**Foster Parents views of education during a pandemic: challenges & supports**

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**Motivation**
- How do foster parents (FPs) perceive the effectiveness of education during the pandemic?
- Are Individual Education Plans (IEPs) being implemented?
- Have in-school mental health (MH) services been replaced?
- What strategies have FPs used?
- What supports have been provided by schools and child welfare agencies?
- What does research tell us about helping vulnerable K-12 students get back “on track” educationally, emotionally & socially?

**Project Description**
- Conduct 2-5 focus groups in local agencies with FPs & agency staff to inform survey
- Create a survey based on focus group & survey 150 FPs
- Scoping review of educational & policy research

**Context**
- Very little research on the pandemic’s impact on Foster parenting and education
- First study to include youth, FPs and staff perspectives about pandemic impact
- Educational settings provide needed social and developmental opportunities for all young persons
- Youth in foster care have poorer education and mental health outcomes compared to peers
- Stakeholders have knowledge that can be used to make sure youth do not fall further behind

**Project Deliverables**
- **Mid term ‘exam’**
  - We will find out how FPs perceive the educational & social trajectory of their youth during the pandemic and what supports were helpful
- **Final ‘exam’**
  - We will have systematically reviewed interventions to support educational & social progress for vulnerable youths

**Outputs by the end**
- **Policy briefs for foundations and educational and law advocacy groups**
- **Together with Tang & Farmer’s 2020 grant, build a strengths-based model of interventions improving FPs’ capacity and enhancing resilience**

**Potential Impact**
- To enhance the educational and mental health outcomes for foster youth
- Provide evidence of the impact of the pandemic to a vulnerable group of youths/families and support need for different educational supports
- **May help youth in foster care from falling further behind peers**

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