Program Overview
The Fostering Learning Program’s (FLP) principle mission is to partner with agencies servicing Illinois DCFS youth-in-care (ages 10-21) to facilitate youth development through academic and social/emotional education. To achieve this mission, the Fostering Learning Program bridges the “digital divide” between the typical, advantaged high school student and youth-in-care of Illinois by providing fully-supported, structured access to cost effective, non-threatening virtual learning systems that empowers at-risk students to achieve success (credit attainment/grade promotion/graduation) through self-paced learning tailored to the individual’s need and skill level.

The two key programming components that make the Fostering Learning Program successful are the specialized online academic and career/technical education curriculum, provided through our education partner Odysseyware, and the intimate collaboration and training support component provided to the participating centers. Together these key programming services have allowed the Fostering Learning Program to service over 500 at-risk youth, annually, for over 10 years.

Who We Serve
The Fostering Learning Program works intimately with participating agencies (mainly therapeutic day schools in central and northern IL) servicing Illinois DCFS youth-in-care (typical disabilities: BD, ED, LD, ASD, CD or OHI) between the ages of 10 and 21 to develop or enhance the virtual learning environment utilizing a 21st century education model. This learning model reaches beyond the traditional classroom materials to leverage technology in effort to create relevant learning experiences that mirror students’ daily lives and the reality of their futures.

Collaboration & Support
By providing in-depth consultation, initial and continual training and on-site availability the Fostering Learning Program offers unparalleled, direct technical support in-person, via phone and by email, which promotes the rapid development, implementation and continued investment in virtual learning services.

Online Curriculum
The Fostering Learning Program partners with Odysseyware, experts in online learning solutions for at-risk youth. With over a decade of experience Odysseyware is a leading provider of online curriculum and eLearning solutions for public, virtual, charter and alternative schools. Used nationwide by thousands of schools, Odysseyware’s learning management system, research based and proven core curriculum, assessments, and robust, targeted learning tools, provide administrators, teachers and students with powerful learning solutions that can be utilized in a myriad of instructional settings. Administrators enjoy innovative, time-saving reporting and benchmarking tools, automatic grading functionality, search and filtering capabilities.

Odysseyware is ideal as a complete, stand-alone curriculum, or can be used for blended and flipped classrooms, alternative and special education, credit recovery, RTI, 1:1 and much more. Core subjects include math, history and geography, science and language arts. Electives include Career Technical Education, business, fine arts, health and world languages. Odysseyware was intentionally designed to meet the needs of 21st Century Learners and address diverse learning styles, by incorporating embedded interactive, multimedia instructional videos, learning games, rich illustrations, and animations. A text-to-speech function is perfect for auditory learners and Odysseyware’s translate is a strong resource for ELL programs.

Join Our Family
Does your school or agency serve DCFS Illinois youth-in-care and have an interest in enhancing the available educational curriculum to staff and students alike for no cost at all? If so, then the Fostering Learning Program may by the solution to meet the educational goals of your organization.

For more information contact the Fostering Learning Program Director Robert Manshack at 773.655.6887 or rmanshack@asnchicago.org.
(Services are free for agencies servicing Illinois DCFS youth-in-care!)