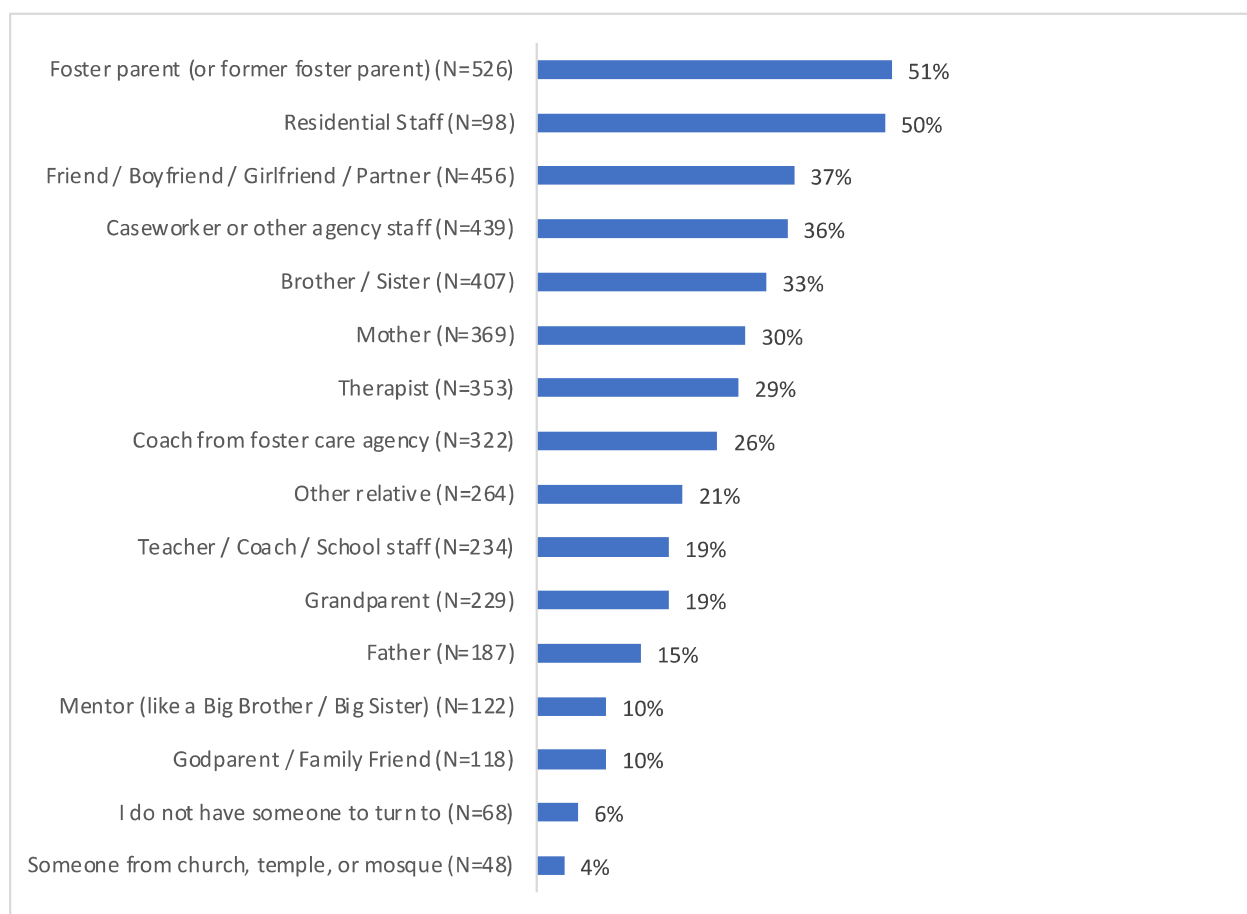
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

C. Support from Family and Friends

C1. To what extent do youth feel supported by foster/kinship parents and residential facility staff?

The survey asked youth to indicate which individuals in their lives they could turn to when they needed help (Figure 19). More than half of the youth (51%) in a family-based setting reported turning to their foster parent. Fifty percent of youth in residential care or a group home reported turning to residential staff. Thirty-seven percent of youth turn to a friend/boyfriend/girlfriend/partner. Thirty-six percent of youth turn to their caseworker or other agency staff and 33% turn to their brother or sister.

Figure 19. Youth reporting having people to turn to for help when needed.



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Youth in foster or kinship homes were asked if they felt supported by their foster parents. Of the 1,035 youth responding, over two thirds (73%) said they felt “very supported,” and another 20% felt “somewhat supported.”

Youth in residential care and group homes were asked if they felt supported by program staff, and the majority said yes; 56% felt “very supported” and 34% felt “somewhat supported.” The remaining 11% of youth in residential care did not feel supported by staff.

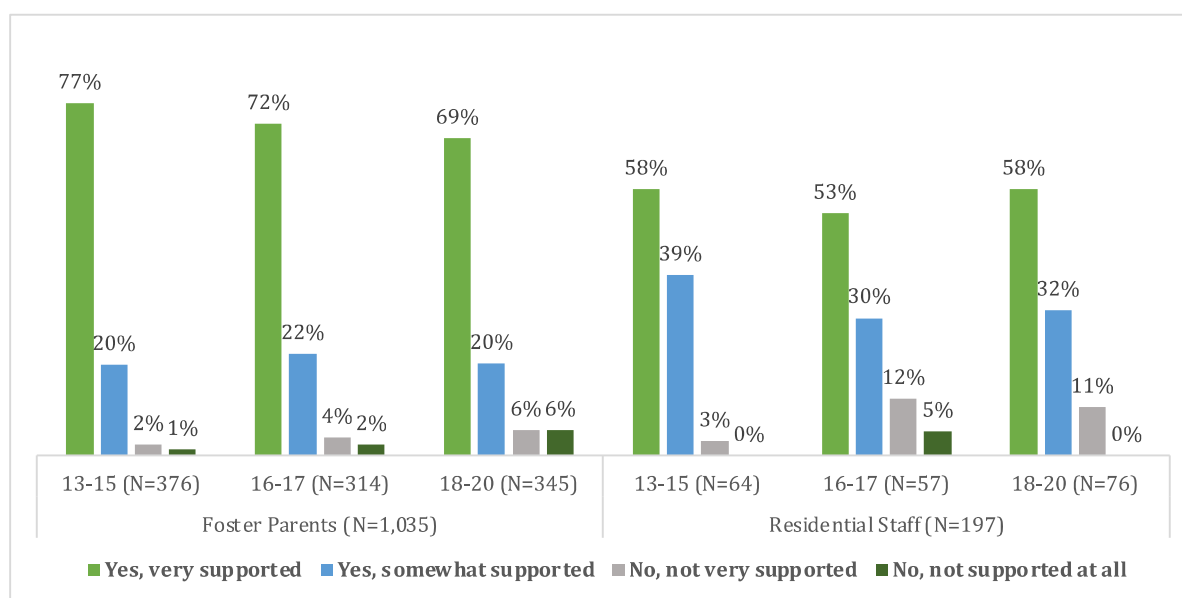
Table 5. Youth reporting the extent to which they feel supported by foster parents or residential facility staff.

In general, do you feel supported by your foster parents or residential facility staff? (Total N = 1,232)		
	Foster Parent (N= 1,035)	Residential Staff (N= 197)
Yes, very supported	73%	56%
Yes, somewhat supported	20%	34%
No, not very supported	4%	9%
No, not supported at all	3%	2%

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

The majority of youth by age group reported feeling very supported (Figure 20). More youth reported feeling very supported by their foster parent as compared to youth in residential care or a group home. Seventy-seven percent of youth ages 13 to 15 reported feeling very supported by their foster parent, 72% of youth ages 16 to 17, and 69% of youth ages 18 to 20. Fifty-eight percent of youth ages 13 to 15 in residential care or a group home reported they felt very supported by residential care staff, 53% of youth ages 16 to 17, and 58% of youth ages 18-20.

Figure 20. Youth reporting feeling supported, by Age Group.

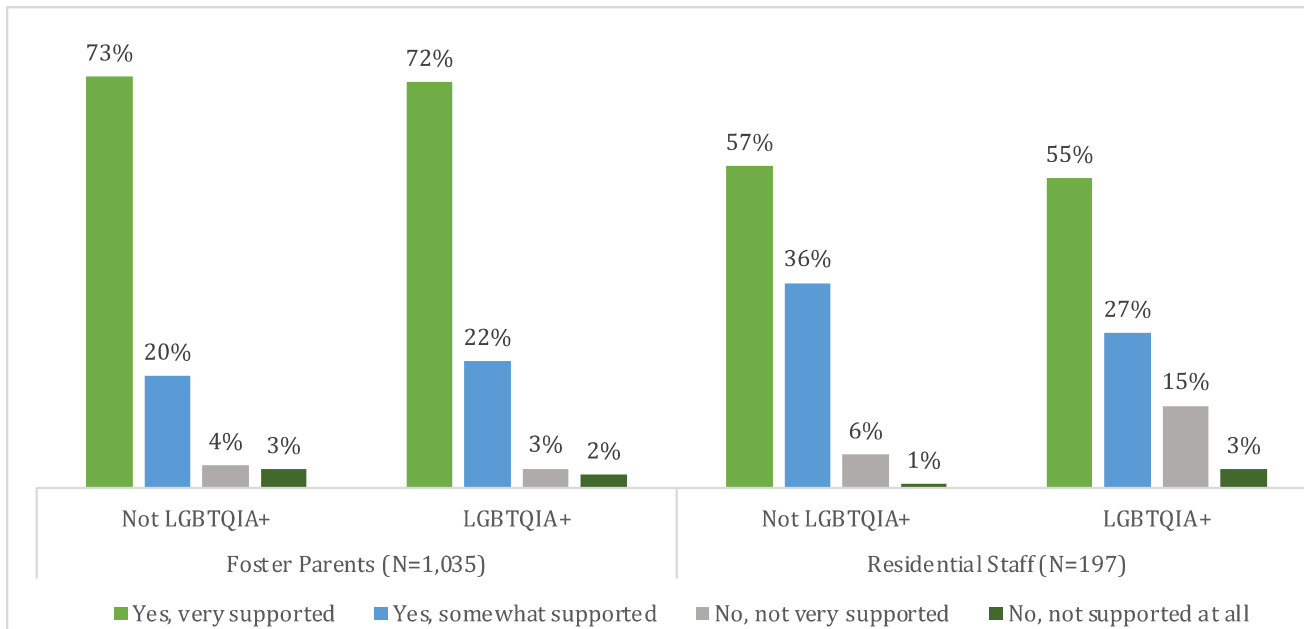


SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Similar percentages of LGBTQIA+ youth⁹ and non-LGBTQIA+ youth reported feeling “very supported” by foster parents. The percentages were also similar between LGBTQIA+ youth and their non-LGBTQIA+ peers feeling “very supported” by residential staff. A difference between the two groups appeared in who did not feel supported by residential staff; 18% of LGBTQIA+ youth felt “not very supported” or “not supported at all” by residential staff, while only 7% of non-LGBTQIA+ youth felt this way (Figure 21).

⁹ In the survey analysis, the grouped variable “LGBTQIA+” included all respondents who: indicated that they identify as transgender AND/OR indicated that they identified their gender as Non-binary or gender non-confirming, AND/OR indicated that their sexual orientation was Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Queer, Pansexual, Questioning, or a write-in answer that was not straight or heterosexual.

Figure 21. Youth reporting feeling supported, by LGBTQIA+ identification.



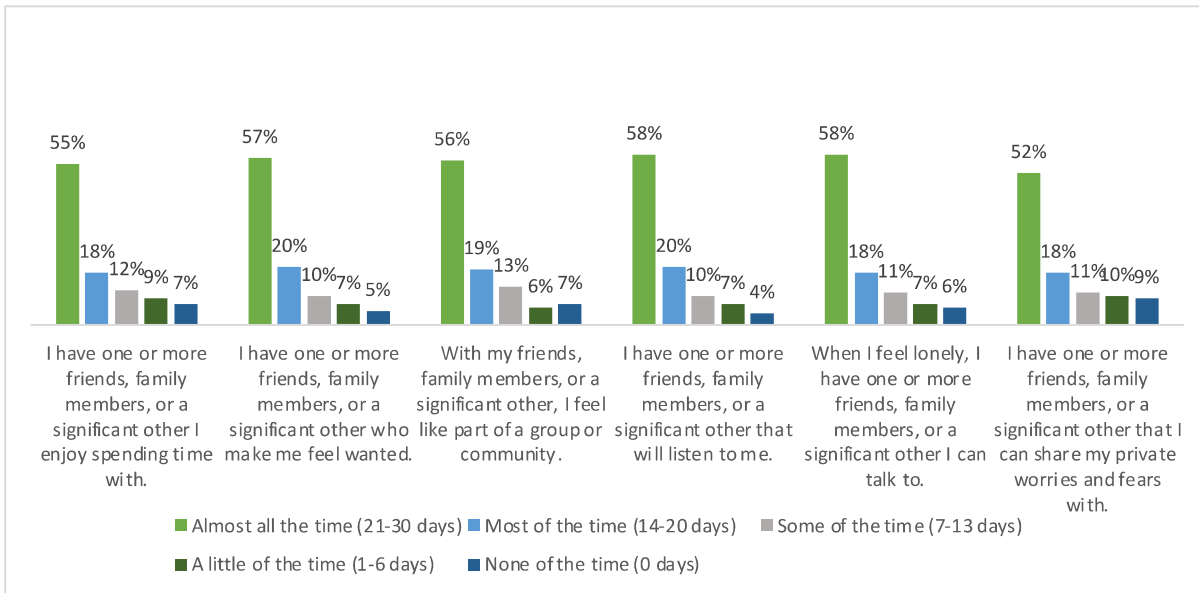
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

C.2 To what extent do youth receive emotional support?

Youth were asked about their relationships with friends and family. The majority of youth reported they have someone they can connect with for emotional support almost all of the time (Figure 22). Fifty-five percent of youth reported they have one or more friends, family members, or significant other they enjoy spending time with almost all the time (21-30 days); 57% reported they have someone who makes them feel wanted; 56% reported that with their friends, family members, or a significant other they feel part of a group or community; 58% reported they have someone that will listen to them; 58% reported that when they feel lonely they have someone they can talk to; and 52% reported they have someone to share their private worries and fears with.

At least 70% of youth reported having someone who meets each of these needs “almost all” or “most” of the time. For each of these needs, fewer than 10% of youth said their needs were met “none of the time.” If a youth answered “none” in all six categories, ACS staff reached out to them and contacted their foster care agencies as necessary to follow up on their emotional well-being.

Figure 22. Youth reporting various forms of emotional support and connection (N = 1,232).

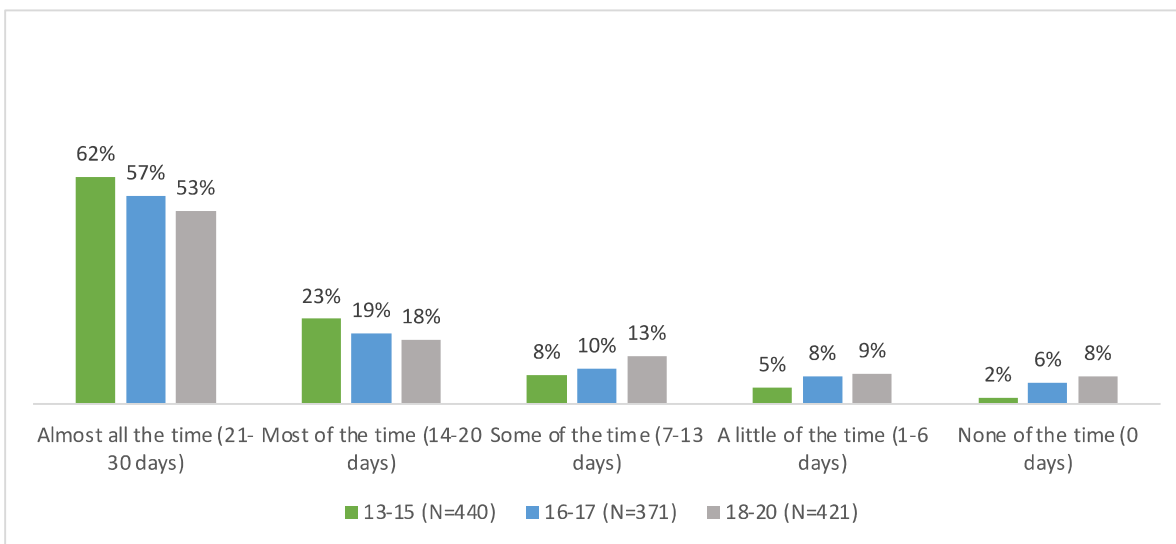


NOTE: This question was mandatory, all 1,232 youth answered it.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

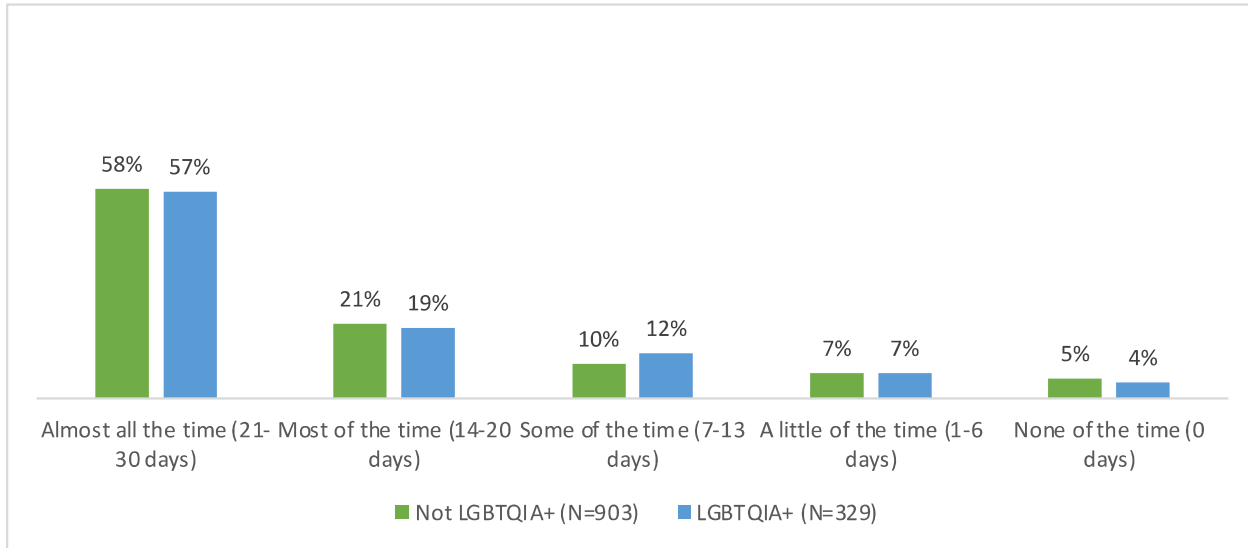
The majority of youth reported they have someone who makes them feel wanted (Figure 23). ACS also looked at this data by age group and by LGBTQIA+ identification. Sixty-two percent of youth ages 13 to 15 reported they have someone who makes them feel wanted almost all of the time (21-30 days); 57% of youth ages 16 to 17; and 53% of youth ages 18-20 (Figure 23). Between those who identify as LGBTQIA+ and those who do not, the difference in percentage of youth saying they have someone who makes them feel wanted was small; 57% and 58%, respectively. (Figure 24).

Figure 23. Youth reporting I have one or more friends, family members, or a significant other who make me feel wanted, by Age Group (N = 1,232).



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Figure 24. Youth reporting I have one or more friends, family members, or a significant other who make me feel wanted, by Sexuality (N = 1,232).



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

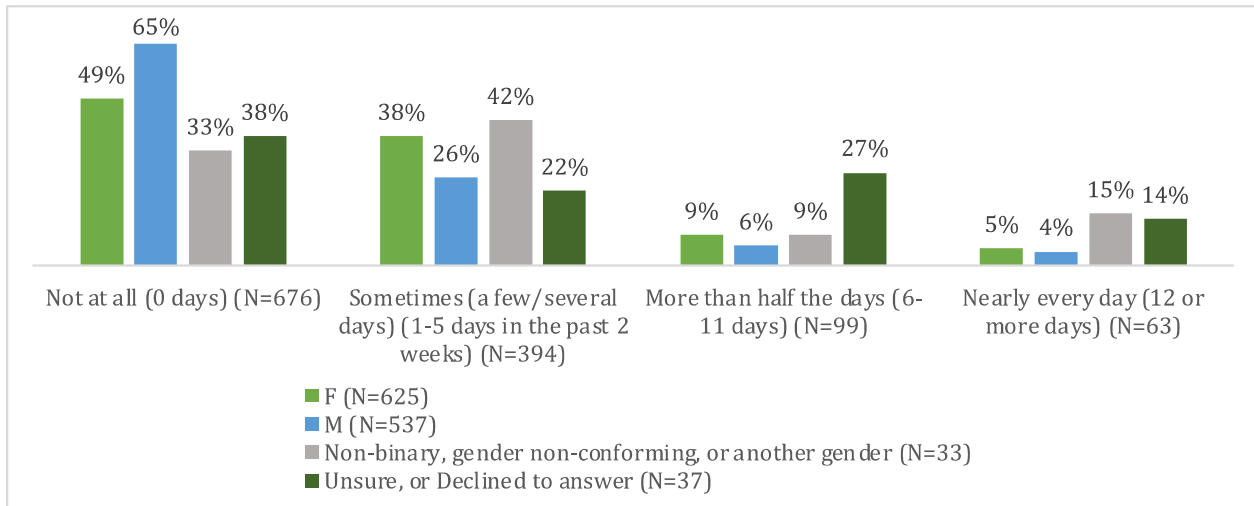
D. Youth Responses about Feeling Down, Depressed or Hopeless

The findings from the question “How often have you been bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless over the past two weeks” have been disaggregated by gender identity, age, and sexuality and are included in Figures 25, 26, and 27. This question was mandatory, so all 1,232 youth answered it.

While the majority of youth (55%) said they felt depressed “not at all,” 5% of youth reported feeling depressed nearly every day. All youth who indicated that they would like someone to follow up with them were contacted by ACS staff. ACS staff automatically contacted all youth who had indicated feeling depressed almost daily.

- **Responses varied by gender (Figure 25).** Sixty-five percent of male youth and 49% of female youth reported that they did not feel down, depressed, or hopeless during the last two weeks. Twenty-six percent of male youth and 38% of female youth reported that they felt down, depressed, or hopeless “sometimes” (1-5 days in the past two weeks). Among youth who identify as a gender other than male or female, or who declined to answer the gender question, the survey showed more frequent feelings of depression, though the majority still said they felt depressed sometimes or not at all.

Figure 25. Youth reporting feeling down, depressed, or hopeless over the last 2 weeks, by Gender Identity.

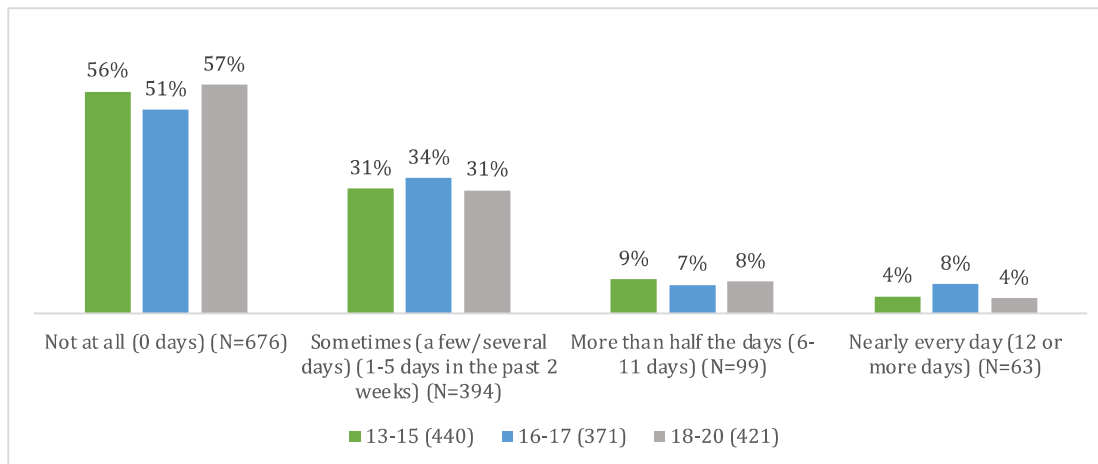


SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

The findings by age group indicated the following frequency of feeling down, depressed, or hopeless within the last two weeks (Figure 26):

- 56% of youth ages 13-15, 51% of youth ages 16-17, and 57% of youth ages 18-20 reported “Not at all” (0 days).
 ■ Note: From FY25 to FY26, there was a 14 percentage point increase in the number of youth ages 18-20 answering “not at all.”
- 31% of youth ages 13-15, 34% of youth ages 16-17, and 31% of youth ages 18-20 reported “Sometimes” (1-5 days).
- 9% of youth ages 13-15, 7% of youth ages 16-17, and 8% of youth ages 18-20 reported “More than half of the days” (6-11 days).
- 4% of youth ages 13-15, 8% of youth ages 16-17, and 4% of youth ages 18-20 reported “Nearly every day” (12 or more days).

Figure 26. Youth reporting feeling down, depressed, or hopeless over the last 2 weeks, by Age Group.

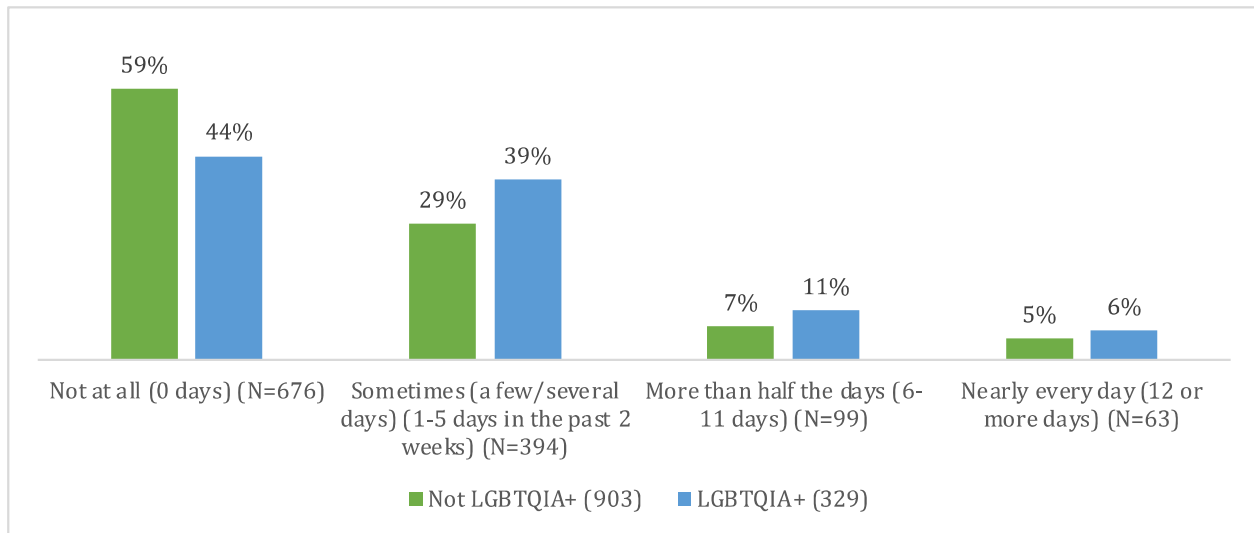


SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

When compared with their non-LGBTQIA+ peers, LGBTQIA+ youth reported slightly greater frequencies of feeling down, depressed, or hopeless within the last two weeks (Figure 27):

- 59% of youth who identify as not LGBTQIA+ and 44% of youth who identify as LGBTQIA+ reported “Not at all” (0 days).
- 29% of not LGBTQIA+ youth and 39% of LGBTQIA+ reported “Sometimes” (1-5 days).
- 7% of not LGBTQIA+ youth and 11% of LGBTQIA+ youth reported “More than half the days” (6-11 days).
- 5% of not LGBTQIA+ youth and 6% LGBTQIA+ youth reported “Nearly every day” (12 or more days).

Figure 27. Youth reporting feeling down, depressed or hopeless over the last 2 weeks, by LGBTQIA+ identification.



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

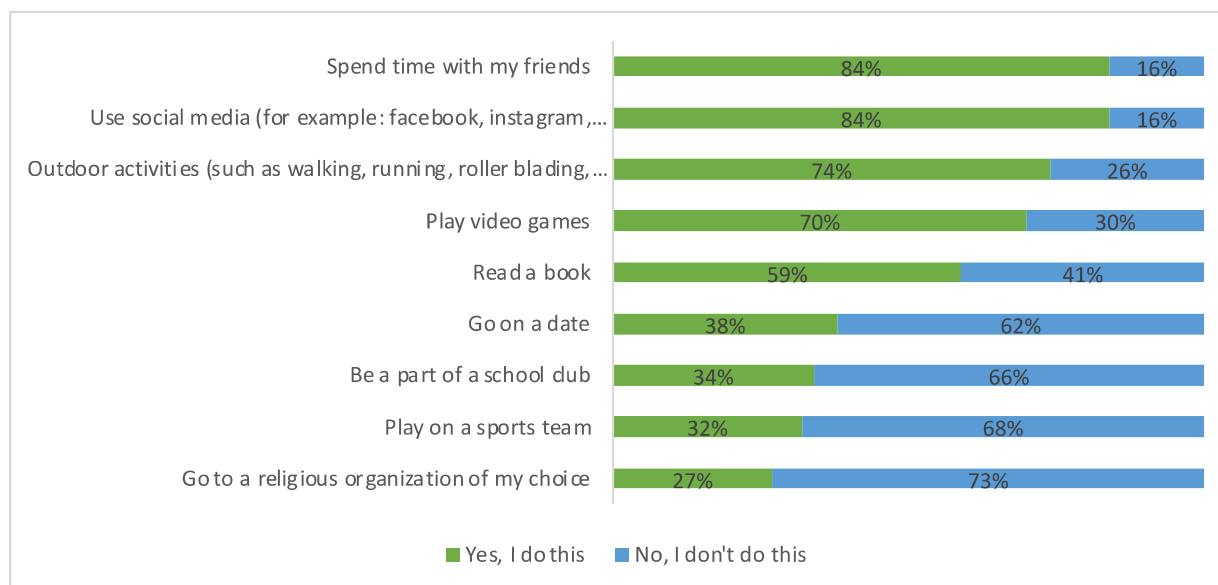
All youth who responded that they felt down, depressed, or hopeless nearly every day were contacted by ACS for follow up. For youth who checked “sometimes” or “more than half the days”, an automatic follow-up question was prompted asking if youth would like someone from ACS to reach out, and ACS responded to any youth who answered “yes.”

E. Social Interaction and Communication

E.1 What do you do in your free time?

Using social media and spending time with friends were the two most popular activities identified by the respondents (Figure 28). Other activities youth frequently reported participating in were outdoor activities, playing video games, and reading books. Thirty-eight percent of the youth stated that they go on dates. The least common activities were being part of a school club (34%), playing on a sports team (32%), and going to a religious organization (27%).

Figure 28. Youth reporting the activities in which they participated during their free time.

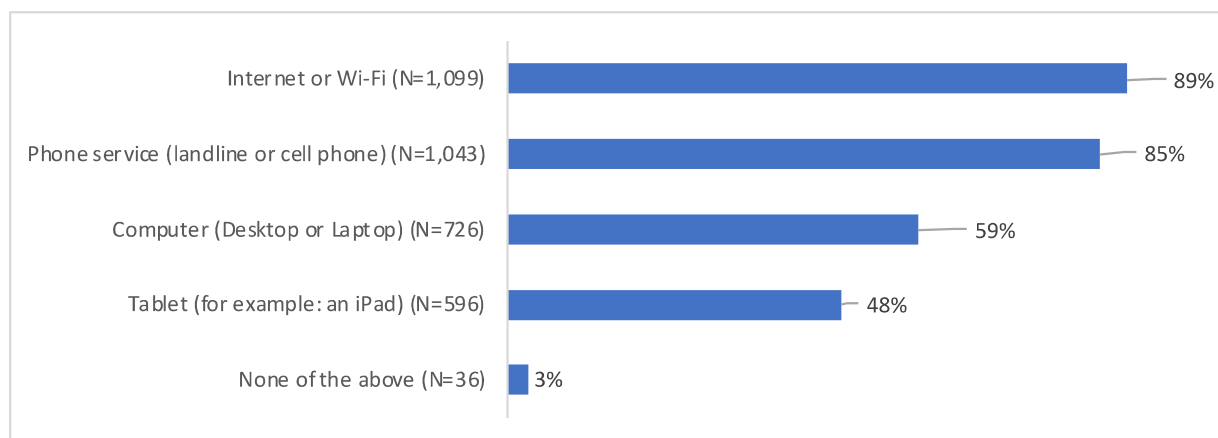


NOTE: All 1,232 youth were asked this question.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

E.2 Do youth have access to communication technology?

Most youth in foster care reported they have access to internet and phone service, 89% and 85% respectively (Figure 29). In addition, most youth (59%) reported they have access to a computer (desktop or laptop), and almost half of youth (48%) indicated that they have access to a tablet.

Figure 29. Youth access to communication technology (N=1,232)

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26.

F. Access to Healthcare, Hygiene Information, Basic Needs and Religious Practices

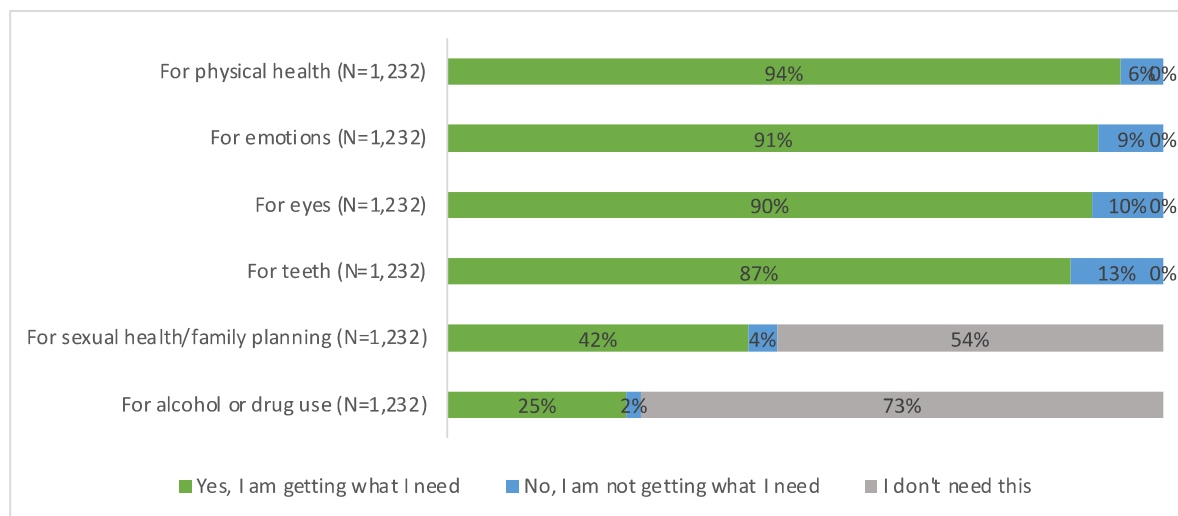
F.1 What healthcare services do youth need and receive?

The survey asked youth whether they are getting the healthcare they need for physical, dental, emotional, vision, sexual health, and alcohol or drug use. For each of the healthcare services examined, responses from the youth were used to create two indicators: whether the youth needed the service and whether they received what they needed.

The information presented in Figure 30 reflects the extent to which health care services were received in six health areas. Almost all youth (94%) reported having their physical health needs met, and 91% reported having their emotional and mental health needs met. Ninety percent of youth had their eye care needs met, and 87% of youth reported their dental care needs were met. Forty-two percent of youth reported having their sexual health/family planning needs met, while 54% reported not needing this service. Twenty-five percent of youth reported having their alcohol/drug use service needs met, while 73% reported not needing this service.

In-depth follow-up was conducted in each case where a basic need was reported as unmet. ACS staff spoke to youth directly and/or to provider agency staff. For the follow-up items related to health care, ACS confirmed that either the need was already met, the agency had an action plan to address the need, or no follow-up steps were needed (e.g., if a youth said they had misunderstood the survey question and had no health concerns).

Figure 30. Youth in foster care reporting whether they received various types of health care.



NOTE: This question was mandatory; all 1,232 youth answered it.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

F.2 Do youth need more information regarding self-care and hygiene?

The question: “Currently, do you receive support in learning about self-care (for example, putting on deodorant, using feminine products, health and wellness)?” was included based on the advice of the ACS Youth Leadership Council, who reviewed the survey questions and provided feedback. Table 6 provides the details of youth responses.

Table 6. Youth responses regarding information on self-care and hygiene.

Response	Percent	Total
Yes, I am getting what I need	74%	916
No, I am not getting what I need	4%	47
I don't need this	22%	269

NOTE: This question was mandatory, all 1,232 youth answered it.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

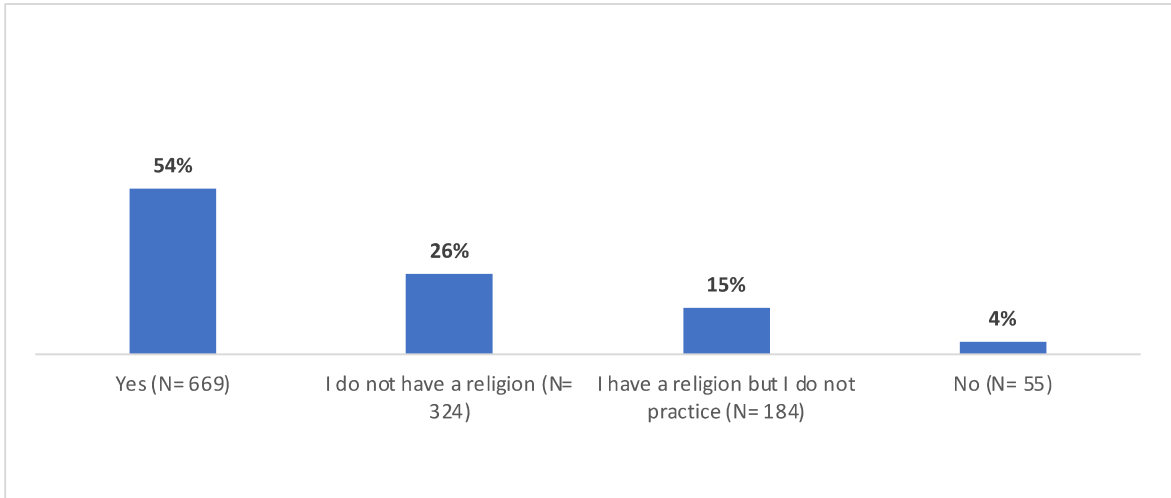
For the 47 youth who reported an unmet need, the survey asked if they would like ACS to contact them regarding information on self-care and hygiene. Twenty-six youth (55%) said yes and were contacted. This was a 22 percentage point increase from last year, when only 33% of those reporting an unmet hygiene need requested outreach from ACS.

F.3 Can youth practice their religion where they live?

To assess if youth can stay connected to their faith traditions, the survey asked if youth could practice their religion where they live. Fifty-four percent responded yes; 4% responded no; 15% stated that they have a religion but do not practice; and 26% said that they do not have a religion (Figure 31). Youth who answered that they were not able to practice their religion where they lived (N=55) were asked if they would like someone from ACS to follow up with them. Seventeen youth (31%) stated that they would like someone to follow up with them, and ACS staff reached out to ensure their

religious needs were met. This was a 13 percentage point increase from last year, when only 18% of youth saying they couldn't practice their religion where they lived requested outreach from ACS.

Figure 31. Youth responses regarding ability to practice their religion where they live right now (N=1,232)



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

F.4 Are basic needs for food and clothes being met?

The survey included questions regarding basic needs for food, clothing, and shoes. ACS monitored youth's responses to these questions daily during data collection. When a youth reported that any of these basic needs was unmet, ACS immediately contacted the youth to assess their well-being and any necessary action steps. Additional follow up was conducted with foster care agencies, youth, and foster parents as appropriate.

Ninety-five percent¹⁰ of youth in foster homes reported they were provided with three meals per day. Among all youth (in foster homes or residential programs), 94% stated that they have appropriate clothing (which means the clothing is clean, fits and has no holes), and 93% reported they have shoes that fit (Figure 32). ACS followed up with the youth who reported that they had fewer than three meals per day, did not have appropriate clothing and/or did not have shoes that fit to ensure that these needs were met.

¹⁰ In FY26, the survey did not include this question for youth in residential care.

Figure 32. Youth reporting provision of basic needs.



NOTE: This question was mandatory, all 1,232 youth answered it (except residential care youth were not asked about meals).

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

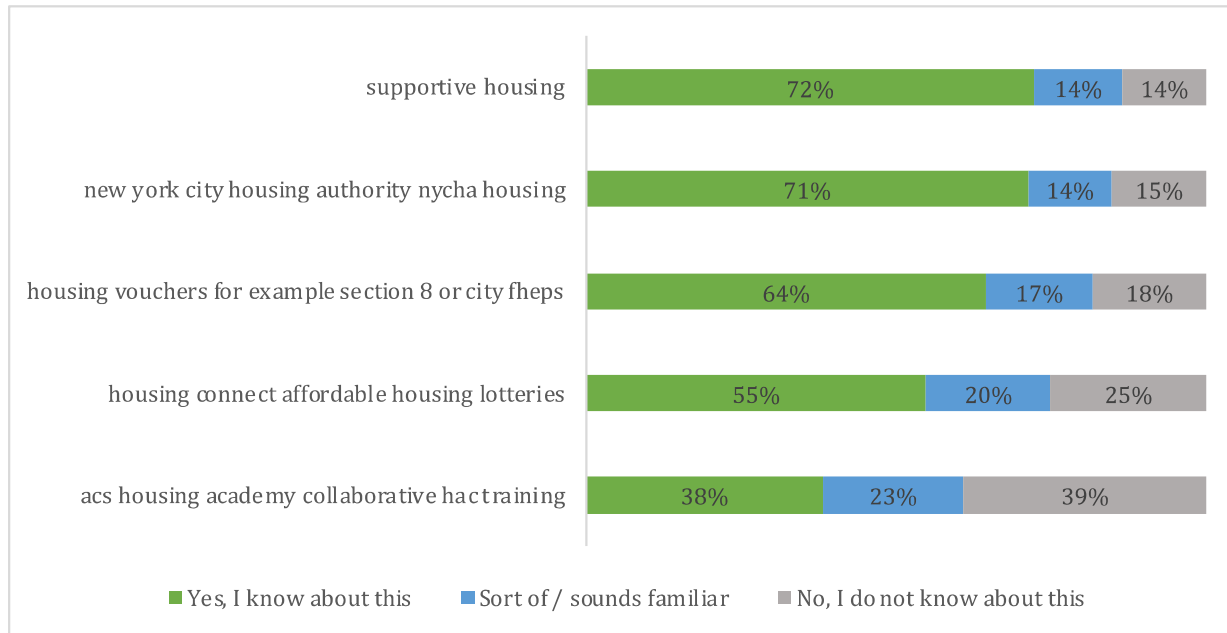
F.5 What housing services are youth aware of?

Youth ages 18 and older were asked if they knew about various housing services. The following indicates youth awareness about housing:

- 72% of youth ages 18-20 reported knowing about Supportive housing.
- 71% of youth ages 18-20 reported knowing about New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) housing.
- 64% of youth ages 18-20 reported knowing about Housing Vouchers (e.g., Section 8 or CityFHEPS).
- 55% of youth ages 18-20 reported knowing about Housing Connect affordable housing lotteries.
- 38% of youth ages 18-20 reported knowing about ACS Housing Academy Collaborative Training.

ACS continues to provide TA to the foster care agencies and collaborates with multiple housing partners to identify and make available various housing supports for young people transitioning out of foster care.

Figure 33: Youth ages 18+ reporting knowledge about housing options.



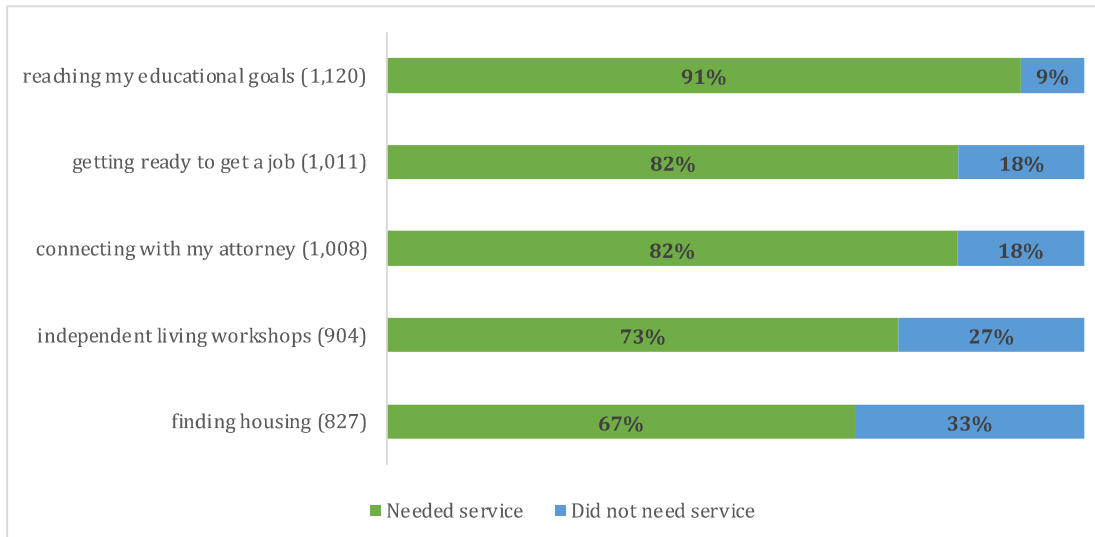
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

G. Support from Foster Care Agencies

G.1 What support services do youth need and receive from foster care agencies?

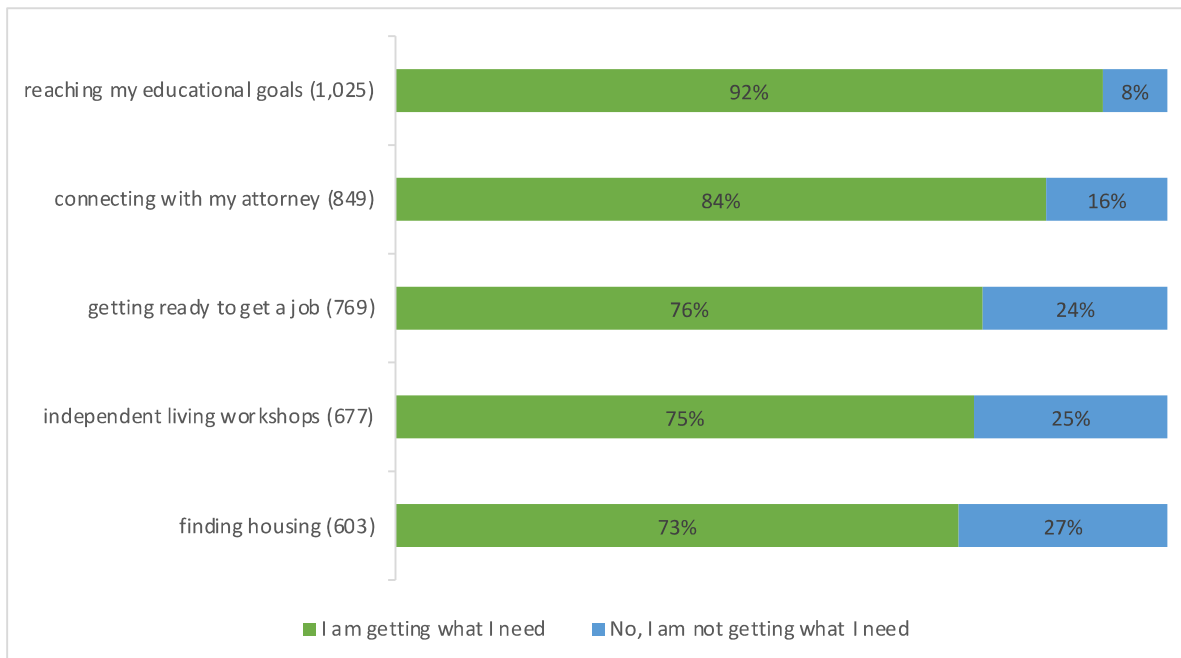
Youth were asked what types of support they receive from their foster care agencies. Figure 34 shows how many youth said they needed each type of support, and Figure 35 shows how many of those who needed it reported receiving it. The most needed and most often received type of support was helping to reach educational goals; of the 1,120-youth stating they needed this, 92% reported receiving help from their foster care agency. Eighty-four percent of the 1,008 youth who reported needing support to connect with their attorney received it. Of the 1,011 youth who needed support with getting ready to get a job, 76% reported receiving help. Seventy-five percent of youth who needed independent living workshops received it, and 73% of youth who needed help with finding housing received it.

Figure 34. Youth reporting types of support they need from foster care agencies.



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Figure 35. Youth reporting types of support they receive from foster care agencies.



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

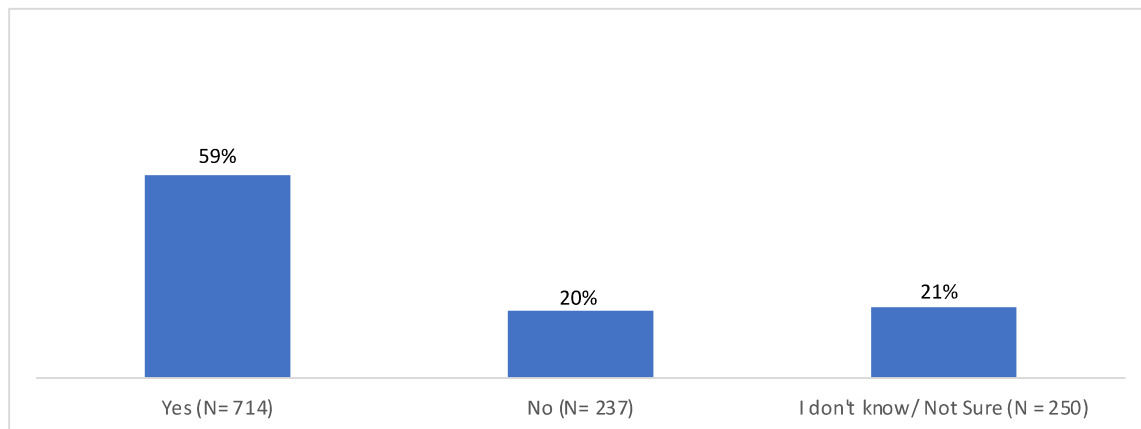
G.2 Do youth have a Fair Futures Coach and what services are they receiving?

Youth were asked if they had been assigned a Fair Futures Coach. Recognizing that foster care agencies have different programmatic names for their Fair Futures program, the survey question reflected each agency's unique program name when referring to the Fair Futures Coach, such as Graham Slam Coach and Youth Journey Coach. Over half of the respondents (59%) reported that they have been assigned a Fair Futures Coach, 20% reported they do not have a Fair Futures Coach, and 21% reported that they did not know/not sure.

Youth who reported having a coach were also asked how satisfied they are with the support they receive from their Fair Futures Coach. Many of the respondents reported feeling completely satisfied with the support they received from their coach:

- 71% reported feeling completely satisfied with the coaching they received.
- 71% of youth reported feeling completely satisfied with the social and emotional support.
- 69% of youth reported feeling completely satisfied with the academic planning and support they received.
- 68% reported feeling completely satisfied with their career planning and support.
- 67% reported feeling completely satisfied with the connections to services.
- 59% reported feeling completely satisfied with their housing planning and support.

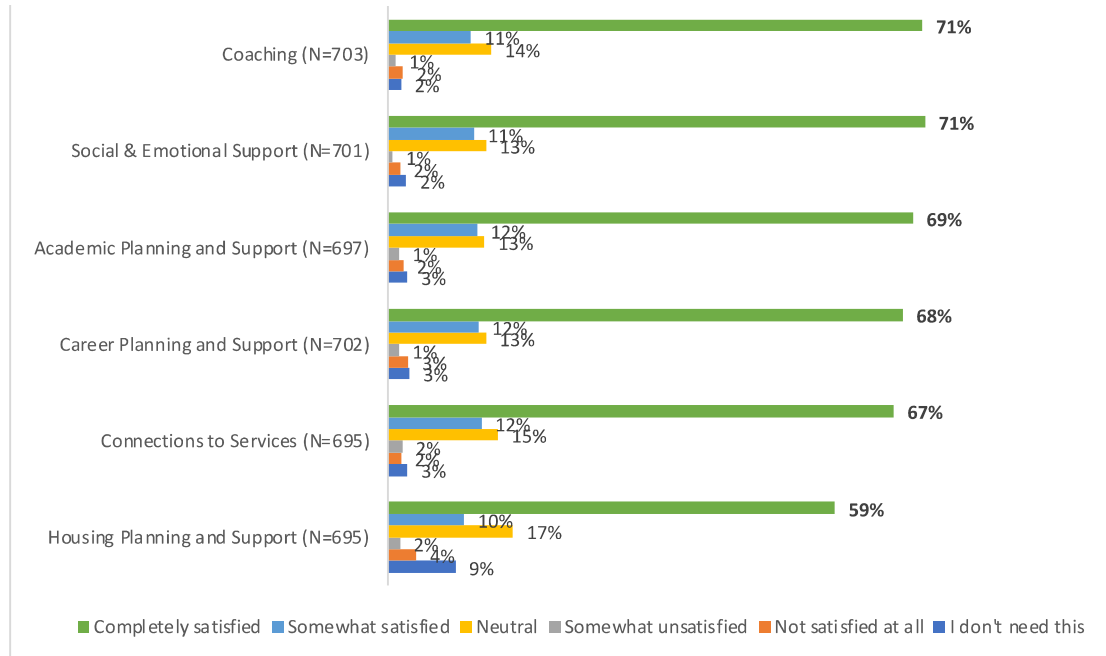
Figure 36: Have you been assigned a Fair Futures coach?



NOTE: N includes only respondents in NY State.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

Figure 37: What do you think about the type of support your Fair Futures coach provides? (N=714)

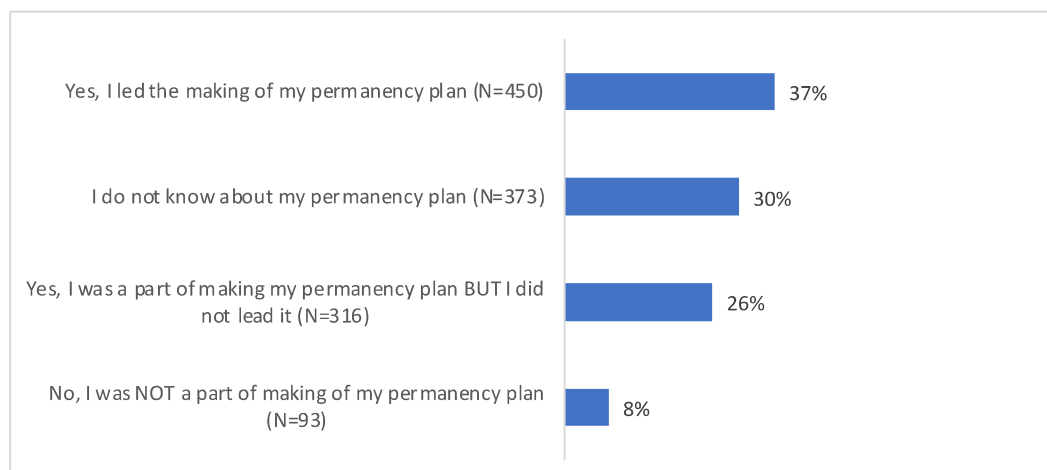


SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

G.3 To what extent are youth involved in permanency planning?

Figure 38 shows the distribution for various levels of youth involvement in their permanency planning. Thirty-seven percent of youth reported that they led the making of their permanency plan. Another 26% were involved in planning. Thirty percent of youth reported they did not know about their permanency plan and 8% of youth had not been a part of creating it.

Figure 38. Youth reporting on their involvement in their permanency plan.



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

G.4 Who supports the youth in their permanency planning?

Youth were asked who specifically supported them in permanency planning. The most frequent supporters were foster care case workers (65%), foster parents (63%), and lawyers (36%). Table 7 shows the detailed findings. The percentage of youth reporting that residential staff supported them in permanency planning decreased from 54% in FY25 to 28% in FY26.¹¹ ACS will share this data with residential providers and work to increase permanency efforts in residential programs.

Table 7. Youth reporting whether various individuals supported them in their permanency planning.

Response	Percent	Number
Case worker at my foster care agency	65%	562
Foster parent	63%	439
My lawyer	36%	311
Coach from my foster care agency	30%	257
Residential staff	28%	46
Parent	23%	197
Friend	13%	110
No one supports me in my permanency planning	5%	40
Teacher	4%	36

NOTE: Total N (number of people asked) was 859 for most items, except Foster Parents where N= 696 and Residential Staff where N=163. Table 7 does not include youth who reported “I do not know about my permanency plan.”

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey FY26

¹¹ This is a relatively small population. In FY26, the total respondents included 163 youth who live in residential settings and had not selected “I do not know about my permanency plan” in the previous question.

H. Placement Types Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity and LGBTQIA+ Identity

ACS disaggregated placement type by self-reported race/ethnicity. Survey respondents were asked to identify their race/ethnicity and their sexual orientation and gender identity. From this, ACS cross analyzed the self-reported information with ACS' administrative placement data.

The majority of respondents who identified as Hispanic or Latino (84%) and Black non-Hispanic (80%) were placed in a kinship or non-kinship foster home (Table 8). Of those in a residential placement, survey respondents who identified as multiple-races (non-Hispanic) had the highest rates of residential care placement (36%) followed by Black non-Hispanic respondents (20%). Other/Unknown and White non-Hispanic respondents had the lowest rates of residential care placement.

Table 8: Placement type by race/ethnicity (N=1,232)

Race/Ethnicity	Foster Home	Kinship Family Home	Residential / Group Home	Total
Black non-Hispanic	47%	32%	20%	573
Asian / Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	69%	17%	14%	29
Hispanic or Latino	49%	35%	16%	541
Multiple race non-Hispanic	41%	23%	36%	22
Other or unknown race	65%	27%	8%	26
White non-Hispanic	51%	39%	10%	41
Total	602	409	221	1232

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

ACS disaggregated young people's self-reported race/ethnicity by LGBTQIA+ identification. Multi-racial, non-Hispanic survey participants were most likely to identify as LGBTQIA+ (36%), followed by white non-Hispanic survey respondents (32%) (Table 9).¹² Black non-Hispanic young people were least likely to identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community (26%).

¹² LGBTQIA+ is a combined variable that uses responses from the questions "How would you describe your gender?", "Do you identify as transgender?", and "How would you describe your sexual orientation?" to categorize each respondent according to whether they belong to the LGBTQIA community. LGBTQIA+ includes all respondents who: indicated that they identify as transgender AND/OR indicated that they identified their gender as Non-binary or gender non-confirming, AND/OR indicated that their sexual orientation was Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Queer, Pansexual, Questioning, a write-in answer that was not straight or heterosexual.

Table 9: Race/Ethnicity by LGBTQIA+ identity (N=1,232)

	Non-LGBTQIA	LGBTQIA+	Total
Asian / Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	*	*	29
Black non-Hispanic	74%	26%	573
Hispanic or Latino	72%	28%	541
Multiple race non-Hispanic	64%	36%	22
Other or unknown race	*	*	26
White non-Hispanic	68%	32%	41
Total	73%	27%	1232

In accordance with Local Law 37, for any category that contains between one and five youth in foster care, or allows another category to be narrowed to between one and five youth in foster care, the number is replaced with an asterisk (*).

Lastly, ACS disaggregated young people's self-reported race/ethnicity and LGBTQIA+ identification by placement type. LGBTQIA+ youth who responded to the survey were over-represented in the residential care population compared to their non-LGBTQIA+ peers (22% vs. 17%) (Table 10 and Table 11). Black non-Hispanic LGBTQIA+ youth had the highest rates of residential care placement at 23%. LGBTQIA+ youth had slightly lower rates of kinship placements than their peers (32% vs. 34%) and this discrepancy was larger amongst Black non-Hispanic LGBTQIA+ youth (30% vs. 33%) and Hispanic youth (33% vs. 36%).

Table 10: LGBTQIA+ Youth Race/Ethnicity by Placement Type (N=329)

	Asian / Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Multiple race non-Hispanic	Other or unknown race	White non-Hispanic	Total	Total
Foster Home	*	47%	48%	*	*	*	47%	154
Kinship	*	30%	33%	*	*	*	32%	104
Residential	*	23%	19%	*	*	*	22%	71
Total	*	149	149	8	*	13	329	329

In accordance with Local Law 37, for any category that contains between one and five youth in foster care, or allows another category to be narrowed to between one and five youth in foster care, the number is replaced with an asterisk (*).

Table 11: Non-LGBTQIA+ Youth Race/Ethnicity by Placement Type (N=903)

	Asian / Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Multiple race non-Hispanic	Other or unknown race	White non-Hispanic	Total	Total
Foster Home	75%	47%	49%	*	71%	57%	50%	448
Kinship	*	33%	36%	*	*	39%	34%	305
Residential	*	19%	15%	43%	*	*	17%	150
Total	24	424	392	14	21	28	903	903

In accordance with Local Law 37, for any category that contains between one and five youth in foster care, or allows another category to be narrowed to between one and five youth in foster care, the number is replaced with an asterisk (*).

V. ACS Initiatives Supporting Older Youth

ACS is currently implementing a range of programs and initiatives to improve youth experiences, outcomes, and well-being through the Foster Care Core Collective Priorities and foster care contracts. While the survey reflects that many youth are progressing well in terms of their educational achievements and social connections, more work must be done to support the mental health, school and work readiness, and other ongoing needs of youth in care.

Youth Voice

To further engage youth and ensure their voices inform practice change, ACS formed a Youth Leadership Council (YLC) to bring youth and adult leaders together to work in partnership on youth-related areas of policy and practice. The ACS YLC launched in March 2019 and includes both youth currently and previously in foster care and/or the juvenile justice system. The goals of the Youth Leadership Council are to develop the leadership skills of youth, advocate for changes and improvements in policies and areas of mutual concern, establish a youth voice in the foster care community, and build a positive social network. The YLC has developed a strategic plan focused on system improvement, and its goals include identifying potential paid and internship opportunities for youth at ACS; recruiting additional youth for the YLC; and developing materials to train staff on building healthy relationships and respectful, supportive communication with youth in care.

Improving Permanency Outcomes

ACS continues to work aggressively to improve permanency outcomes for youth in foster care. One of the ACS Core Collective Priorities is a focus on family in support of timely permanency. ACS continues to identify strategies that improve reunification, adoption, and kinship guardianship outcomes for children and youth in foster care. These include the implementation of the Enhanced Family Foster Care (EFFC) program, increased therapeutic resources, partnership with Parent Advocates with lived experience, increased resources for Family Time (a.k.a. visiting), and increased resources to support kinship care, among other efforts. Simultaneously, ACS continues to partner closely with the foster care agencies and Family Court to achieve safe and timely Reunification, Adoption, and Kinship Guardianship.

High Quality Placements for Youth

ACS has been highly successful in increasing foster home recruitment while simultaneously improving kinship placement and support for caregivers in recent years. This citywide effort emphasizes effective recruitment practices and strong customer service to support kinship and foster families so that children are safe and receive the highest quality of care. From FY 2017 to FY 2025, ACS and its foster care agency partners increased the proportion of children in foster care placed with kin from 31% to 42%.¹³ Simultaneously, ACS continues to actively partner with foster care agencies to implement strategies for recruiting foster parents who are committed to caring for youth in foster care.

¹³ Source: ACS Flash Report

Supporting the Well Being of LGBTQIA+ Youth in Foster Care

In January of 2021, ACS began to implement its LGBTQIA+ Action Plan. The goal of the plan is to improve the experiences and outcomes of LGBTQIA+ youth in foster care. Key parts of the plan include:

- ACS has published a new LGBTQIA+ policy titled, Promoting a Safe and Respectful Environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Agender (LGBTQIA+) Youth and Families Involved in the Child Welfare, Detention, and Juvenile Justice Systems. The new agency-wide policy provides comprehensive guidelines, standards, and practices for creating safe and affirming environments/practices for LGBTQIA+ youth, families, and community members.
- Revised the ACS Foundational LGBTQIA+ Staff training, Include, Empower, Affirm: Policy, Best Practices, and Guidance for Serving LGBTQIA+ Children and Youth Involved in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System, which was launched in 2021. This learning program prepares learners to apply the policies and best practices that promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and many more) youth involved with ACS and contracted providers.
- The ACS Workforce Institute launched Improving Outcomes for LGBTQIA+ Young People, a training that builds upon knowledge and skills learned in the Foundational LGBTQIA+ training.
- The Office of Equity Strategies has partnered with the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy on a new training titled Working with LGBTQ+ Youth Who have Experienced or Are At-Risk for Trafficking. This training is being offered to foster care and ACS staff at least twice a year.
- The ACS Office of Equity Strategies has partnered with The Office of Domestic Violence Policy and Planning have developed a training that educates the ACS workforce and ACS providers on best practices for working with LGBTQIA+ youth and families that have experienced DV/IPV. The training is offered multiple times a year.
- ACS and the foster care agencies have continued to provide a LGBTQIA+ mandated training to foster parents.
- ACS funds the Ackerman Institute and The LGBTQ Center to train clinicians that work with ACS involved families on best practices for engaging LGBTQIA+ families. Through this program, youth in foster care and parents/caregivers are directly referred to family therapy and trans youth group therapy services.
- Family Permanency Services is utilizing the Office of Equity Strategies' expertise in the placement of LGBTQIA+ youth. The Office of Equity Strategies has been participating in placement conferencing and case planning for this population in care.
- The Office of Equity Strategies disseminates an updated comprehensive LGBTQIA+ Resource Guide to all foster care agencies twice a year.
- The Youth Leadership Council's LGBTQIA+ Sub-Committee has been active since February of 2021.
- Family Permanency Services works with the Office of Equity Strategies to advocate on behalf of LGBTQIA+ youth when issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity are reported.

Additionally, throughout FY26 the Office of Equity Strategies will be providing trainings to residential care workers focused on creating safe spaces, affirming LGBTQIA+ youth, ACS policies, and resources for LGBTQIA+ youth.

Health Services for Youth

Health Care: ACS partners with foster care providers to ensure that children and youth in foster care have access to the full array of health care services. While in foster care, children and youth will receive preventive, screening, diagnostic, and treatment services necessary to keep them healthy and well.

This includes Health Homes and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver services. A Health Home is a

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program that helps support the child/youth and their family by providing care management services. Children in foster care with two or more chronic conditions OR one single qualifying chronic condition are eligible for a Health Home. By enrolling in a Health Home, children/youth can receive HCBS waiver services if they are found to be eligible. HCBS services are designed to offer support and services to children/youth in non-institutionalized settings that enable them to remain at home and in the community or for children/youth being discharged from an institutional setting who require these services to safely return to their home and community.

Mental Health Services. ACS is working closely with its contracted foster care providers to ensure that children and youth in foster care have access to the full array of mental health services. This includes accessing all mental health and other services available through Medicaid programs, including Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS). Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS) are standalone mental health and substance use services that support children/families. CFTSS services can be provided at home or in the community. CFTSS services include:

- Other Licensed Practitioner (OLP)
- Crisis intervention
- Community Psychiatric Supports and Treatment (CPST)
- Psychosocial rehabilitation
- Family peer support services
- Youth peer support and training

Sexual and Reproductive Health

ACS has created a Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy for Youth in Foster Care that ensures young people have the right to access confidential sexual and reproductive health services without the knowledge or consent of parents, foster parents, case worker or anyone else. Provider agencies must provide children in foster care aged 12 years and older and those under 12 years who are known to be sexually active with age and developmentally appropriate sexual and reproductive health education and counseling during routine medical appointments through the foster care agency, as well as in coordination with their schools with the knowledge of their parents/guardians. The information provided must consist of education and counseling on sexuality, pregnancy prevention, family planning, and STIs.

Youth in foster care have the right to access health services including:

- Wellness exams
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Pregnancy testing
- Options counseling if you are pregnant
- Birth control and emergency contraception (Plan B)
- Prenatal care (care that supports you when you are pregnant) and postpartum care (care that supports you after giving birth)
- Abortion services
- HIV testing, treatment, and prevention like PrEP and PEP

ACS has advocated for youth who are placed out of state and need access to any sexual or reproductive healthcare not available in the residing state, including abortion and gender affirming care. Youth needing assistance in accessing this care can contact their foster care agency or NYC ACS to return to NYS to receive these needed services.

DOHMH and ACS have collaborated to facilitate access to the Nurse-Family Partnership

DOHMH and ACS have implemented strategies to increase the utilization of the Nurse-Family Partnership Program for expectant

and parenting youth and families involved in the child welfare system. These included partnering to conduct virtual outreach and provide marketing materials to all ACS Divisions, Foster Care and Family Services agencies to increase awareness of the Nurse-Family Partnership; sharing data to track pregnant youth in foster care being referred and enrolled with Nurse-Family Partnership; and ongoing meetings to identify trends and opportunities for additional outreach. Nurse-Family Partnership has adapted their practices to include virtual tele-health services in response to the challenges originating from the pandemic.

Education and Employment Initiatives

Fair Futures

The ACS Fair Futures Program is the only citywide, comprehensive coaching program supporting youth in foster care to independent living. To date, over 4,300 youth ages 11 to 26 years old have been served. Fair Futures is funded at \$30.7M with additional funding allocated for a total of \$42.7M by FY29 for foster care agencies. Since implementation, the model was expanded to serve youth 21 to 26 years old as well as youth served in ACS juvenile justice programs.

- In FY2025, Fair Futures was able to serve over 4,300 youth ages 11-26, up from 3,000 youth in FY22. Of the youth who participated, approximately 2,900 of whom were coached, 89% were coached for 90+ days.
- 87% of the approximately 2,300 youth coached for at least 90 days achieved on average 3.6 positive outcome goals, such as:
 - Reconnecting to high school
 - Grade promotion
 - Graduation
 - Enrolling in college or vocational training
 - Successfully engaging in a job or internship.
- In FY2025, 668 young people ages 14 to 26, discharged from care, were served.

The ACS Education Team has been collaborating with foster care education teams, case planners, and Fair Futures coaches on attendance support strategies. The unit is also sharing resources with the agencies on education-related supports for older youth, such as transfer schools, Young Adult Borough Centers (YABC), community-based GED programs, and district level support managers.

The ACS Education Team has been collaborating with the New York City Public School (NYCPS) Office of Community Supports and Wellness, the ACS College Unit, Fair Futures, and NY Foundling to recognize and celebrate foster students who graduate from high school or earn their GED and continue with post-secondary planning goals. The team has been collaborating with over a dozen NYCPS offices on initiatives and protocol development to strengthen education supports for youth in care.

The NYCPS's Office of Foster Care (OFC) has been working closely with the ACS Education Team and foster care agencies throughout the 2025-2026 school year to provide education support for children and youth in foster care. They have assisted with resolving school transportation challenges for students newly entering foster care or changing foster care placements, have helped foster care agencies identify students who are experiencing education challenges, and collaborated with agency staff to reach out to schools to obtain the services and assistance that are needed for those students. They are also training social workers, school counselors, parent coordinators, and district level staff to become more familiar with the experiences and challenges faced by students in foster care, in order to facilitate more appropriate services for students at schools across the NYCPS.

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Through data-sharing arrangements with DOE and DYCD, ACS and foster care agencies continue to identify students in foster care who would benefit from targeted educational services and programs. Every month, ACS coordinates with the NYCPS to send detailed education-related data reports to individual foster care agencies for the students in their care. The ACS Education Team meets with agencies and also convenes professional development forums on important education issues for foster care agency staff and provides trainings and technical assistance on how to use education data to provide appropriate, targeted supports. ACS has also been partnering with the NYCPS Foster Care Education Office to identify students who should be prioritized for enrollment in Summer Rising and providing enrollment assistance where needed.

Launched in 2022, the **College Choice** Program made significant enhancements to several college initiatives such as, Fostering College Success Initiative, The Fostering College Success Stipend Program (FCS), and College Room and Board (CRB). Participants enrolled in the College Choice Program can access college advisement, tutoring, career counseling, and related services. Youth attending a college/university in New York City can choose to live in housing sponsored by that college or university, or in one of six housing options offered by the College Choice Program. Youth attending a college or university outside of New York City can live in housing sponsored by that college or university, or in safe and appropriate private housing. ACS will pay for tuition after application of grants, financial aid and scholarships and mandatory fees that are not covered by financial aid awards. In addition, youth can receive daily direct cash assistance, to cover food and other living and college-related expenses, while they attend school and up to six months after graduation. The College Choice Program initially supported 200 youth, and today that number has increased to over 400 college youth.

Based on the lessons learned and success of College Choice, ACS launched **Career Choice** in FY 2026. Career Choice is designed to help youth interested in vocational, trade or training programs. Youth have access to similar support offered to youth in College Choice, including a daily stipend and coaching. A Career Choice pilot is currently underway with New Yorkers for Children. Career Choice includes two additional programs:

- In partnership with DYCD, **Advance and Earn Plus** was revamped to offer a paid internship program for young adults ages 16-24 with foster care experience who are not in school and not working. This program built upon the former YAIP+ initiative. The program's career pathways approach offers a continuum of education and employment services, aiming to accommodate youth at different stages of skill development and provide them the skills and tools necessary to achieve long-term career success.
- **Workforce Ready** is for youth participating in training and workforce readiness programs offered within New York City's job development landscape. After completion of a job readiness program, a youth may enter a more formal vocational training program, enroll in a two- or four-year degree program, or enter the workforce.

ACS continues to partner with SCO Family of Services., New York Foundling, Children's Aid, Good Shepherd Services, and Youth Villages to implement **LifeSet**, an evidence-based program for young adults ages 17-22 who have been involved in the foster care, juvenile justice and/or mental health systems as young adults. The LifeSet model uses specialists to provide youth with intensive community-based support consisting of both clinical and skill-building interventions. The goals of LifeSet are to support youth to maintain stable and suitable housing, participate in educational/vocational programs, find, and sustain employment, remain free from court involvement, develop healthy relationships, build a strong and permanent support system, engage with youth's families and social supports, strengthen mental health stability, and develop fundamental life skills.

ACS continues to implement key strategies to improve employment outcomes for youth. The **Office of Youth Success Services** develops services, initiatives and partnerships that build capacity within the foster care system to connect youth to college support, workforce development programs throughout New York City, housing resources and education supports. Opportunities made available by the Office include paid internships, career readiness programming,

ACS INITIATIVES SUPPORTING OLDER YOUTH

mentoring, vocational training, and employment. The Office's initiatives support youth development for educational and career planning, mentoring, work-based learning, employment, and career advancement.

Programs include:

- **The Young Adult Work Opportunities for Rewarding Careers (YA WORC)** curriculum. YA WORC is an evidenced informed career readiness program that provides professional development training to foster care agency staff at nine agencies to provide comprehensive, developmentally appropriate career readiness programming to youth in foster care ages 14 – 21. In addition, the agencies receive technical assistance and training to develop an on-site career club that provides peer-to-peer experiential learning and instruction on how to develop educational and career plans, write resumes and cover letters, and make decisions based on labor market information.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**. ACS partners with DYCD to support the City's SYEP. In the summer of 2025, approximately 1,800 youth were supported during the application process and 1,200 enrolled. ACS also continues to provide vocational training and apprenticeship programs that offer professional opportunities to youth, ages 16 to 24, in foster care and with juvenile justice experience.
- ACS continues to partner with the Pinkerton Foundation to support a **Mentored-Internship Program (MIP)** across twelve foster care agencies. MIP provides technical assistance and training to foster care agency staff through the Workforce Professional Training Institute (WPTI) at Columbia University. Through community-based training, staff learn to develop on-site internships within the infrastructure of their agencies. With supervision and mentoring provided by agency leadership and staff, youth participate in paid internships that offer 10 hours of work per week, over a six-month period, during the academic year. The program targets youth in foster care between the ages of 16 - 21 years old. Since FY18, MIP has provided funding to train over 200 foster care staff who coordinated paid internships for over 1,400 youth.

Immigration Services

ACS's Office of Immigrant Services and Language Affairs (ISLA) is dedicated to assisting all youth in foster care who have immigration needs, including those eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Through the Immigration Services for Youth in Care Program, ISLA oversees and coordinates collaboration between foster care providers, approved immigration legal services providers, and ACS divisions to identify immigrant youth in ACS care and assist them to obtain immigration relief.

ACS has multiple initiatives specifically geared towards improving the safety, permanency, and well-being of youth in foster care that align closely with ACS' Core Collective Priorities:

- 1. Meet the Present Need: Creating the capacity to accept and care for children and youth with complex needs entering care.**
- 2. Focus on Family: Provide respectful and responsive practice leading to timely permanency**
- 3. Create Safety and Stability**
- 4. Ensure Success and Improve Well-Being: Increasing access to therapeutic supports, educational opportunities, Fair Futures and other services.**

The FY26 ACS Youth Experience Survey provides valuable information regarding the experiences of youth between the ages of 13 - 20 in foster care. The findings from this survey are used by ACS to inform ongoing service planning and programming for older youth in the areas of permanency, education, employment, health, housing, emotional support, child welfare staff training, and other key areas.

ACS recognizes the valuable information gathered from this survey and utilizes the results to identify and prioritize approaches for supporting older youth. As in past years, these findings are reviewed with provider agency leaders and other stakeholders to align opportunities and efforts that support the success and well-being of older youth.