



Institute for Families (IFF) Fellows

While only 5% of youth with backgrounds in foster care graduate from college, 71% of IFF Fellows earn a college degree and 15% complete graduate school.



Nationally, 400,000 youth are in foster care at any given time. They face extraordinary challenges in their path to adulthood: only half will finish high school, half will need governmental assistance within five years of the child welfare system, and half will have no steady income.

IFF Fellows represent some of the most vulnerable students due to a lack of familial and financial support. They may face challenges in balancing school commitments and providing for themselves.

Many consider Rutgers to be their only home and primary support system as they complete their degree and transition to independent living. Campus connections can offer their only support, and university residences can be their only housing. **Despite these challenges, they succeed.**

The IFF Fellows Program was an exemplar for the Rutgers Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement and was honored with a Rutgers Beloved Community Award.

The IFF Fellows Program, managed by the Institute for Families at the Rutgers School of Social Work, has guided students toward graduation since 2014. It is composed of **IFF Fellows** for Rutgers New Brunswick students, and **Camden Fellows** for Rutgers Camden students.

IFF Fellows are undergraduate students between the ages of 18-24 who have lived experience in foster care or child protection, and are homeless or at-risk (i.e. would be homeless without the option for campus housing).



IFF Fellows benefit from:



Academic Support & Campus Navigation: Connection to resources including tutoring, financial aid, disability and health services, and grants and scholarships.

Personal Coaching: Individualized support guiding Fellows to define, plan, and realize their personal and career goals.

Housing: Housing during semester breaks to prevent homelessness.

Emergency Assistance: Support for textbooks, living supplies, personal hygiene, transportation, and gaps in tuition fees.

Career Readiness & Transitional Planning: Employment support, resume building, internships, professional mentoring, and coaching toward graduate school and independent living.

Inclusion: Recreational, cultural enrichment, and social activities with peers who share similar life histories.

Educational Workshops: Life skills and professional development sessions that move Fellows toward educational, career and personal aspirations.

Community Service: Opportunities to give back to the world around them and engage in community issues.

The Fellows is 100% privately funded. To make a donation to the program, please visit <https://go.rutgers.edu/dclizr9>.

A coalition of Campus Champions brings together Rutgers faculty, staff, alumni, and services as a community of student-serving professionals dedicated to improving how the university supports access and opportunities for our Fellows.

We invite donors to support our Fellows. Your generous gift provides many opportunities for students, including:

- **Academic supplies**, fees, materials, and textbooks
- **Basic needs** (food, healthcare, personal hygiene)
- **Emergency assistance** for unexpected basic needs
- **Gap funding** for tuition costs that are not covered
- **Paid internships** that offer professional experience












Volunteers with specialized knowledge often facilitate Fellows workshops. Please contact us if you have expertise in an area that may benefit student development.

IFF FELLOWS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Institute for Families
School of Social Work

	Provides summer housing for a student who would otherwise be homeless OR offers housing assistance for several students over semester breaks	\$5,000
	Supports tuition and materials for a three-credit summer course not covered by financial aid OR gap funding for tuition costs not covered during the fall and spring	\$3,500
	Sponsors a paid internship that offers career prep and professional experience	\$2,500
	Engages 20 students for an educational and life-skills session with peers sharing similar life histories OR provides one student with a study abroad experience as enjoyed by the larger student community	\$1,250
	Provides emergency assistance for unexpected, basic needs like airline, bus, train tickets, health care costs, auto repairs and housing deposits	\$750
	Provides textbooks and academic supplies to one student in support of their course caseload	\$500
	Assists with the purchase of a graduation cap and gown or graduate school application fees	\$250
	Provides emergency food assistance during the academic year. Allows a student to purchase professional clothing for interviews and internships	\$100
	Offers a gift to support basic needs like groceries, personal hygiene, or health care appointment co-pay	\$35

To make a donation to the IFF Fellows program, please visit <https://go.rutgers.edu/dlclizr9>



More information at IFF@ssw.rutgers.edu