

Q: What are the costs for my youth to attend *Make it Happen?* (MIH)

A: It's free. Travel, lodging, meals and supplies for the 4-day, 3-night program are covered by the College Success Foundation (CSF) at no cost to you.

Q: Will there be adequate supervision while the youth are on campus?

A: During the day, participants are with their designated group (groups are arranged by common grade level) and their two peer mentors assigned all week long, with staff around at all times. Everyone is expected to stay on campus throughout the program. At night, male peer mentors, staff and volunteers supervise the male-assigned floors in the dorms, while female peer mentors, staff and volunteers supervise the female-assigned floors. In addition, campus security covers the grounds at all times.

Q: What will my youth be learning? What kinds of topics and activities will be covered?

A: The youth will be learning about the steps it will take to go to college while residing on a college campus. Workshop topics include, but are not limited to: the financial aid process, scholarships available for foster youth, and essay writing. We will provide resources available to assist with their transition out of care. They will hear inspirational speakers. Professors will host college lectures on a variety of academic topics. Youth will participate in a wide range of activities, including team-building tasks, a community art project, and the Open Mic Night, to name a few.

Q: How many people will attend *Make it Happen?*

A: We expect 140 youth participants, plus 50 peer mentors, staff and volunteers on campus.

Q: What is the dorm situation like? How are room assignments made for participants?

A: We privately rent a designated dorm hall for all our MIH participants – no other students or programs are allowed entry during our stay. Double rooms (typically two beds, two desks, two closets) house two youth in each room. Each participant gets a randomly assigned roommate. Male youth are assigned to male designated floors with their male peer mentors, while female youth are assigned to female designated floors with their female peer mentors. Staff and volunteers also stay in the dorms.

Q: Will my youth need to bring money to MIH?

A: Meals, lodging, transportation and supplies are provided to everyone at no cost. Money is not required during the program, although there may be opportunities to visit the campus bookstore for souvenirs. Please refer to the Youth Packing List in the registration packet for a comprehensive list of items youth should and should not bring to MIH.

Q: What if my child has behavioral or medical concerns?

A: There will be an on site nurse as well as a mental health counselor who students can talk to. Please explain further on registration form, so that we may provide proper supervision. This will not affect their eligibility.

Q: Who can sign this form?

A: Social worker, legal guardian and custodian.

Q: I have a youth that may be pregnant, but wants to attend *Make it Happen*. Should she still go?

A: We would encourage her to go, particularly if she isn't too close to delivery. We've had participants in the past who have been pregnant and safely enjoyed their time at MIH. However, it is very important to let us know ahead of time.

Q: I have a youth that isn't doing so well in school now, but wants to attend *Make it Happen*. Should s/he still go?

A: The summer program does not limit those that may be struggling in school. We encourage all foster youth from all walks of life to experience this unique opportunity together.

Q: What if my youth has dietary restrictions and/or allergies?

A: We would be happy to accommodate any needs on campus. However, please be sure to explain this on the registration form prior to the program so we can plan accordingly.

Q: My youth may have trouble adjusting or may have personal concerns in a new environment. Will s/he be able to talk to someone there?

A: Peer mentors and staff members will be available for any issues or concerns that youth may have. If the issue/concern cannot be resolved with CSF staff, a professional counselor will be on call during the program as well.

Q: Will I need to provide transportation for my youth to and from *Make it Happen*?

A: There will be predetermined, roundtrip bus stops around the state for charter busses (which will be chaperoned by MIH volunteers) to pick up and drop off youth for the summer program. We encourage all participants to ride an MIH bus for head count – this assists MIH with student tracking and accountability. If youth are far from the bus stop, you may need to assist driving them there. In this case, you will be compensated by CSF for your mileage. Details are to follow in a transportation packet that will be mailed to all youth. You will also receive a phone call from CSF to confirm plans.

Q: Is there a phone number to call on campus during the program for questions or concerns?

A: Yes. We will send you the phone number to reach us at the Information Center during the program in the registration mailing packet.

Q: Who can I contact for further questions or concerns regarding *Make it Happen* now?

A: You can reach Abigail Taitano (Foster Care Programs Assistant) or Joyce Yoder (Foster Care Programs Officer) toll-free: 1-877-655-4097.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

~ The *Make It Happen!* Team