

Unite Miami: wraparound support for youth in foster care or experiencing homelessness

June 23, 2020

Welcome!



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Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the box
- Share on social media

Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
@EducateTomorrow
#FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording



Guest Presenter

Dr. Amy Rubinson

Chief Program Officer &
Care Coordination Manager
Educate Tomorrow



Guest Presenter

Andrea Arrechea

Care Coordinator

Educate Tomorrow



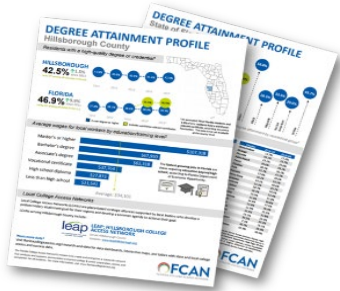
Our mission:

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

Our vision:

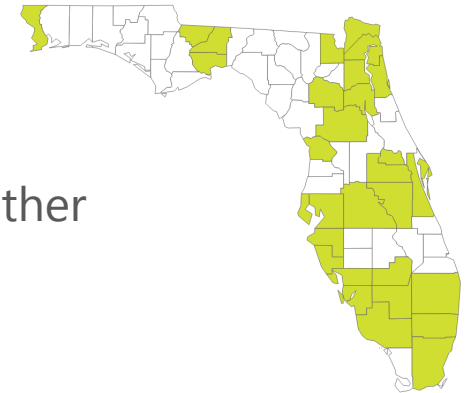
A Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

FCAN's Work



Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs represent 82% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



**COLLEGE
READY
FLORIDA**

Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that support students in continuing their education after high school.

7 Conditions for Success

Opportunity for everyone: To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

Clear information and guidance: Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

Affordable: Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

Multiple pathways to success: Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

Lifelong learning: No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

Effective use of data: Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

Community collaboration: When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.

Introduction

Homeless students in Florida

3.1%

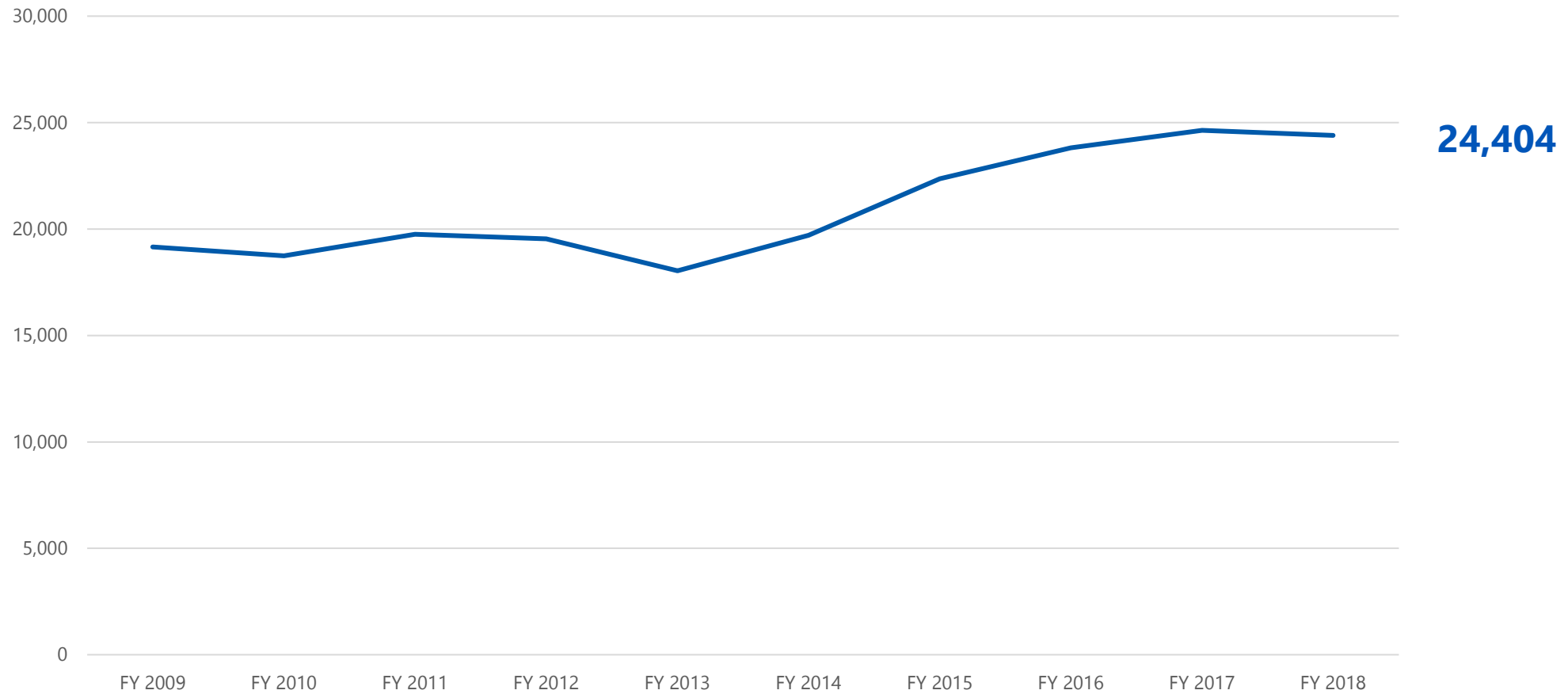
percent of total Florida students who are homeless = 95,860

8.2%

Unaccompanied youth = 7,844

Source: *Florida's Council on Homelessness, 2019 Annual Report*

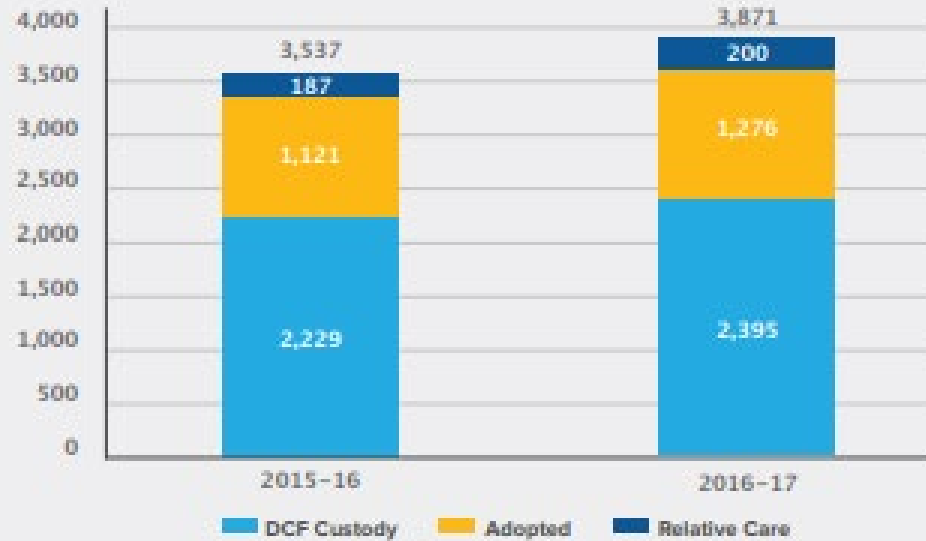
Numbers of Florida Children in Foster Care



Source: US Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children and Families, *AFCARS*, August 22, 2019

FIGURE 3

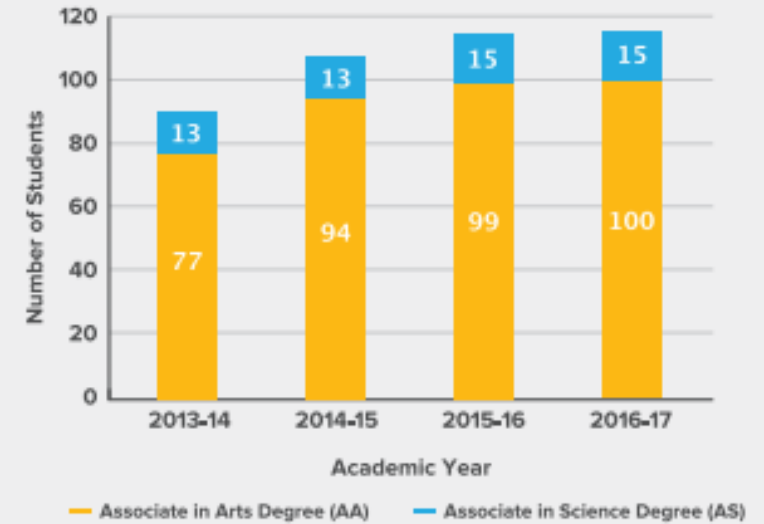
Number of Students Using the DCF Exemption in the Florida College System



Source: Bureau of PK-20 Education and Reporting, Florida Department of Education

FIGURE 9

Number of Associate's Degrees Earned by Florida College System Students Using DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption

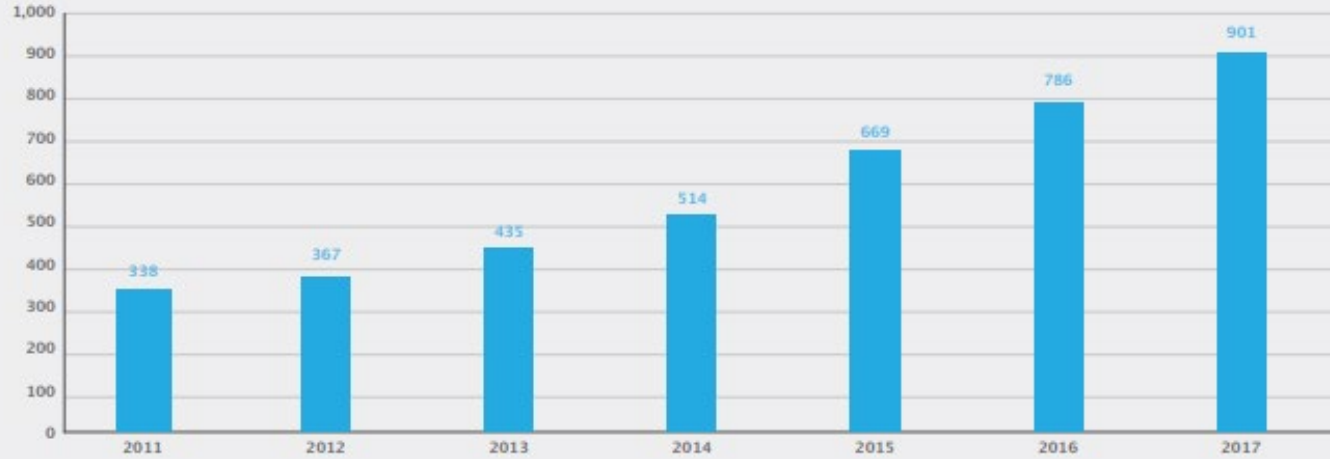


Source: Bureau of PK-20 Educate and Reporting, Florida Department of Education

Source: *Promoting Degree Attainment Among Former Foster Youth*, Helios Education Foundation

FIGURE 4

Number of State University System Students from Foster Care and Adoptive Homes Receiving the DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption 2011-2017



Source: Florida Board of Governors, 2018

FIGURE 10

Number of Bachelor's Degrees Earned by State University System of Florida Students Using Tuition and Fee Exemptions



Source: State University System of Florida, 2013-2014 to 2015-2016

Source: *Promoting Degree Attainment Among Former Foster Youth*, Helios Education Foundation

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Andrea Arrechea, M.S.Ed.

Evolution of Unite Miami



Year 1

WHO

How to identify who will receive services?



Year 2

WHAT

How to ensure the services are being provided?



Year 3

HOW

How to provide support and services to students in a collaboration as opposed to a silo?



Year 4

HOW

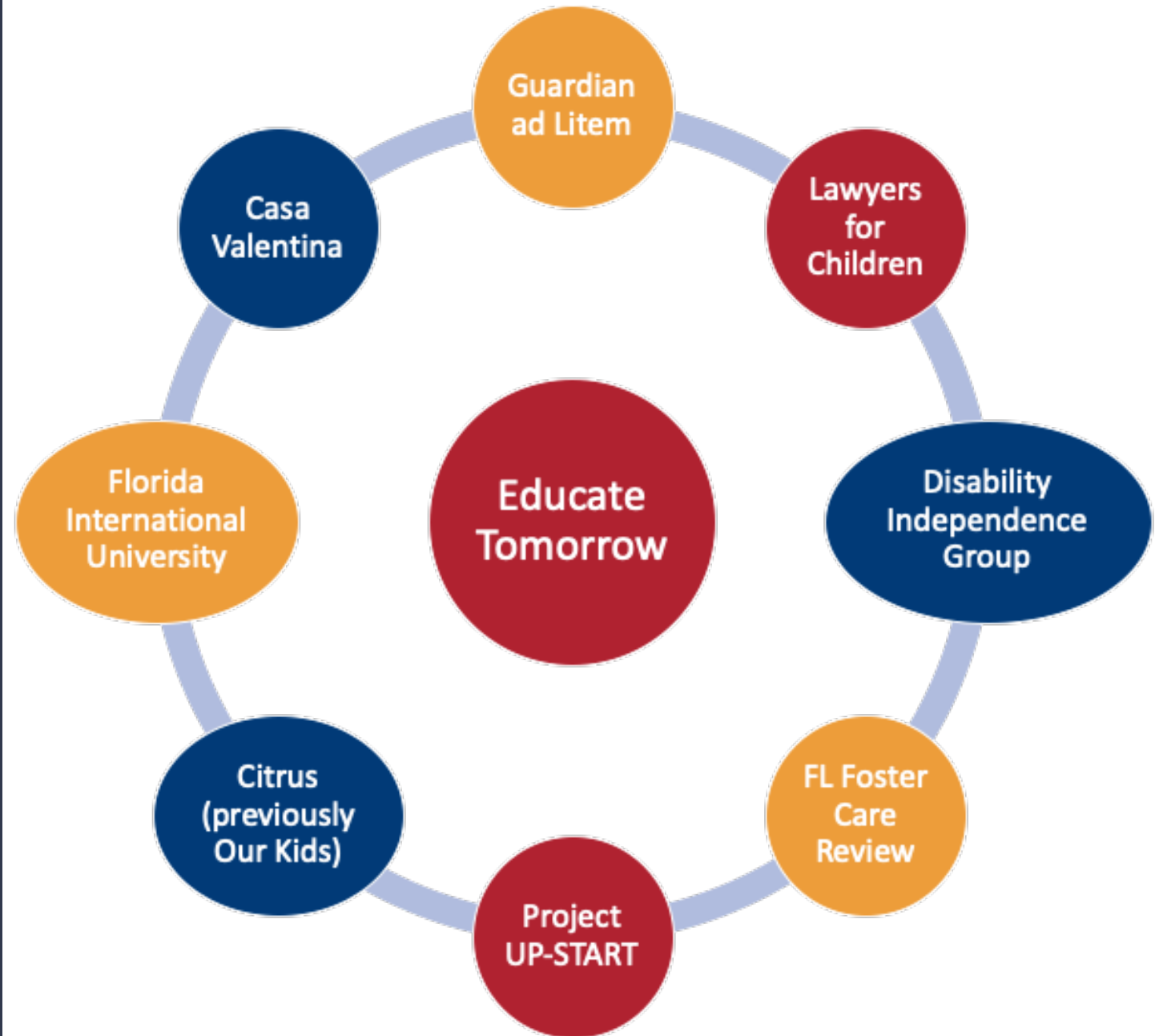
How to create a timeline of intentional student supports during transitions between life phases?



Unite Miami Partners

Partners are defined by having at least one of the following with Educate Tomorrow:

- An MOU to share services
- A financial agreement to pay staff at partner organizations
- A standing relationship of strong referrals and common mission



Partnerships and Programming: A Holistic Lens

Academics - MDCPS, AOK Scholars, Miami Dade College, FIU

Legal - Lawyers for Children America, Americans for Immigrant Justice

Housing - Casa Valentina, Chapman Partnership, Lotus House, The Homy Collective

Emergency Funding - Family Stabilization Funds, DCF Specific Funding

Special Needs - Disabilities Independence Group, The Early Learning Coalition

In Person & Online Workshops - Life Skills Training, Lunch & Learns

One on One Sessions - Trust & Confidentiality

Mentoring - Support System

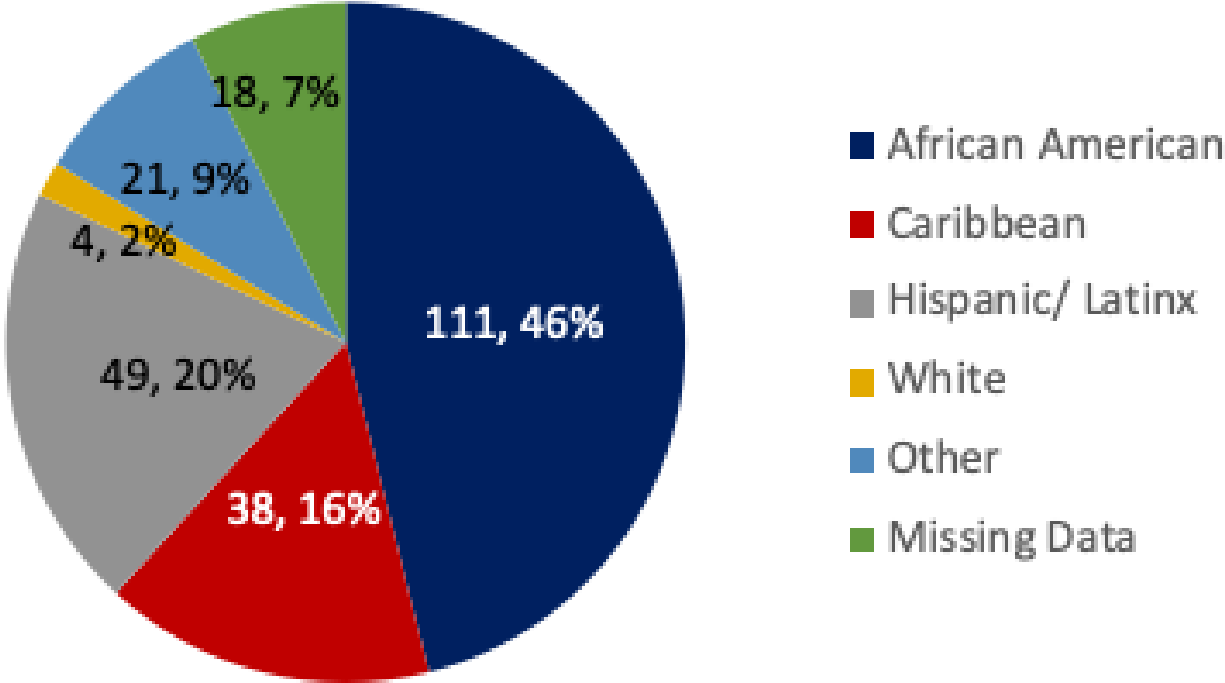
Care Coordination - Identifying the needs before addressing the academics, coordinating resources



Unite Miami Participants

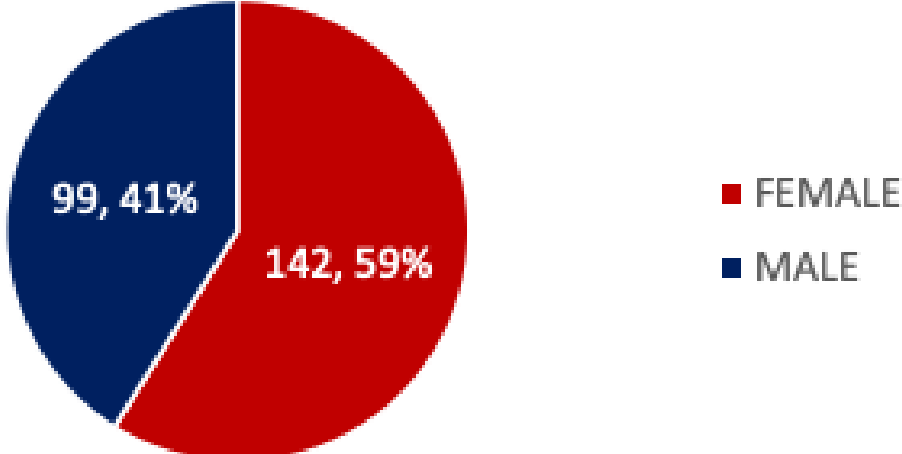
Unite Miami Student Exemption

number of participants = 241



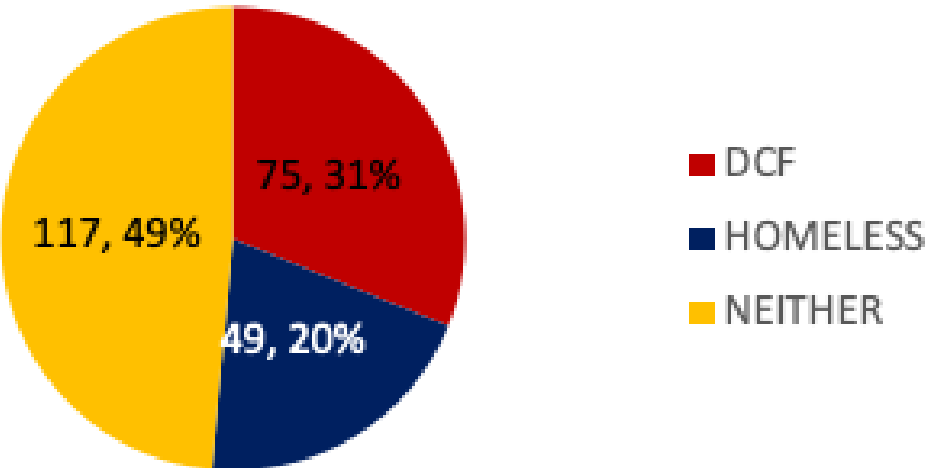
Unite Miami Student Genders

number of participants = 241

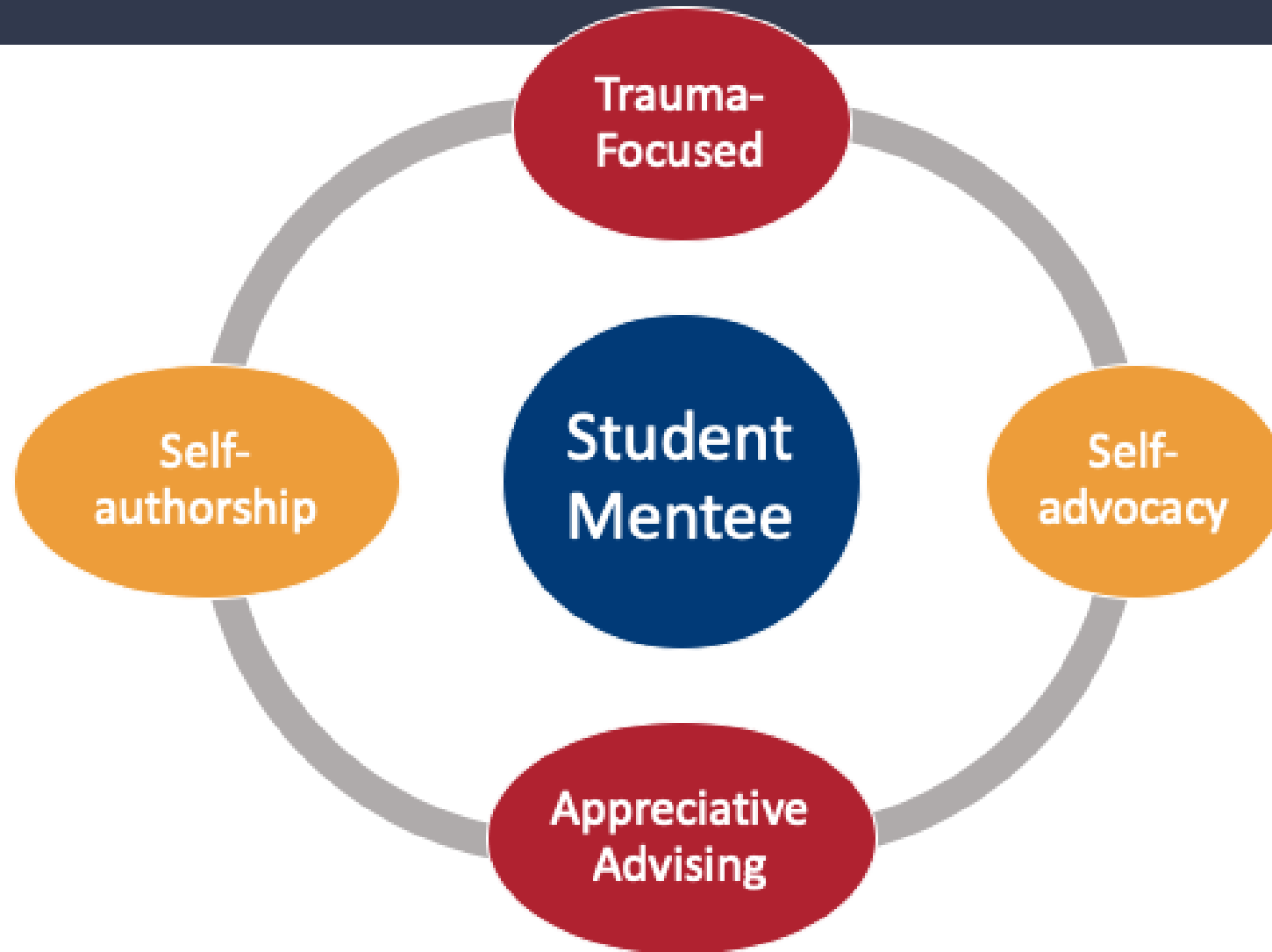


Unite Miami Student Exemption

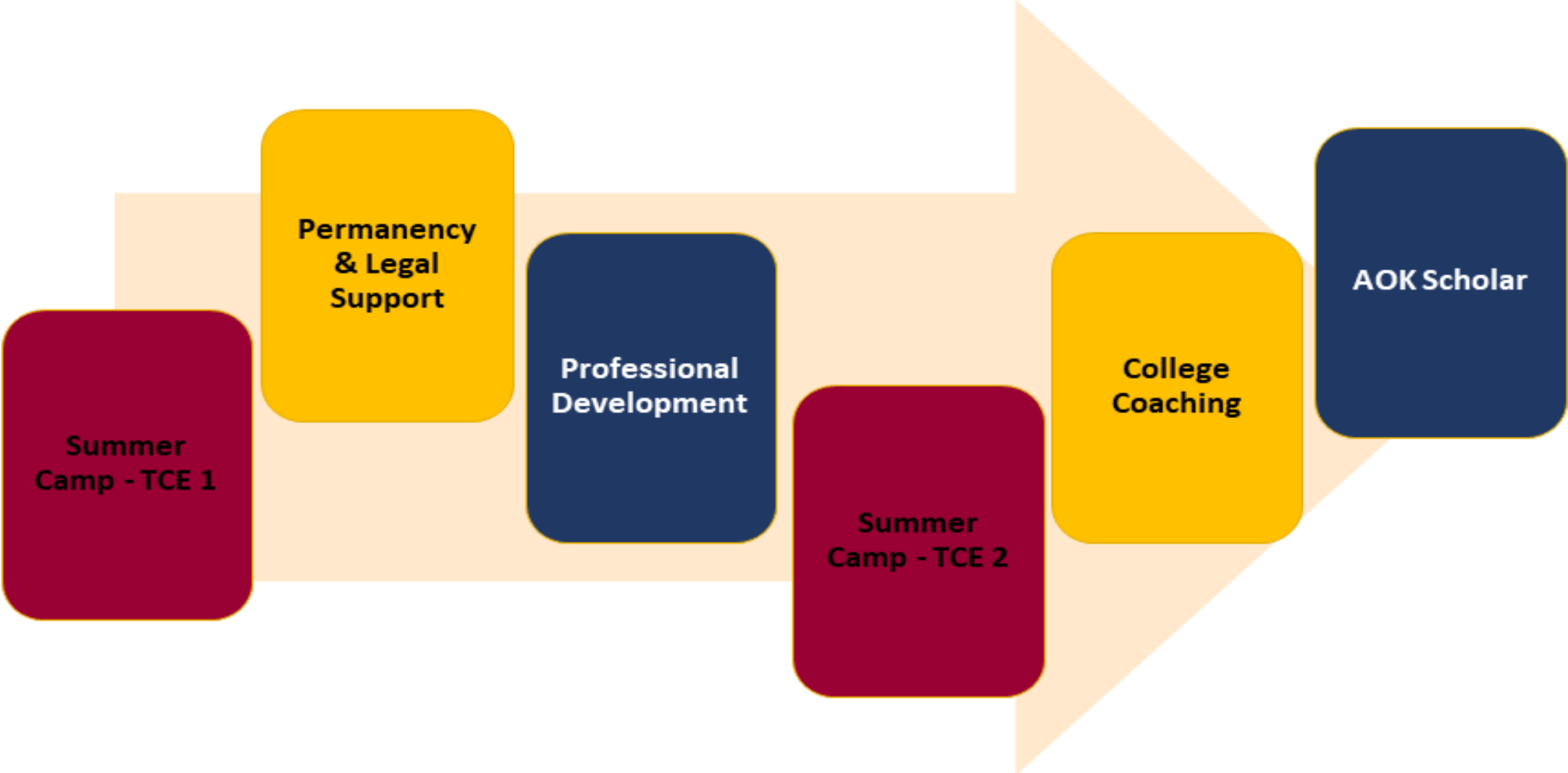
number of participants = 241



Student Lead Student Focused



Hazel's Story: From Summer Camper to AOK Scholar



Unique Successful Characteristics about Unite Miami

Guided by a Participant-
Centered Approach to
Collective Impact Theory

- Non-profit organization
- Grant-funded to support partnerships
- Strong relationships with community partners
- No limits on client populations
- A secure App that makes data collection and sharing easy
- Youth and alumni are represented in staff and leadership
- Innovative environment of continuous improvement

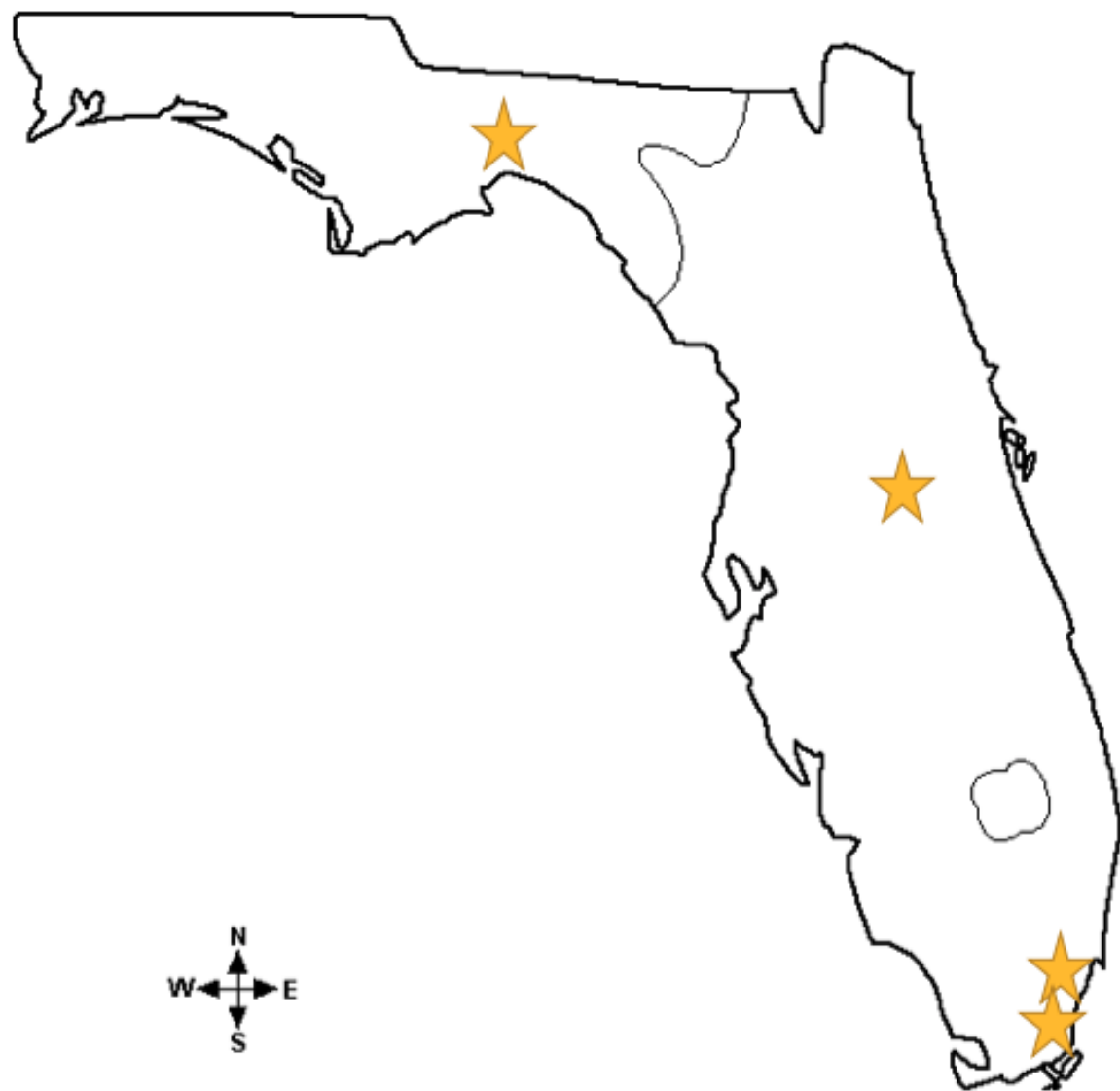


Challenges in Unite Miami

- Missions and activities mutually reinforcing for all organizations
- Accurate and confidential data collection and accountability
- Funding to support salaries of team and leader
- Developing trusted relationships with partners
- Partners having time to do the collaborative's work and their own organization's work

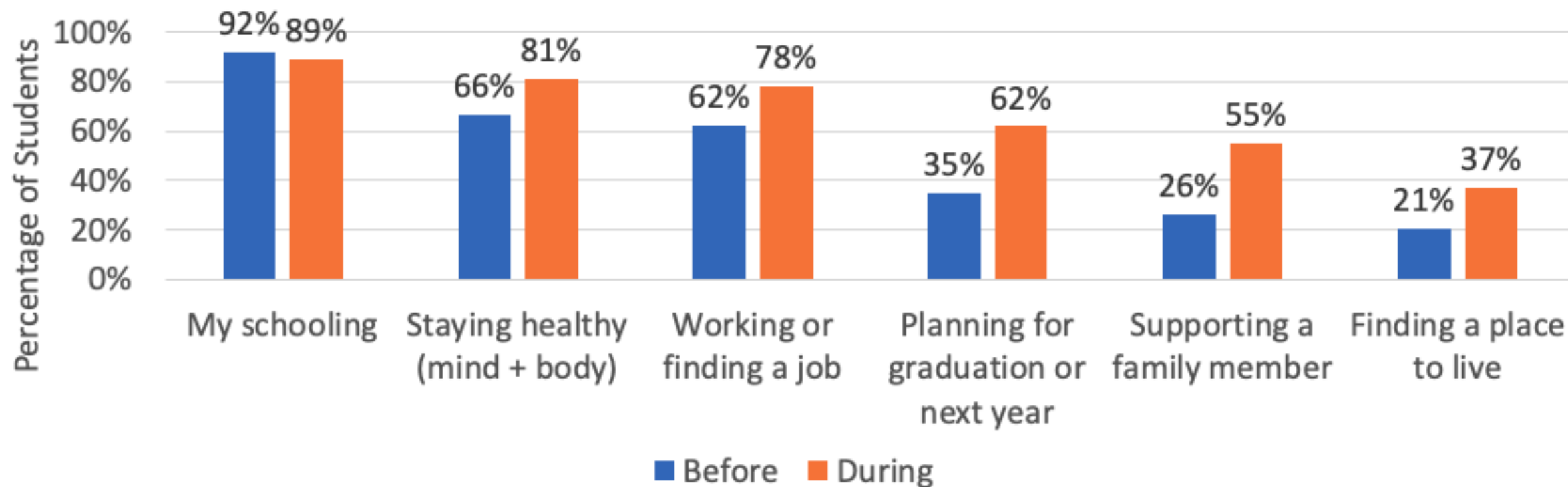
Who Completed the Survey?

- 180 total respondents between April 14 and May 8, 2020
- **67%** (122) of the respondents were **college and university students**
 - Of those, **6%** (7) were also **parents**
- Student respondents represent areas throughout Florida, including **Miami-Dade, Tallahassee, Orlando, Boca Raton**
- 7% of respondents had contacted 211 for support during COVID-19

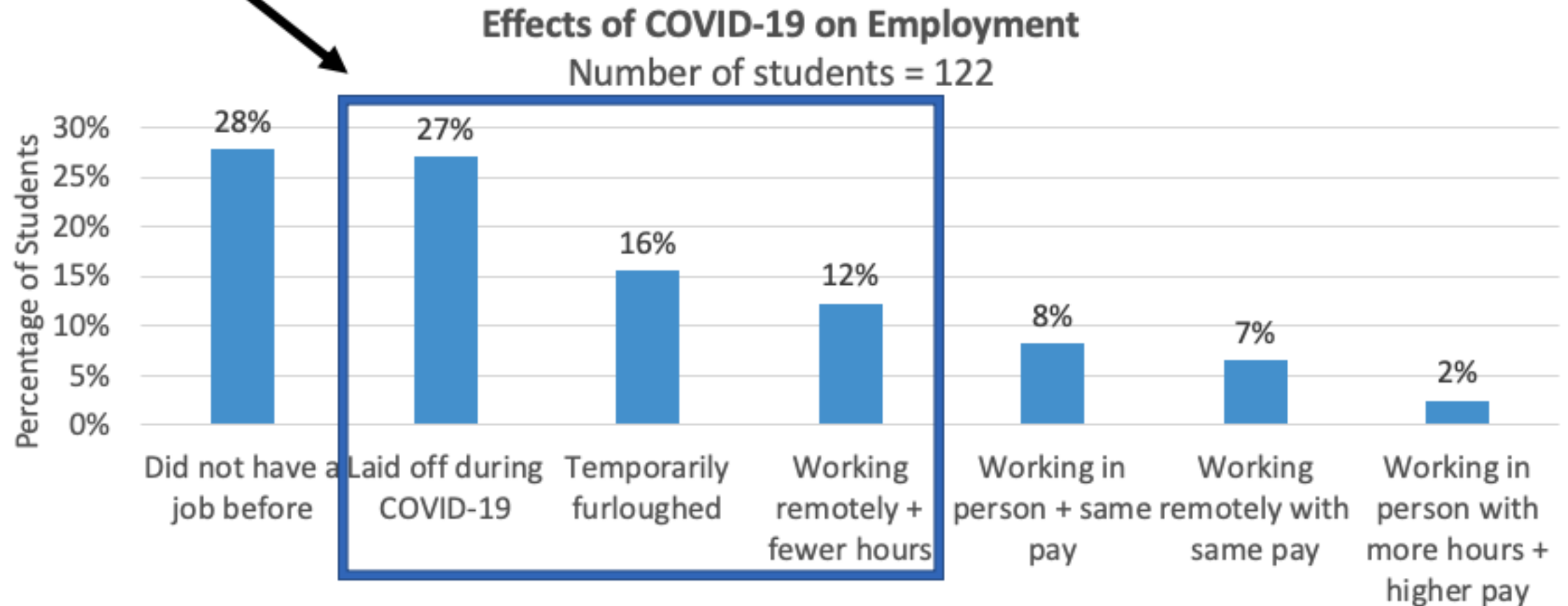


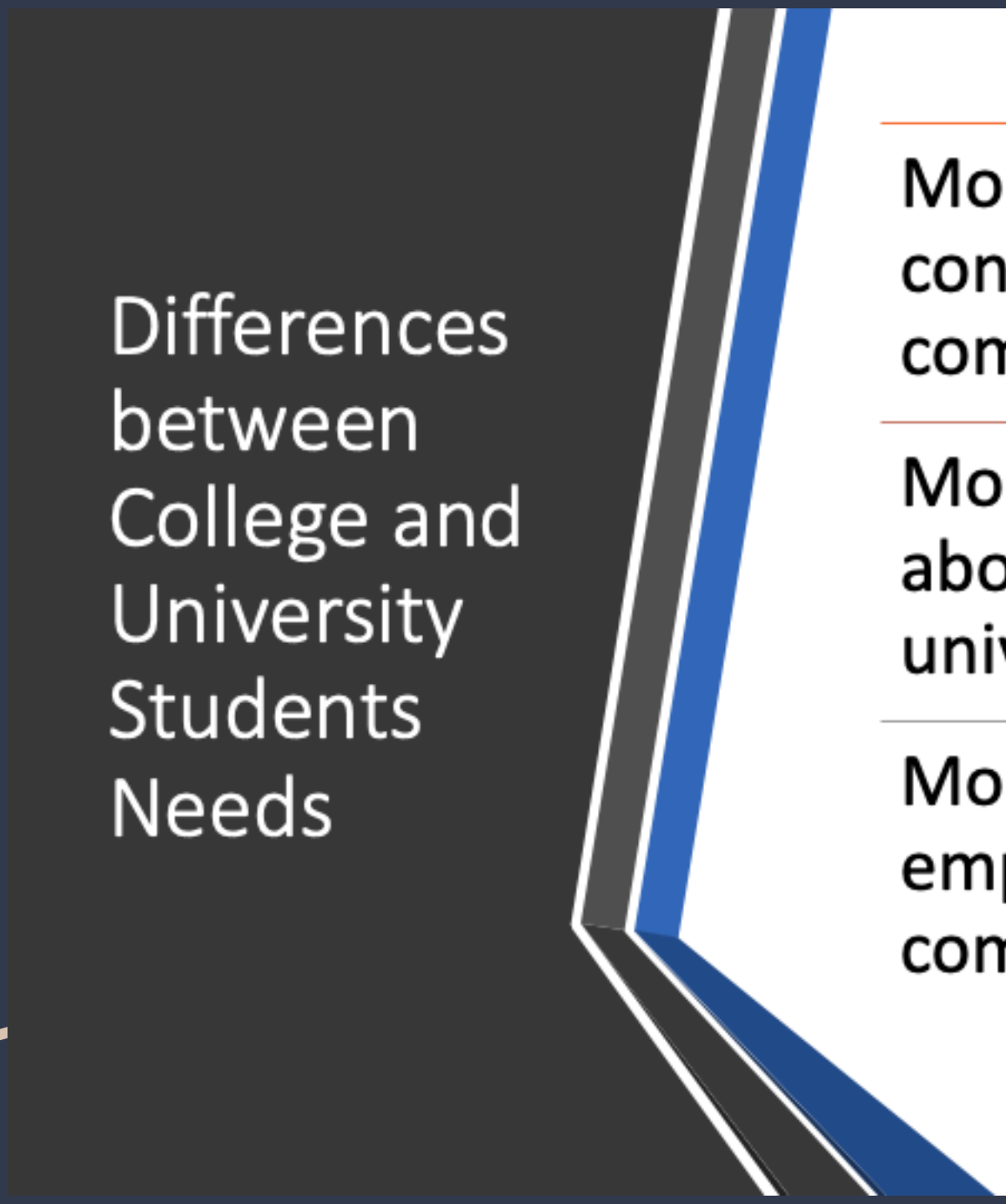
The order of priorities remains the same; however, the urgency of the priorities has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic

Top Priorities Before and During COVID-19
Number of students = 122



55% of students' wages have been temporarily or permanently reduced or cut off





Differences between College and University Students Needs

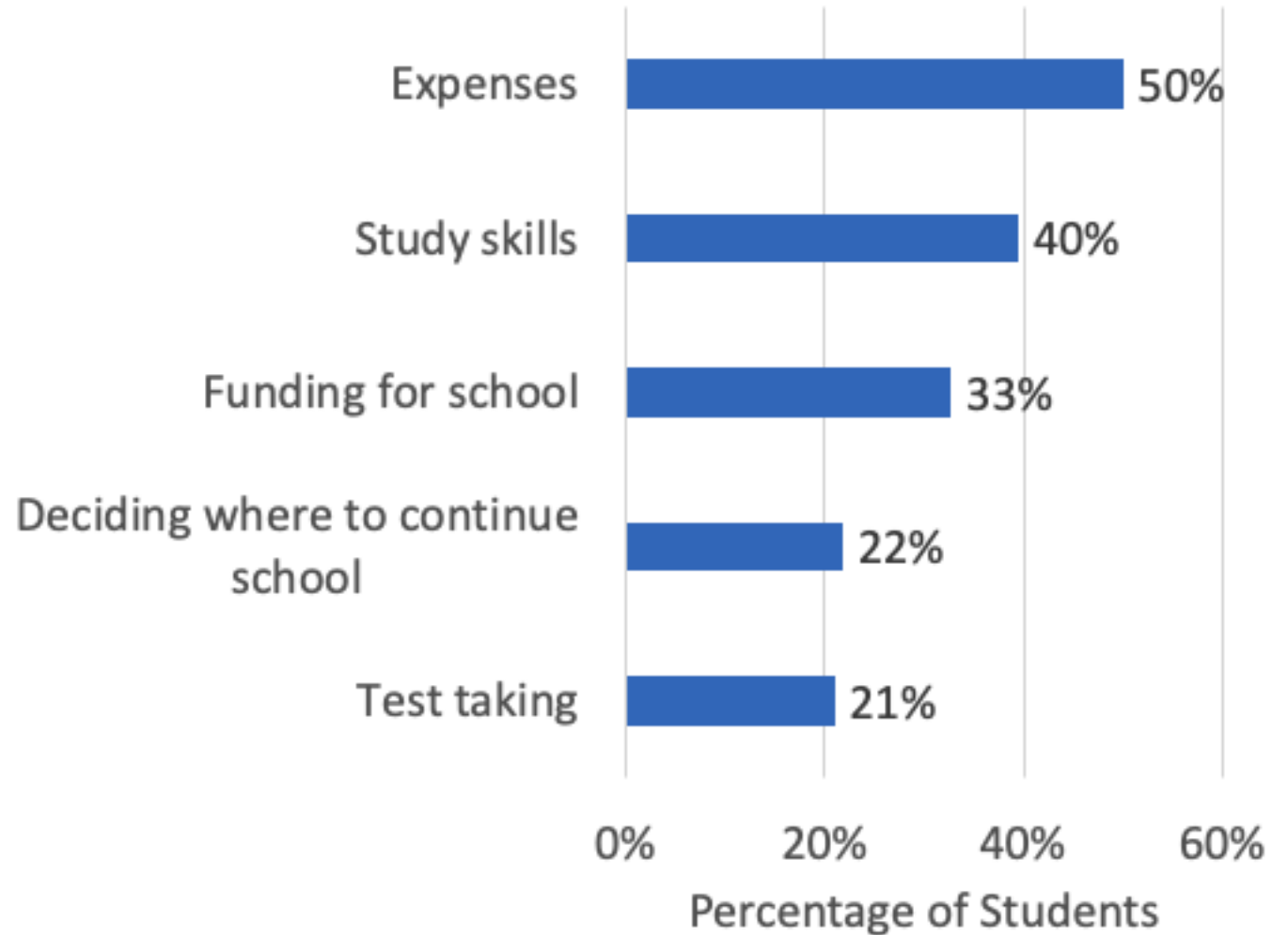
More university students were concerned with their schooling compared to college students

More college students worries about finding a job compared to university students

More university students had their employment affected by COVID-19 compared to college students

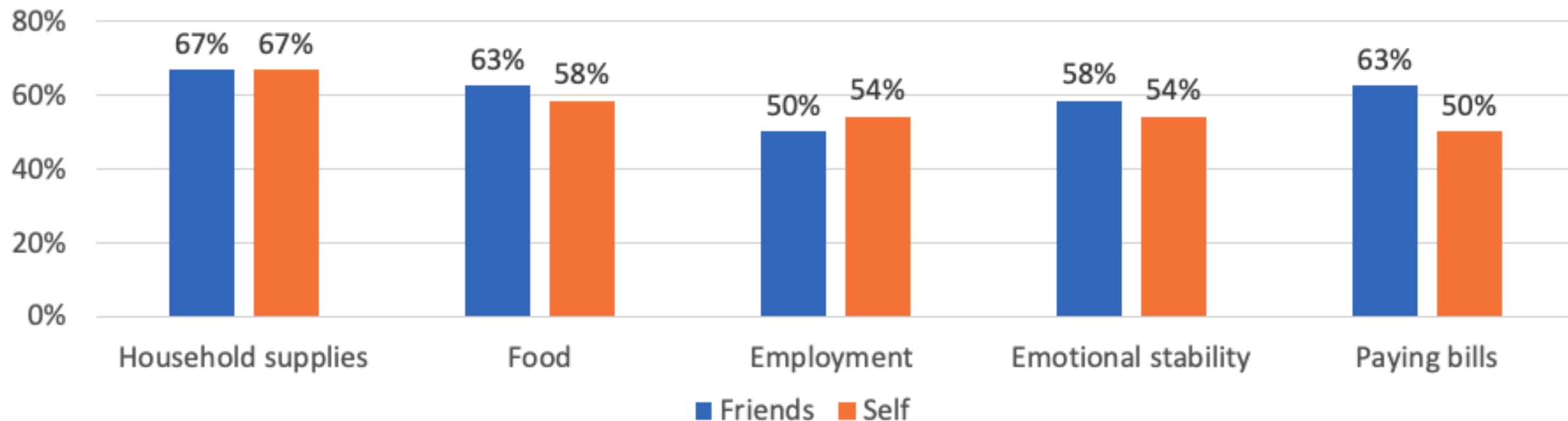
Most needed supports for education, include paying fees, study skills, making choices about the next educational step

Students' Needs Related to Education
Total number of students = 122



Students have been more challenged with paying bills, finding employment, finding food, and maintaining emotional health

Basic Life Needs that Have Become More Difficult Because of COVID-19
Number of students = 122



Student Financial Supports

AOK Scholar Requirements:

- 9+ college credits earned before first semester as an AOK @ Educate Tomorrow Scholar
- Enrolled in 9+ credits for each semester as an AOK @ Educate Tomorrow Scholar
- Using a tuition exemption or equivalent tuition coverage
- 2.3 minimum GPA
- Funding Categories: basic needs, academic support, professional development
- Good grade and graduation bonuses

AOK @ Educate Tomorrow Scholars' Expenditures

	Mar 13, 2020 - April 17, 2020		Feb 1, 2020 - Feb 29, 2020	
	Total	%	Total	%
Transportation	\$3,825.40	18%	\$ 807.83	10%
Education Supplies and Fees	\$2,216.95	10%	\$ 2,643.04	34%
Food and Household	\$15,198.57	71%	\$ 4,164.38	54%
Other	\$57.86	0%	\$ 98.76	1%
Grand Total	\$21,298.78		\$ 7,714.01	

Student Social Support Efforts

Nine weekly group sessions for college and university students

- 3 Lunch and Learns with a structured session followed by questions or conversation for college students; the average is 20 students per session
- 3 Resource Center Zoom Sessions where students can join with their own questions or do homework for middle school, high school and college level; the average is 10 students per session
- 1 P3 Women's SEL and Leadership Development Workshop for college-level students; the average is 15 students per session
- 2 Music Solutions Lab sessions for learning music development and production for middle school, high school and college level; the average is 5 students per session

Graduation Zoom Party

Individual Zoom sessions

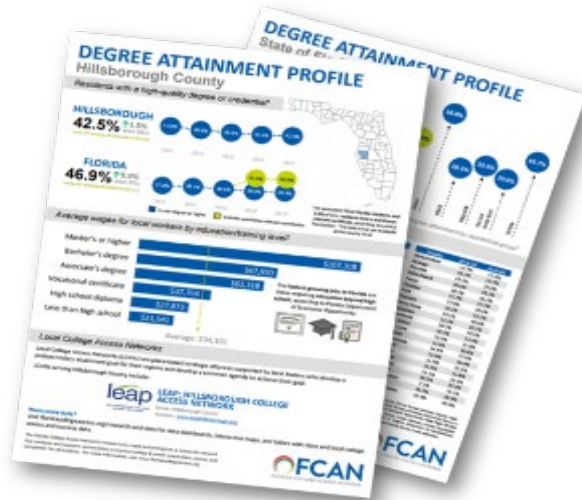


Questions

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Conclusion

