



EMBARK GEORGIA:
*IMPROVING COLLEGE
 ACCESS FOR FOSTER AND
 HOMELESS YOUTH*





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 Georgia Department of Education Homeless
 Liaisons Conference
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What is Embark?

- **Local: Campus Based Program at UGA - Embark UGA**
Embark UGA will increase the opportunities for UGA students who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness through the organization of a resource and referral network on campus that supports and promotes success and well-being beyond an education.
- **Statewide: Embark Georgia Network**
The Embark Georgia statewide network serves public four and two year post-secondary professionals and institutions to ensure connectivity, share best practices, and provide information exchange among youth, community based stakeholders, and K-12 educators in support of youth who have experienced foster care and homelessness.
- **National:** *Embark Georgia is a founding state among the National Association for Student Affairs Professionals (NASPA) Socioeconomic and Class Issues in Higher Education (SCIHE) Knowledge Community, which seeks to support underrepresented students access supports across higher education campuses.*

Definition of foster youth

Foster care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and preadoptive homes.



Definition of Homeless/Unaccompanied youth

Individuals whose nighttime residence is NOT:

- Fixed: stationary, permanent, and not subject to change
- Regular: used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis
- Adequate: sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home
(42 U.S.C.§11434A(2)(B)(i))

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY):



- Homeless and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; in practical terms, this means the youth does not live with the parent or guardian.

National Educational Attainment



	Foster Youth (n=593)		Comparison (n=890)	
Enrolled in College	237	39.9%	641	72.0%
2/4 Year Degree Attained	49	8.2%	410	46.0%

Mark Courtney, et al. Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 23 and 24, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, 2011.
Comparison group for this study: National Longitudinal Study Of Adolescent Health





Georgia Numbers

	All foster birth-18	All homeless PK-12 grade
Region 1	1096	2188
Region 2	521	1939
Region 3	1163	1833
Region 4	758	3102
Region 5	923	4129
Region 6	617	1930
Region 7	269	1356
Region 8	669	1571
Region 9	305	2010
Region 10	511	2305
Region 11	930	1680
Region 12	635	1820
Region 13	1139	6506
Region 14	1389	3670

AFCARS FY 14 data and DOE Fall 2015 data



Barriers to Accessing Higher Education

Lack of:

- Access to parental financial information and support
- Financial means to live independently and safely
- Financial self-sufficiency once enrolled in college
- Housing options, especially in small towns or rural areas
- Balance between school and other responsibilities
- Adult guidance and support
- Information about available support systems



Presentation by Cykeila Lee, NAEHCY post-secondary coordinator



Barriers to Retention

- **Uncertain how to ask for help**
- Study skills and other basic know-how not well developed
- Difficulty navigating college system
- Most are first-generation, low-income students
- Housing instability

California College Pathways: Higher Education training "Foster Youth: Supporting Educational Success"

Foster youth are three times more likely to persist in college if they participate in a campus support program for foster youth



National Movement to Increase Supports: Promising Practices in Other States

Campus Based Programs

- Based on Casey Family Programs: Supporting Success
 - Financial Support
 - Academic Support
 - Social/Emotional Support
 - Designated Points of Contact on Campuses

Statewide Networks of Support

- Promote connectivity and sharing of ideas among Technical and University campuses
 - Regional meetings and Statewide conferences
 - Web based communication and social networking
 - Technical assistance for program development and enhancement



National Program Scan

- California: [Guardian Scholars](#) (campus based)
- Washington: [Passport and Governor's Scholarship](#) (statewide) and [Champions](#) (campus based)
- Michigan: [John Seita Scholars](#) (campus based) and [Fostering Success Michigan](#) (statewide)
- [Ohio/Texas/North Carolina/Alabama](#): Reach States (campus based/statewide)
- Virginia: [Great Expectations](#) (community college)

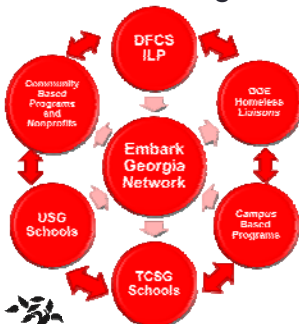


Current Campus Programming in GA

- Kennesaw State University: [CARE](#) (Homeless Specific)
- Savannah State University: [STAR](#)
- Embark Albany
 - Albany Technical College
 - Albany State University: Foster 2 College (F2C)
 - Darton State College
- Columbus State University: Embark on Education at CSU
- South Georgia State College: R.I.S.E. (Retention Involves Empowering Students)
- Georgia Gwinnett College: Grizzlies serving Grizzlies
- Georgia State University: Embark Network at Georgia State University
- East Georgia State College: EGSC - Embark
- Southeastern Technical College (Swainsboro campus)
- Fort Valley State University: "The Vault"
- Georgia Institute of Technology: Embark
- Bainbridge College: Embark at Bainbridge
- The University of Georgia: [Embark](#)



Embark Georgia: Statewide Network



The Embark Georgia statewide network serves post-secondary professionals and institutions to ensure connectivity, share best practices, and provide information exchange among youth, community based stakeholders, and K-12 educators in support of former foster and homeless youth.



College is Expensive....

Financial Aid - awards based on your financial need

Types of financial aid



- Grants
- Ment-based scholarships
- Need-based scholarships
- Loans
- Work study

Pell Grant

You are automatically eligible for the Pell Grant as a former foster youth. In some cases, Pell Grant will cover up to \$5000 a year in Tuition and Housing costs.

Use the FAFSA4caster to guesstimate the aid you can receive to go to school
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/afsa/estim ate>

AND THEN THERE IS ETV (for foster youth)



ETV Funds

- Up to (not including) age 21
- Have completed high school or its equivalent
- Presently in foster care
- Aged out of the foster care system after the age of 18
- Entered kinship guardianship after age 16
- Adopted after age 14
- Met six month criteria after age 14

Depending on these factors youth could receive up to:




- \$12,500 per year up to age 21
- \$10,000 per year up to age 23
- \$5,000 per year up to age 25

**Based on state and federal fund availability

Embark UGA Partners

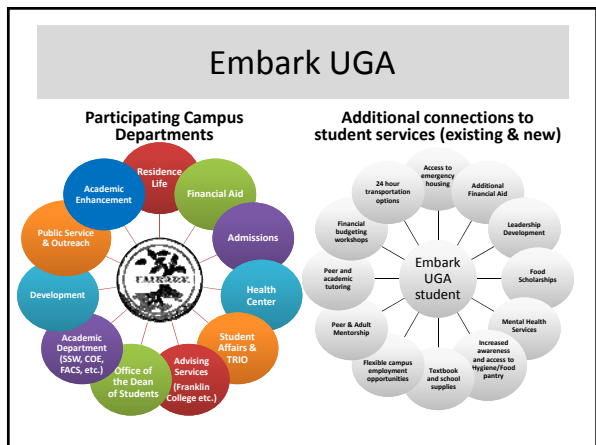
- Office of Vice President for Public Service and Outreach
- Student Affairs
 - Student Support Services (Alan Campbell DPOC)
 - Health Center/Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)
 - Student Government Association
 - University Housing
 - Center for Leadership and Service
- Office of Institutional Diversity
- Family and Consumer Sciences
 - ASPIRE Clinic
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
- Office Vice President for Instruction
 - Office of Student Financial Aid
 - Undergraduate Admissions
 - Division of Academic Enhancement
- School of Social Work

What's Happening On Campus

- Food Pantry: Open Monday – Friday 10am - 2pm
- Financial Hardships Page: Student Affairs
 - <http://financialhardship.uga.edu/>
- Hygiene Closet out of Dawson Hall/FACS
- CAPS and ASPIRE services
- Office of Student Financial Aid
 - Scholarships
 - Independent Student Identification
 - Book Scholarships (CTL)
- Thanksgiving Meal hosted by Housing
- Mentoring program kicking off in Fall 2016
- Student Government Association welcome bags



Embank Georgia Website

