



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AGREEMENT COVER SHEET

Cover Sheet is an Internal Document for Business Office Use

Please Type

Contractor full name: 'r kids, Inc.

Doing Business As, if applicable:

Business Address: 45 Dixwell, New Haven, CT 05611

Business Phone: 203-865-5437

Business email: randi@rkidsct.org

Funding Source & Acct # including location code:

- Title 1- 2531-5208-56694-0000

Principal or Supervisor: Gemma Joseph Lumpkin

Agreement Effective Dates: From 1/10/2023. To 06/30/2023.

Hourly rate or per session rate or per day rate.

- 20 Foster care students and their families at \$270 per student per week, for 25 weeks.  
\$5400.00 a week

Total amount: \$135,000.00

Description of Service: Please provide a one or two sentence description of the service. *Please do not write "see attached."*

- 'r kids, Inc will be providing holistic services to (20) students at risk of removal or residing in out of home care (foster care) currently enrolled in the New Haven Public School System. r kids will engage identified foster students in (25) weeks of services from January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. National research shows that only 50% of students in foster care graduate or are at risk of dropping out of high school and are unlikely to attend or graduate from college. A coordinated effort by education agencies and child welfare agencies is necessary to improve the educational outcomes for students in foster care. r kids will be stepping in to provide these students service in (6) different areas of focus. **Support with Family Constellation, Support with the DCF system, State Services, Supports with New Haven Educational system, Connecting Community Entities, and Career Development.** Through holistic services, 'r kids aims to encourage educational success with the goal of participants successfully advance to the next grade level and obtain the tools to become successful members of society.

Submitted by: Gemma Joseph Lumpkin

Phone: 475-220-1060



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Memorandum

**To:** New Haven Board of Education Finance and Operations Committee  
**From:** Gemma Joseph Lumpkin  
**Date:** 12/5/22  
**Re:** 'r kids, Inc

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Please ***answer all questions and attach any required documentation as indicated below.*** Please have someone **ready to discuss** the details of each question during the Finance & Operations meeting or this proposal might not be advanced for consideration by the full Board of Education.

1. **Contractor Name:** 'r kids, Inc

2. **Description of Service:**

- 'r kids, Inc will be providing holistic services to (20) students at risk of removal or residing in out of home care (foster care) currently enrolled in the New Haven Public School System. r kids will engage identified foster students in (25) weeks of services from January 10th, 2023 to June 30th, 2023. National research shows that only 50% of students in foster care graduate or are at risk of dropping out of high school and are unlikely to attend or graduate from college. A coordinated effort by education agencies and child welfare agencies is necessary to improve the educational outcomes for students in foster care. r kids will be stepping in to provide these students service in (6) different areas of focus. **Support with Family Constellation**, consisting of the services to support biological family, adoptive families, and kin Families, who are those individuals who have a close bond, friendship or other affiliation with a child or the child's family that is not based in a familial relationship. **Support with the DCF system**, including communication with attorneys, courts, or DCF appointed case workers to the youth. **State Services**, ranging from State Department of Education working closely with Drop Out Prevention workers to adhere to the needs of the state to support educational progression. Also, the Department of Social services to help connect students and their families to resources they are qualified for. **Supports with New Haven Educational system**, connecting with Teachers, Guidance Counselors and Social Workers to support the social emotional and educational needs of each student. **Connecting Community Entities** with students to further supports with mental health agencies, medical support for medication and over wellbeing, nutritionist, housing agencies and more. **Career Development** to support student development by providing exposure to various career choices, classes and paid internships for older students to support younger students enrolled in the program. Through holistic services, 'r kids aims to encourage educational success with the goal of participants successfully advance to the next grade level and obtain the tools to become successful members of society.

3. **Amount of Agreement and hourly or session cost:** \$135,000

- a. 20 students at risk of removal or residing in out of home care (foster care) and their families at \$270 per student per week, for 25 weeks.

4. **Funding Source and account number:**

a. Title 1- 2531-5208-56694-0000

5. Approximate number of staff served through this program or service: 0

6. Approximate number of students served through this program or service: 20

**7. Continuation/renewal or new Agreement?**

**Answer all questions:**

a. If continuation/renewal, has the cost increased? If yes, by how much?

i. N/A- New service.

b. What would an alternative contractor cost:

i. Based off vendors working with Foster Care youth across the state, similar services range approximately from \$350-\$700 a week per student.

c. If this is a continuation, when was the last time alternative quotes were requested?

i. Not Continuation, but quotes requested in April, 2022 through RFQ process.

d. For new or continuation: is this a service existing staff could provide. If no, why not?

i. No, the array of services being provided by r kids is tailored to professionals who solely focus on specialized services for Foster Care youth. Centered around providing holistic approaches to support the child the best way possible.

**8. Type of Service:**

**Answer all questions:**

a. Professional Development?

i. NO

ii. If this is a professional development program, can the service be provided by existing staff? If no, why not?

b. After School or Extended Hours Program?

i. Extended Hours

c. School Readiness or Head Start Programs?

i. None

d. Other: (Please describe)

**9. Contractor Classification:**

**Answer all questions:**

a. Is the Contractor a Minority or Women Owned Business?

i. Minority Owned

b. Is the Contractor Local?

i. Yes, New Haven Based

c. Is the Contractor a Not-for-Profit Organization? If yes, is it local or national?

i. Yes, Local

d. Is the Contractor a public corporation?

i. No

e. Is this a renewal/continuation Agreement or a new service?

i. N/A

f. If it is a renewal/continuation has cost increased? If yes, by how much?

i. N/A

- g. Will the output of this Agreement contribute to building internal capabilities? If yes, please explain:
  - i. No

**10. Contractor Selection: In this section, please describe the selection process, including other sources considered and the rationale for selecting the contractor. Please answer all questions:**

- a. What specific skill set does this contractor bring to the project? Please attach a copy of the contractor's resume if an individual or link to contractor website if a company:
  - i. r kids provide innovative services centered on the best interest of the child through holistic approaches that includes not only the needs of the child, but their family and other involved in the process of raising the child with the goal to support academic growth and social emotional development, while addressing their trauma related histories.
  - ii. <https://rkidsct.org/>
- b. How was the Contractor selected? Quotes, RFP/RFQ, Sealed Bid or Sole Source designation from the City of New Haven Purchasing Department?
  - i. RFQ
- c. Is the contractor the lowest bidder? If no, why? Why was this contractor selected?
  - i. Yes, given the array of services the contractor will be providing to the identified Foster Student in the New Haven, Public School system, the service price is below other competitive prices.
- d. Who were the members of the selection committee that scored bid applications?
  - i. Arthur Edwards, Lysie Rodriguez, Christian Tabares, Jose Camacho, Dianne Stewart, Darrell Brown
- e. If the contractor is Sole Source, please attach a copy of the Sole Source designation letter from the City of New Haven Purchasing Department.

**11. Evidence of Effectiveness & Evaluation**

**Answer all questions**

- a. What **specific need** will this contractor address and how will the contractor's performance be measured and monitored to ensure that the need is met?
  - i. The contractor will address the ongoing troubles children in the foster care system experience when it comes to educational and social-emotional progression. By providing youth and families the wrap around services and resources needed to succeed, 'r kids aims to assist foster children in obtaining their high school diploma by addressing various factors that prevent them from obtaining these goals.
  - ii. Services will be monitored using the APT tool, which assess the overall quality of the programs staffing, staff's engagement with students and families, collaboration with NHPS staff, transitioning of students and activities offered. The evaluation team consist of the Building Leader with a team, which may consist of other NHPS staff, parents and community members. APT raters observe and score staff interactions (manner, affect, and tone of voice) with youth and families. The observers rate areas such as:

1. Are staffs greeting students and families
  2. Transitioning of students
  3. Does the space provide appropriate room for all youth and staff?
  4. The ability of staffs to communication with youth and/or their families in their language(s).
  5. The support staff provide in assisting youth with organizing and preparing themselves to do their homework.
  6. Staffs adjustments and accommodations for students based on their experiences and needs and that
  7. Staffs use of simple reminders and redirection to support positive behaviors.
  8. Dismissal Process
- b. If this is a **renewal/continuation service** attach a copy of the evaluation or archival data that demonstrates effectiveness.
- i. N/A
- c. How is this service aligned to the District Continuous Improvement Plan?
- i. Participants will engage in programming that attended to and enhance their academic and social emotional needs given the barriers faced as a students at risk of removal or residing in out of home care (foster care) in the New Haven Public School System. By addressing the concerns of this under represented population, we are assuring that these students to the next grade and become productive members of their communities.
12. Why do you believe this Agreement is fiscally sound?
- a. This agreement provides foster students an array of wrap around services to assure their success at a fiscally sound rate. With the support of trained professionals working with foster students across the state of Connecticut, we can assure the proper attention is given to our youth and families who are in need.
13. What are the implications of not approving this Agreement?
- a. Current statistics reflect that only 50% of children in the foster care system will graduate high school. Those who do graduate and make it to college only have a 3% chance of graduating from college. By not approving this agreement, we are blocking opportunities to break down the current barriers impacting our students at risk of removal or residing in out of home care (foster care) from succeeding both personally and academically.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**AGREEMENT**  
**By And Between**  
**The New Haven Board of Education**  
**AND**  
**(r kids, Inc.)**

FOR DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM:

*(Youth, Family, and Community Engagement)*

This Agreement entered into on the 6 day of December 2022, effective (no sooner than the day after Board of Education Approval), the 10 day of January, 2023, by and between the New Haven Board of Education (herein referred to as the "Board" and, 'r kids, Inc. located at, 45 Dixwell, New Haven, CT 05611 (herein referred to as the "Contractor").

**Compensation:** The Board shall pay the contractor for satisfactory performance of services required the amount of \$5,400 per week, for a total of 25 weeks.

The maximum amount the contractor shall be paid under this agreement: One Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand and Zero Cents (\$135,000.00). Compensation will be made upon submission of an itemized invoice which includes a detailed description of work performed and date of service.

**Fiscal support** for this Agreement shall be by Title 1 **Program** of the New Haven Board of Education, **Account Number:** 2531-5208-56694 **Location Code:** 0000

This agreement shall remain in effect from January 10, 2023 to June 30, 2023

**SCOPE OF SERVICE:** *In the space below, please provide brief summary of service.*

- 'r kids, Inc will be providing holistic services to (20) students at risk of removal or residing in out of home care (foster care) currently enrolled in the New Haven Public School System. r kids will engage identified foster students in (25) weeks of services from January 10th, 2023 to June 30th, 2023. National research shows that only 50% of students in foster care graduate or are at risk of dropping out of high school and are unlikely to attend or graduate from college. A coordinated effort by education agencies and child welfare agencies is necessary to improve the educational outcomes for students in foster care. r kids will be stepping in to provide these students service in (6) different areas of focus. **Support with Family Constellation**, consisting of the services to support biological family, adoptive families, and kin Families, who are those individuals who have a close bond, friendship or other affiliation with a child or the child's family that is not based in a familial relationship. **Support with the DCF system**, including communication with attorneys, courts, or DCF appointed case workers to the youth. **State Services**, ranging from State Department of Education working closely with Drop Out Prevention workers to adhere to the needs of the state to support educational progression. Also, the Department of Social services to help connect students and their families to resources they are qualified for. **Supports with New Haven Educational system**, connecting with Teachers, Guidance Counselors and Social Workers to support the social emotional and educational needs of each student. **Connecting Community Entities** with students to further supports with mental health agencies, medical support for medication and over wellbeing, nutritionist, housing agencies and more. **Career Development** to support student development by providing exposure to various career choices, classes and paid internships for older students to support younger students enrolled in the program. Through holistic services, 'r kids aims to encourage educational success with the goal of participants successfully advance to the next grade level and obtain the tools to become successful members of society.

**Exhibit A: Scope of Service:** Please attach contractor's detailed Scope of Service on contractor letterhead with all costs for services including travel and supplies, if applicable.

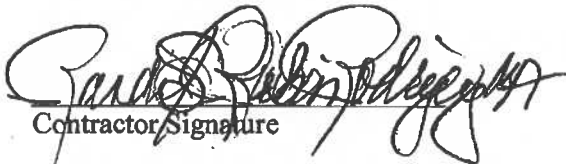
**Exhibit B: Student Data Privacy** - attached

**Exhibit C: Contractor's Declaration Attesting to Compliance with Executive Order No. 13G**—form must be completed by the contractor. See attached form for contractors who are working with students or staff in school or in after school programs, regardless of location.

**APPROVAL:** This Agreement must be approved by the New Haven Board of Education *prior to service start date*. Contractors may begin service no sooner than the day after Board of Education approval.

**HOLD HARMLESS:** The Contractor shall insure and/or indemnify the Board and its members, employees and agents against all claims, suits, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, in connection with loss of life, bodily injury or property damage arising from any neglect act or omission of the Contractor or its employees or agents. Further, the Contractor covenants and agrees that it shall hold the Board and its members, employees and agents harmless against any and all claims, suits judgments of any description whatsoever caused by the Contractor' breach of this agreement or based upon the conduct of the Contractor, or its agents or its employees or arising out of in connection with their activities under this agreement.

**TERMINATION:** The Board may cancel this agreement for any reason upon thirty (30) days' written notice sent to the Contractor by certified U.S. mail, return receipt requested; provided however, that the Board shall be responsible to the Contractor for all services rendered by the Contractor through the last day of thirty (30) day notice period, as long as the Agreement was approved by the Board prior to the start date of service.

  
Contractor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
New Haven Board of Education

12/6/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Printed Name & Title





NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## EXHIBIT B

### STUDENT DATA PRIVACY AGREEMENT SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For the purposes of this Exhibit B "directory information," "de-identified student information," "school purposes," "student information," "student records," "student-generated content," and "targeted advertising" shall be as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-234aa.

1. All student records, student information, and student-generated content (collectively, "student data") provided or accessed pursuant this Agreement or any other services agreement between the Parties are not the property of, or under the control of, the Contractor.
2. The Board shall have access to and the ability to delete student data in the possession of the Contractor except in instances where such data is (A) otherwise prohibited from deletion or required to be retained under state or federal law, or (B) stored as a copy as part of a disaster recovery storage system and that is (i) inaccessible to the public, and (ii) unable to be used in the normal course of business by the Contractor. The Board may request the deletion of any such student information, student records or student-generated content if such copy has been used by the operator to repopulate accessible data following a disaster recovery. The Board may request the deletion of student data by the contractor within two (2) business days of receiving such a request and provide to the Board confirmation via electronic mail that the student data has been deleted in accordance with the request, the date of its deletion, and the manner in which it has been deleted. The confirmation shall contain a written assurance from the Contractor that proper disposal of the data has occurred in order to prevent the unauthorized access or use of student data and that deletion has occurred in accordance with industry standards/practices/protocols.
3. The Contractor shall not use student data for any purposes other than those authorized pursuant to this Agreement.
4. A student, parent or legal guardian of a student may review personally identifiable information contained in student data and correct any erroneous information, if any, in such student data. If the Contractor receives a request to review student data in the Contractor's possession directly from a student, parent, or guardian, the Contractor agrees to refer that individual to the Board and to notify the Board within two (2) business days of receiving such a request. The Contractor agrees to work cooperatively with the Board to permit a student, parent, or guardian to review personally identifiable information in student data that has been shared with the Contractor, and correct any erroneous information therein.



5. The Contractor shall take actions designed to ensure the security and confidentiality of student data.
6. The Contractor will notify the Board, in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-234dd, when there has been an unauthorized release, disclosure or acquisition of student data. Such notification will include the following steps:

Upon discovery by the Contractor of a breach of student data, the Contractor shall conduct an investigation and restore the integrity of its data systems and, without unreasonable delay, but not more than thirty (30) days after such discovery, shall provide the Board with a more detailed notice of the breach, including but not limited to the date and time of the breach; name(s) of the student(s) whose student data was released, disclosed or acquired; nature of and extent of the breach; and measures taken to ensure that such a breach does not occur in the future.

7. Student data shall not be retained or available to the Contractor upon expiration of the contract between the Contractor and Board, except a student, parent or legal guardian of a student may choose independently to establish or maintain an electronic account with the Contractor after the expiration of such contract for the purpose of storing student-generated content.
8. The Contractor and Board shall each ensure their own compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, as amended from time to time.
9. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees to comply with the above and all other applicable aspects of Connecticut's Student Data Privacy law according to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-234aa through 10-234dd.
10. The Parties agree that this Agreement controls over any inconsistent terms or conditions contained within any other agreement entered into by the Parties concerning student data.

NHPS Proposal  
'r kids Family Center  
Tracey's Place Program for Foster Youth

**Program Summary**

Tracey's Place is an evidenced-based program for youth at risk of removal or who are currently in out of home care along with their caretakers (foster parents, kin, or biological and adoptive families). This program is a trauma informed, psycho-social educational multi-dimensional individually designed wrap around model. We propose serving 20 students and a minimum of 32 families (biological, foster, kin, and adoptive families). This proposal covers programming in the Winter/Spring (January- June, 30) weeks, 12.5 hours per week in direct service programming plus extensive individual work with students, their teachers and caregivers and extended community providers. Four students (16-18 yrs. old) will be recruited to participate in mentorship training and then provide peer mentoring through June 30, 2022 to the other 16 students.

Since 1996, 'r kids has provided specialized, quality services to over 7,500 children residing in foster care (DCF) and their families. Our innovative services are centered on meeting the needs of the child through holistic approaches that include the child's biological, foster, kin, and/or adoptive families.

**The Need**

Children and youth who either have experienced foster care or are currently within the child welfare system face unique adversities and challenges. At present there are over 600 children residing in out-of-home care in New Haven County or involved with DCF, a minimum of 125 students are identified in the New Haven Public School System. Children who have experienced foster care or are currently within the system face unique adversities and challenges and have likely had multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which can include neglect, homelessness, food insecurity or physical or sexual abuse. ACEs have a direct correlation on lower life expectancies, reduced earning potential, increased likelihood for criminal justice involvement and homelessness, and lower lifelong educational attainment. Trauma history and parental separation have a unique impact on the neurological development of the brain, directly altering the cognitive development of children and youth within the system. Failure to provide quality programming for youth impacts their future. Nationally, students in foster care or who have experiences with the system have lower high school graduation rates than the general student population - only 50% receive a high school diploma. Of the students who do go on to enroll in college, only 3% will graduate.

At Tracey's Place, the supportive community of staff and peers makes it possible for students in the child welfare system to thrive academically and socially. During the regular school day, our students often feel different, unsafe or unheard. They struggle with their feelings from a multitude of transitions and traumatic experiences that make it hard for them to focus and actively engage in classroom activities. At Tracey's Place, students are with peers who face

similar struggles, so they are able to adapt to those challenges together and avoid feeling stigmatized. Our evidence-based curriculum, which affords youth the opportunity to share their stories, enhances their ability to develop resiliency. Our small group size, peer community and trauma-informed approaches help our students feel supported, and improves their interpersonal skills and relationship building.

'r kids Family Center will provide a holistic program, Tracey's Place, for foster youth and those at risk of placement, ages 10-14. Program components also include participating in children's IEP and PPT meetings, as well as direct contact with each of their teachers. By using this child-school-family approach with trauma- and evidence-based curricula and socially relevant activities, Tracey's Place will address not only the academic needs of referred students, but also the factors in their lives that adversely impact their educational success.

### **Program Description**

Tracey's Place utilizes Evidence-Based models, the One Circle Foundation's Girls Circle and Council for Boys and Young Men curricula, to help students develop resilience, self-esteem and healthy learning behaviors. We use the Center for Adoption Support and Education's W.I.S.E. Up! Curriculum, which aims to provide students with the social and emotional skills they need to address questions about adoption from their peers. We will also provide therapeutic programming and support to and their siblings, birth families and foster families of all 16 children, including Circle of Security which builds families' reflective capacity to foster secure attachment between families and children. Four students (16-18 yrs. old) will be recruited to participate in mentorship training and then provide peer mentoring through June 30, 2022 to the other 16 students. For a total of 20 students.

At the beginning of the day, students will participate in physical indoor or outdoor activity, which we have found addresses stressors students' may have experienced in their school day. All students will participate in 45 minutes of academic enrichment facilitated by a teacher; beginning with homework review. Upon completion of homework or if there are no homework assignments the teacher will provide students with math and literacy skill building activities and exercises. Once a week, the teacher will be conducting a science lesson utilizing the science sink in the classroom. All students participate in an outing to the Stetson Library to secure a library card and learn all the activities available to them. As an added literacy component, each student will select a minimum of two books per semester which they will share with the class upon their completion. The teacher will be incorporating PPT recommendations and provide feedback to the teachers.

The Program will also be built to expose students to new social events in our community such as museums, theater productions, park and recreation programming throughout the year. Art, music and dancing classes will provide students with arts-based enrichment, and outdoor activities and field trips will get students moving and interacting with the world around them. Students will consistently have a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity each day and at

least one hour of experiential learning in the arts per week. The program also includes an introduction to basic life skills such as cooking and financial literacy. We will incorporate as many outdoor activities as possible. While most students will be in middle school, they will also receive age-appropriate college and career advice in the form of career exploration workshops and college and business tours. Community role models will be invited to speak with the youth, representing a variety of professional careers and trades.

Additionally, students will follow the Center for Adoption Support and Education's W.I.S.E. Up! curriculum, which helps students gain the skills they need to talk about adoption and foster care with their classmates. Partnered with the One Circle Foundation's Girls Circle and Council for Boys and Young Men curricula, W.I.S.E. Up! improves students' emotional intelligence and executive functioning skills. Furthermore, students' broad engagement with new activities and opportunities for leadership improves their mental resilience and helps them develop stronger problem-solving skills.

Finally, Tracey's Place will provide these students service in (6) different areas of focus: Support with Family Constellations and States services, Support with the New Haven Educational system, Support with the DCF system, Connecting Community Entities and career development. In particular, the social worker-facilitated caregiver support group for the birth and foster families of the participating foster children will provide social and emotional learning opportunities for caregivers using a Family Strengthening approach and encourage them to engage in the student's holistic development. Support groups, teacher meetings, and engagement with DCF workers help get the adults in the student's life on the same page, which means that children have more support at home and at school increasing their opportunity for success.

### **Recruitment**

NHPS and 'r kids Family Center will work together to recruit students for the program. NHPS will identify eligible families, notify those children's DCF workers, and share the flyer prepared by 'r kids that details the program information and steps for applying at 'r kids Family Center.

'r kids will reach out to our current students and families enrolled in our other programs or services and invite them to participate in Tracey's Place as an extension and expansion of 'r kids work with them. 'r kids will also add Tracey's Place to their listing of programs on United Way's 2-1-1 platform and will connect with the DCF liaison and their educational unit to share information about the program. 'r kids staff will recruit families at Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Family (CAFAP) meetings and foster parent support groups at DCF offices in New Haven. The CT State Department of Education surrogate program will also be notified.

To raise awareness of the program among NHPS staff and share information about the curriculum and goals, 'r kids will be available to participate in monthly school social worker meetings, and/or attend meetings with staff overseeing the McKinney-Vento compliance. 'r kids is also available to present at NHPS professional development days.

'r kids will work closely with NHPS, including the drop-out prevention unit, to ensure there is full enrollment across the program period through regular outreach to enrolled students. We will maintain a waiting list of new student candidates in the event any families drop out of the program.

### **Staffing**

Our Director of Programs will also provide oversight for Tracey's Place staff. Each position's specific responsibilities are listed below.

**Education Coordinator.** The Education Coordinator will be responsible for the general oversight and day-to-day operation of Tracey's Place. They will be responsible for the development, implementation, reporting and evaluation of all aspects of the program. The Education Coordinator will include psycho-social components from Circle of Security and other curricula from the One Circle Foundation curriculum. They will attend student PPT meetings alongside the Tracey's Place Social Worker as needed to support students in the program. The Education Coordinator will also be responsible for ensuring any PPT or 504 Plan accommodations are being met in the afterschool program. They are also responsible for running the foster parent and birth parent support groups. The Education Coordinator will supervise Tracey's Place staff, including the Teacher, and will report to the Director of Programs and work closely with NHPS staff and teachers to meet program goals. The Education Coordinator will recruit 4 students (16-18 yrs. old) to participate in mentorship training and then provide peer mentoring through June 30, 2022 to the other 16 students.

**Social Worker.** A MSW level Social Worker will be responsible for supporting and advocating for the emotional, mental and physical wellbeing of students and peer mentors. They will conduct psycho-social assessments and will lead trauma-based groups for the students. The Social Worker will also attend any PPT and DCF meetings alongside the Education Coordinator and will lead the caregiver support group.

**Teacher.** The Teacher will be responsible for the academic aspects of the program- providing instruction and support during homework time, and developing and teaching important math and literacy units. The Teacher will also develop a weekly science segment. They are also responsible for incorporating PPT recommendations and providing feedback to families and the students' school-day teachers. They are the point of contact for NHPS teachers to address any educational concerns.

**Program Assistant.** The Program Assistant will work closely with the Education Coordinator and Teacher and will be responsible for assisting with student referrals, tracking attendance, and reaching out to caregivers when needed. They will support the Teacher during tutoring time and the social worker in implementing the One Circle Foundation Curriculum.

**Peer Mentors.** 4 peer mentors (at least one girl and one boy) will assist with tutoring and will offer one-on-one help to students with the development of their study skills. A key role will be supporting other students by sharing their own experiences in the foster system and connecting with students about the emotional difficulties they may experience during transitions to permanent families.

### **Tracey's Place Schedule**

Tracey's Place will operate Monday-Friday from 3:00-5:30pm beginning in January and running through June 2023. During each NHPS break (2), the program will offer a maximum of two full-day field trips. Staff will start work in December 2022 to work on program development, student recruitment, and meetings with critical stakeholder agencies (see budget).

### **Data and Evaluation**

Tracey's Place utilizes pre-and post-surveys for students, families, and teachers as part of the evaluation of Tracey's Place. Areas measured include: academic assessments, educational expectations, social support, positive body image, self-efficacy, educational expectations and aspirations. We also use a resiliency measure from One Circle Foundation. We are also interested in exploring the National Institute of Out of School Time tool that NHPS uses to measure its afterschool programming.

Our objectives are to:

- Increase youth's emotional stability
- Enhance placement stabilization
- Promote positive education performance, including helping students advance to the next grade
- Reduce suspensions
- Increase self-esteem
- Increase the educational advocacy capacity of parents and caregivers

### **Budget Summary**

See Attached budget. We are proposing to serve 20 students, their 16 foster families, and up to 16 birth, kin, or adoptive families if they remain in the picture for a total cost of \$135,000 for Tracey's Place (25 weeks of programming @ a minimum of 12.5 hours per week plus individualized services and vacation programs) and 5 weeks for program development, student recruitment, and meetings with NHPS (Dropout Prevention Unit, Grandparents on the Move, Family and Community Services, Social Work Department), DCF, State Department of Education, State Surrogates Unit, Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families, and Connecticut Council on Adoption.

## **Services on-site and activities for each student at 'r kids Family Center**

1. Intake and assessment
2. Weekly daily tutoring
3. Psycho-educational, trauma-informed, gender specific group 2x/week
4. Evidence-based Curriculum-Circle Foundation
5. Journal keeping and behavioral supports
6. Indoor and Outdoor Physical Exercise/Movement classes
7. Training for 4 students (16-18) and peer mentoring with the younger students
8. Life skills and career sessions with community professionals and role models
9. Science, Art, Music and Technology enhancement programming
10. Educational supplies, materials, backpacks, holiday gifts and family groceries
11. Nutritious snacks and nutrition class by Claire's
12. Weekly contact with NHBOE teachers as needed
13. Participation and advocating in IEP/PPT/504s on behalf of the students
14. Collaborate with DCF and participate in all ACR's on behalf of the student

## **On-site services available for each student's FAMILY (bio, foster, kin)**

1. Monthly caregivers' support groups
2. In-home visits for support and ongoing assessment of needs
3. Caregiver and students celebration (2x's a year)
4. Guest speakers; i.e., chefs, lawyers, and community leaders
5. Knitting/crocheting group led by community senior
6. Food pantry and family needs



# Students' eco-system at 'r kids

