

NextUp Implementation Assessment

This assessment provides an opportunity to reflect on the current status of your NextUp program. It is intended to be a tool for self-assessment and goal-setting based on the promising practices identified in the [2023 NextUp Expansion Implementation Toolkit](https://jbay.org/resources/nextup-toolkit) found at: jbay.org/resources/nextup-toolkit. The toolkit contains additional suggestions beyond those noted here and can be referred to for a more comprehensive review of best practices.

Directions: Review each implementation area and identify the practices that your program has implemented. There may be instances where your program has implemented aspects across each column. However, all of the items under a *Good, Better, Best* heading must be checked to fall within the ranking for that area. Once you assess each implementation area, complete the reflection questions on page three to identify areas for program improvement. Work with colleagues to prioritize the areas for growth and develop strategies for implementation.

Implementation Area	Good	Better	Best
<p>Outreach and Engagement</p> <p>The college has created a systematized approach to identify students who may be eligible for NextUp and operationalized a process to outreach to these students, in partnership with key campus and community partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp partners with financial aid to outreach to students who receive the Foster Youth Cal Grant Access Award, Chafee Grant, or Student Success Completion Grant for Foster Youth, or who self-identify on the FAFSA/ CADAA. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp delivers regular presentations to staff and faculty to maintain awareness of NextUp services and steps to refer students to the program. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp staff have the contact information of key external community partners, such as child welfare and probation, County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs, and K-12 district foster youth liaisons, and share informational materials to facilitate students' transition to postsecondary education. <input type="checkbox"/> The application and onboarding process is streamlined (e.g., a single application is required with no deadlines, and WebGrants verification tool is used whenever possible) 	<p>The program includes the items in the "Good" column AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp partners with Institutional Research to run reports identifying students who have self-identified on CCC Apply and outreaches to these students. <input type="checkbox"/> The program provides training to staff and faculty about the needs of students with lived experience in foster care and best practices to refer students to NextUp, including a warm hand-off. <input type="checkbox"/> On-campus support programs (DSPS, Umoja, Puente, basic needs center, etc.) have integrated a question in their program application regarding foster youth status and refer students to NextUp. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp hosts foster youth-specific college tours and/or outreach events in collaboration with local feeder high school districts, child welfare, or other key community stakeholders. 	<p>The program includes the items in the "Good" and "Better" columns AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp staff are automatically notified when a student self-identifies on CCCApply. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp staff have Webgrants access to view the Chafee roster, the Foster Youth Access Award custom report, and to verify eligibility for NextUp students. <input type="checkbox"/> Student services use a universal application form that includes a question for students with lived experience in foster care and uses a streamlined process for on-campus referrals that ensures a warm hand-off. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp partners closely with child welfare representatives (e.g., ILP), County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs, and/or LEAs to provide support with dual enrollment and matriculation for incoming students, <i>in addition to</i> coordinated college tours and outreach events.
<p>Collaboration with Financial Aid</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistance with applying for financial aid, obtaining mobile banking, and verifying eligibility. ● Troubleshooting issues with financial aid. ● Assistance with SAP Appeals or Cost of Attendance adjustments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A foster youth liaison has been identified within the financial aid office and NextUp staff have developed a referral process by which students can access technical assistance from the foster youth liaison though <i>services may not be expedited</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp staff partners with financial aid to host FAFSA completion workshops for incoming seniors in partnership with K-12, COE FYSCP, and/or DCFS ILP. 	<p>The program model includes the items in the "Good" column AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A strong partnership has been established with financial aid that provides students with expedited assistance where students' needs are prioritized to ensure access to essential financial aid resources. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp staff coordinate with financial aid to issue emergency grants in instances where federal or state aid may be delayed or unavailable. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp conducts a financial aid audit in partnership with the financial aid liaison to ensure all students receive all aid for which they are eligible. 	<p>The program includes the items in the "Good" and "Better" columns AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Financial aid personnel are co-located within NextUp. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp students can receive same-day assistance with financial aid applications and distribution to reduce barriers to access. <input type="checkbox"/> Financial aid staff partner with NextUp to provide workshops for program participants (e.g., budgeting, Understanding SAP, Pros and Cons of Loans, etc.).

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<p>NextUp Website</p> <p>The college maintains a <i>single</i> website with updated information on programs serving students with foster care experience.</p>	<p>The website includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A description of all programs supporting students with experience in foster care and the services available through these programs. <input type="checkbox"/> A clear description of program eligibility criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Steps to enroll in NextUp <input type="checkbox"/> Contact information for NextUp staff. 	<p>The website includes the items in the “Good” column AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A link to schedule an appointment. <input type="checkbox"/> Integration of student voice and experience in the program (e.g., NextUp student videos, photos, and quotes) 	<p>The website includes the items in the “Good” and “Better” columns AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A brief directory of resources specific to foster youth available on campus and in the local community (e.g., priority registration, ILP services, iFoster, Covered Till 26, scholarships, financial aid, etc.)
<p>Student-Centered Program Model</p> <p>NextUp applies a student-centered, relationship-based program model that prioritizes the needs of students impacted by trauma and incorporates students with lived experience into program development and implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The staffing model for NextUp provides students access to “over and above” services that include dedicated high-touch support, wraparound case management, and timely access to staff for immediate interventions (e.g., drop-in hours, crisis support). <input type="checkbox"/> Students are active members of the NextUp Program Advisory Committee to inform program design and service coordination. <input type="checkbox"/> All program staff are trained in and proficient at delivering trauma-informed and healing-centered practices. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp conducts workshop evaluations to gather student feedback and ideas for future programming. <input type="checkbox"/> The program offers workshops on topics of interest to students such as life skills, career planning, and health and wellness. 	<p>The program model includes the items in the “Good” column AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The program hires students with lived experience (e.g., front office staff, tutors, workshop facilitators) to provide peer-to-peer support, build relationships, and promote belonging. <input type="checkbox"/> The program offers opportunities for community building such as clubs, field trips, celebration and recognition events, and community service events. <input type="checkbox"/> The program implements continuous student feedback surveys to help inform program priorities and areas for improvement (e.g., Needs Assessment Survey, annual program evaluation). <input type="checkbox"/> If the campus has more than one foster youth support program, the campus implements seamless service delivery to students across all foster youth support programs. 	<p>The program includes the items in the “Good” and “Better” columns AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp regularly conducts a program audit to evaluate all program policies and practices to ensure a student-centered, strength-based, and healing-centered framework, and implements changes, as needed. <input type="checkbox"/> The program offers mentorship opportunities with either supportive adults or peers. <input type="checkbox"/> If the campus has more than one foster youth support program, this program is integrated with NextUp to promote inclusivity and belonging. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp has a physical space or center that creates a sense of “home” for students where they feel safe. This space is used to meet with students individually, host community-building events, and connect with peers.
<p>Service Coordination</p> <p>Engage campus and community stakeholders to establish trauma-informed, healing-centered service coordination to ensure effective and timely service coordination and delivery.</p> <p>Campus Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial Aid ● Accessibility or Disability Services Program ● Student support programs (e.g., CalWORKs, Rising Scholars, student mental health) ● Affinity Programs (Umoja, LGBTQ+ Center, Dream Center, etc.) ● Basic Needs Center ● Career/Transfer Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Processes are set up with essential campus partners (e.g., Financial Aid, Basic Needs, Business Requisitions, and Foundation) to expedite emergency services (e.g., emergency funding, housing assistance, gift cards, etc.) within five (5) business days of submitting a request. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp staff, in partnership with Basic Needs, identify and partner with relevant community-based agencies (e.g., local TAY Mental Health providers, child care centers, housing providers, and legal clinics) to meet students’ holistic needs. <input type="checkbox"/> A NextUp Advisory Committee that includes campus and community stakeholders meets quarterly to discuss service coordination and strategies to improve service delivery. 	<p>The program model includes the items in the “Good” column AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Campus support programs work collaboratively to minimize duplication of requirements (e.g., multiple applications, orientations, academic progress reports) to increase access to programs and promote service utilization. <input type="checkbox"/> Key departments have an identified point-of-contact to whom foster youth can be referred. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp applies a strength-based and coordinated approach to inform the development of a student’s comprehensive education plan (e.g., NextUp and DSPS meet jointly with the student’s consent to construct an education plan). 	<p>The program includes the items in the “Good” and “Better” columns AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Processes are set up with essential campus partners to expedite emergency services within 1-2 business days. <input type="checkbox"/> Program staff track referrals and follow up with both the student and campus department to ensure the students receive the needed services. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp meets monthly with campus support programs to discuss service coordination and engages in case conferencing weekly or as needed. <input type="checkbox"/> NextUp staff advocate to change institutional policies and practices that negatively impact youth with experience in care.

