

MISSION & VISION

Founded in 2005, The nsoro Educational Foundation believes not one young person aging out of our nation's foster care system should have to navigate the world alone. Our mission provides the access to and attainment of post secondary education through a holistic scholarship that shepherds our youth to and through college, optimally positioning our graduates for an equitable transition into adulthood.

OUR SCHOLARSHIP

Our collegians are able to direct their gap funding scholarship toward tuition, housing, books, fees and food security over their course of their academic journey, at all levels of education - Associate, Bachelor's, Masters and Technical degrees, through age 26.

The nsoro Scholarship includes a comprehensive mentor program anchored in three tenets - emotional intelligence, financial literacy and workforce readiness. The scholar's certified executive coach remains in place throughout their college career.

55 Graduates

CLASS OF 21-2022 | DEGREE TYPE

40% S.T.E.M.

33% SOCIAL SCIENCES

18% BUSINESS

7% PERFORMING ARTS

3% EDUCATION

72% BLACK | 19% LATINX | 8% CAUCASIAN | 1% OTHER

IMPACT TO DATE



81% GRADUATION RATE

Compared to the national 4% college graduation rate of former foster youth.



401 COLLEGE GRADUATES

nsoro currently supports 302 scholars across 32 states attending 191 colleges and universities.



98% REWROTE THE NARRATIVE

nsoro provides equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of previous drug offenses or criminal history records. However, while in our program, 98% of Scholars do not abuse drugs or alcohol and do not develop or add to criminal history records.

\$4.3M

nsoro has awarded in scholarships & college preparatory programs

20,000+ YOUTH AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE YEARLY

- 20% of these youth are homeless at the age of 18
- 50% will have gainful employment by age 24
- 1 in 4 will graduate from high school or get a GED
- 1 in 2 will develop a substance abuse
- \$300,000 in societal costs per youth over their lifetime

"Without a powerful disrupting agent propelling these youth toward greater opportunity, generations of youth will be trapped in a cycle with deep and ongoing societal costs. nsoro is that disruptor."

Darrell Mays | Chairman & Founder



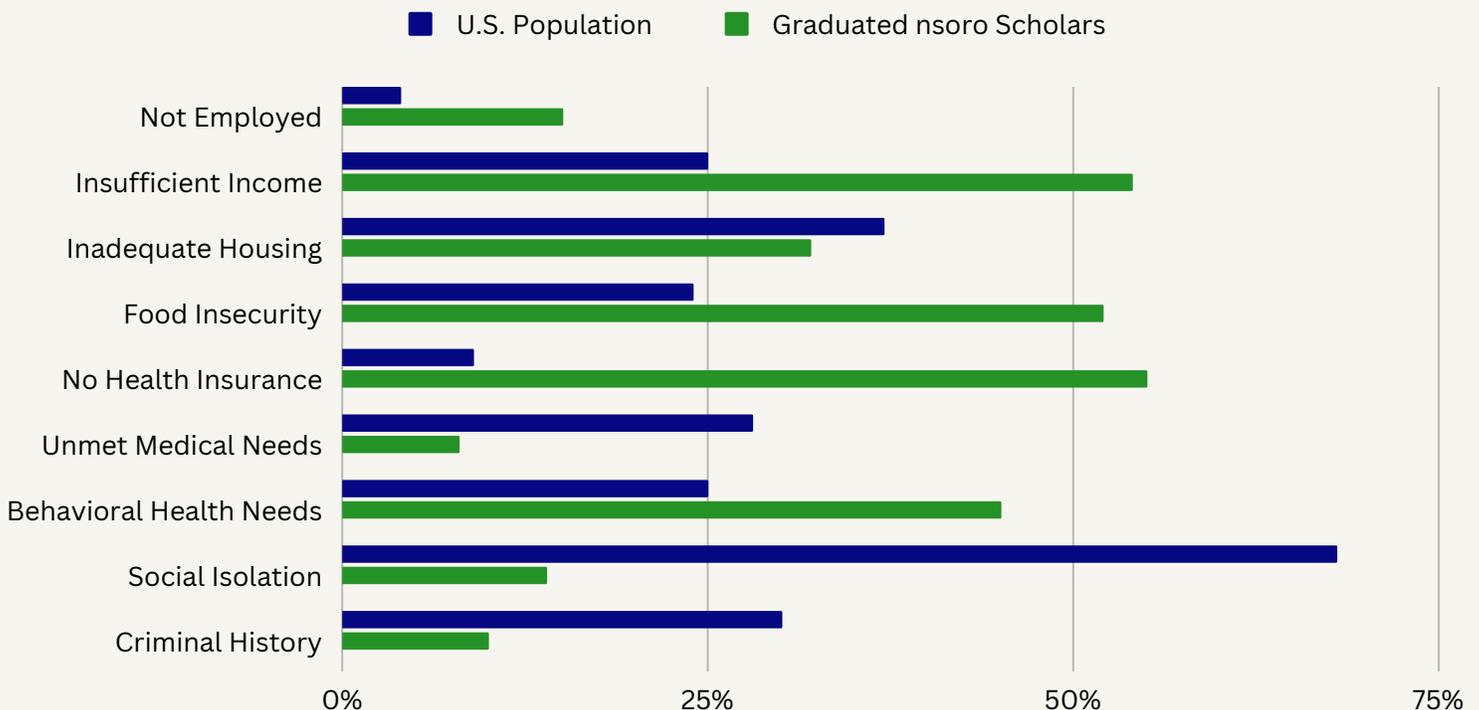
OVERVIEW

Program research and evaluation is a core element of The nsoro Educational Foundation’s work. We engage in regular continuous quality improvement cycles to ensure that our programs are highly-effective and that they achieve the greatest possible results. To that end, we have created a research and evaluation tool called the Self-Sufficiency Index (SSI) to gain valuable insights into our long-term impact and reveal ways in which we can improve these outcomes. Our research was guided by this central question: **are Scholars self-sufficient after they graduate from college?**

We engaged our evaluation consultant, Debra Semans, to design and deploy the research and analyze results. This is the first research of its kind in the U.S. measuring self-sufficiency in foster youth into adulthood. It presents a great opportunity to expand research into other markets for a more comprehensive problem-solving approach to the issues former foster youth face.

KEY FINDINGS

nsoro Scholars face unique challenges post-graduation. While they fair better than the general U.S. population in some areas, additional support is needed to ensure self-sufficiency.



METHODOLOGY

The SSI survey was modeled after the National Self-Sufficiency assessment tool currently in use in social service agencies. By using this approach, Scholars would be familiar with the questions, and we could collect data to compare to state statistics. We designed custom questions geared toward an adult population, covering the issues of adult self-sufficiency unique to our Scholars. We next underwent a literature review of comparable statistics for the general U.S. population.

The online survey was emailed in April 2022 to past and current participants in nsoro's scholarship program dating back to 2012. This 10-year lookback gave us the opportunity to segment data into various populations (i.e. current Scholars, past Scholars who had experienced the Fostering Futures curriculum, and Scholars who matriculated through our previous curriculum, College Bound).

NEXT STEPS

Scholars need additional support to achieve self-sufficiency after they graduate from college, specifically in housing security, under and unemployment, food security and mental health.



Workforce Development

The workforce development components of our program, including the nsoroWorks internship initiative, must be expanded to more fully prepare Scholars for the workplace. This expanded program provides access points to high-demand internships with the likelihood of equitable employment with health benefits after graduation and strengthens professional skills that will position greater success in the workplace.



Financial Literacy

While financial literacy is one of our three core teachings in the Fostering Futures curriculum, we must add additional program components to prepare students for success in managing the expenses of living after graduation, and on long-term saving and investment.



Brain Health

We must ensure all volunteers, staff, and mentors are equipped to provide trauma-informed services to our Scholars. To this end, we have engaged in a partnership with Boston's Lakeside Institute to provide evidence based training and certification. This includes "brain health" sessions with our Scholars, themselves.