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FOR CHILDREN
WITHOUT HOMES

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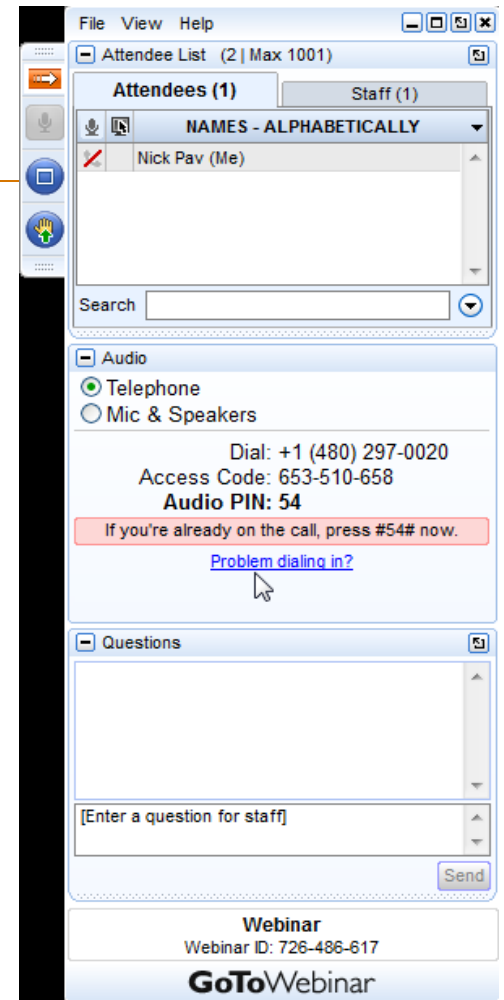
IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

Collaboratives Supporting Foster
Youth to & through College

November 10, 2016

Information to Participate

- Call-in information
 - Phone number: (702) 489-0008
 - Access code: 928-441-384
- To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “send”
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.thpplus.org



Today's Presenters

SARA GOLDWARE | Education & Career Dev't Division Manager
Beyond Emancipation

MARIE HUGHES | Education Services Manager & ILP Supervisor
Family Care Network

GABRIELLE RIDLEY | Guardian Scholars Program Coordinator
Orange Coast College

TRACY SCHIRO | Assistant Social Services Director
San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services

Foster Youth & Post-Secondary Ed – Why the Push to Collaborate?

Current and former foster youth are among the nation's most disadvantaged populations when it comes to post-secondary education outcomes

College-age foster youth are often involved with multiple systems/institutions/programs

EXTENDED FOSTER CARE!

Foster Youth & Post-Secondary Ed – Why the Push to Collaborate?

The extension of foster care to age 21 provides a tremendous opportunity to improve post-secondary education outcomes for foster youth...

The CalYOUTH Study found that compared to youth who had left care, youth participating in EFC were:

- ✓ Twice as likely to be enrolled in school
- ✓ Of those enrolled, more likely to be attending school full-time (63% vs. 42%)
- ✓ More likely to have completed a high school diploma (70% vs. 52%)
- ✓ More likely to have completed a vocational certificate or license (17% vs. 7%)
- ✓ Of those enrolled, nearly twice as likely to be using financial aid to cover education expenses (66% vs. 33%)
- ✓ More likely to report being involved in a campus support program (31% vs. 6%)

But this takes teamwork!

Highlighted Communities

ALAMEDA COUNTY

- 506 NMDs
- CAFYES district
- More than one community college district, multiple campuses per district
- Cal State, UC
- Multi-provider county
- *Provider-led collaborative*

ORANGE COUNTY

- 336 NMDs
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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

- 67 NMDs
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Alameda County College Bridge Collaborative

The Alameda County College Bridge Collaborative is managed by **Beyond Emancipation (BE)**



BE provides a transformational environment for transition-age youth who have experience in the foster care or probation placements so they can live healthy, productive and connected lives.

- Education
- Employment
- Coaching/Case Management
- Housing

B2b Program

- Since 2010, a partnership between B:E and Laney College that provides comprehensive support to current and former foster and probation youth on Laney's campus.
- Staff located on campus part-time
- Coaching/case management
- Weekly skill-building and coaching workshops
- Expanding partnership to other Peralta Colleges in the current school year

Collaborative Goals

- 1.Connecting more youth to college** through engagement with the K-12 community, child welfare system, foster parents and other caregivers
- 2.Connecting foster youth already in college to campus support programs** to support their retention, with a specific focus on the Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Education Success Program on the four Peralta District campuses
- 3.Improving the rates of persistence and graduation of foster youth** at post-secondary institutions, with a specific, but not exclusive focus on the community college system

Collaborative Members

- County Agencies
- K-12 Districts
- Colleges
- Community Based Organizations
 - ILP/Aftercare
 - Legal Organizations
 - Transitional Housing Providers
 - Youth Advocacy/Leadership Organizations

Collaborative Members

Systems	Colleges	Community-Based Orgs
Alameda County Office of Education, Foster Youth Coordinating Program	Berkeley City College	Bay Area Youth Center
Alameda County Social Services Agency	Cal State East Bay Renaissance Scholars	Beyond Emancipation/ILP
Oakland Unified School District	Chabot College	California Youth Connection
	College of Alameda	Civicorps
	Laney College	East Bay Children's Law Office
	Merritt College	First Place for Youth
	UC Berkeley Hope Scholars	Fred Finch Youth Center
		West Coast Children's Clinic, Youth Advocate Program
		John Burton Foundation

Timeline

Summer 2014	Collaborative forms with five founding members
November 2014	Fostering Connections to College Conference
January 2015	Fostering Pathways to College Listserv Launches
September 2015	Foster Youth Alliance receives capacity building grant from the Hellman Foundation Collaborative members encourage Peralta to apply for CAFYES funding and are partners in the proposal development
October 2015	Peralta College District Receives CAFYES funding
February 2016	First Collaborative meeting with expanded membership
March 2016	Collaborative hosts College Day at ILP
April 2016	FYA transfers convening role to Beyond Emancipation
June 2016	Collaborative meets to develop 2 year plan
September 2016	Collaborative approves two year plan Hellman provides additional bridge funding to BE

Value of the Collaborative

- Communication and coordination across systems to link existing individual efforts
- Providing access to college staff to a large network of foster youth providers
- Information sharing across county systems, CBOs, and colleges
 - Fostering Pathways to College Listserv

Two-Year Plan Highlights

- Provide training on college going culture, college access, and available campus supports to foster parents, relative caregivers, group home staff, Child Welfare Workers, and Probation Officers
- Engage with local school districts to ensure appropriate college-ready goals for foster youth within LCAPs
- Host College Days to connect foster youth directly to college staff
- Provide an outreach and recruitment network for CAFYES programs
- Create a “Deep Dive” Financial Aid Guide and Training Series for foster youth to better understand the financial aid process
- Regular meetings to foster collaboration and communication between colleges and CBOs

Challenges

- Many providers serving foster youth
- Seven community colleges, 1 CSU, 1 UC within the county
 - Disparities in resources to serve foster youth
 - Bureaucracy at large community college district
- Large numbers of foster youth spread out throughout state
- High cost of living

Next Steps

- Establish clear leadership and accountability structure
 - Steering Committee
 - Workgroups
- Engage additional stakeholders
- Move forward on two year plan

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Orange Coast College – Guardian Scholars Program



What is Guardian Scholars?

- The Guardian Scholars program is a comprehensive program of financial aid, life coaching, mentoring, housing and personalized attention
- It enables emancipated foster youth to successfully engage in attending a college, university or vocational school, which fits their educational preparedness, degree objectives and long-term career goals
- OCC Guardian Scholars was founded in 1999 and was one of the first such programs in the country
 - The Guardian Scholars model originated at California State University, Fullerton in 1998

Who We Are and What We Do

- OCC Guardian Scholars is a campus support program for current and former Foster Youth
 - **375** self-identified foster youth on campus
 - **80** currently active in the program
 - Of the Fall 2015 class:
 - 82% were in foster care
 - 10% are special circumstance admit
 - 8% are juvenile probation youth



Collaboratives, Partnerships, Consortiums, & more!

- Guardian Scholars Advisory Committee
- Coast District Collaborative
- Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup
- Juvenile Justice Commission
- EOPS & FYSI Region 8
- John Burton Foundation CAFYES Learning Community
- Southern California Higher Education Foster Youth Consortium
- Orange County Network
- Building Bridge for College Success Committee

Orange County Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup

- Membership
 - Orange County Department of Education-Foster Youth Services
 - Orange County Social Services Agency
 - College representatives
 - Housing programs
 - Department of Mental Health
 - Community Partners
- Objectives
 - Education, Employment, Housing, Transition, Permanency

Orange County Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup

- Activities & Efforts
 - Bi-monthly Meetings
 - Professional Development/Training Opportunities
 - Linking Key Partners
 - Sharing Resources
- Impact
 - 80% high school graduation rate for OC Foster Youth(!)
- Contact
 - Alma A. Nichols, Secretary I to Jaime Muñoz, PMII Transitional Planning Services Program, OC SSA Children & Family Services, Alma.Nichols@ssa.ocgov.com

Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup → Building Bridge for College Success Committee



Building Bridge for College Success Committee

- Est. March 2016
- Membership
 - Orange County Department of Education-Foster Youth Services
 - Orange County Social Services Agency
 - Orange County Network (OCC, GWC, CSUF)
- Goal
 - Developing and strengthening pipeline from K12 through 4-year University

Building Bridge for College Success Committee

- Activities & Efforts
 - Quarterly Meetings
 - Sharing best practices and current events
 - Outreach & Education
 - Orange County College Preview Days
 - Financial Aid/FAFSA workshops
 - College Application workshops
 - Campus Tours
 - Developing strategic initiatives
 - Junior Scholars
 - Sharing resources

Impact

- Timely connection to information and resources
- Open channels of communication
- **4** Transfers to CSUF in the past two semesters
 - one Guardian Scholars Scholarship recipient
- **38** new students in the fall
- *Momentum*

Advice

- Get involved
- Be strategic in partner selection
- Connect with people who are already doing the work
 - particularly ILP coordinators, Department of Education FY Liaisons, SSA/DCFS Supervisors in the TAFY unit, and college programs
- Establish a mission at the outset with clear, measurable goals and explicit timelines
- Celebrate successes
- Remember that this work doesn't happen overnight

**"IT'S NOT ABOUT PERFECT. IT'S
ABOUT EFFORT. AND WHEN
YOU IMPLEMENT THAT EFFORT
INTO YOUR LIFE... EVERY
SINGLE DAY, THAT'S WHERE
TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS.
THAT'S HOW CHANGE OCCURS.
KEEP GOING. REMEMBER WHY
YOU STARTED"**

THE-IRON-ANGEL.TUMBLR.COM | STRENGTH & FITNESS BLOG

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Transition Age Youth Financial Assistance Program (TAY-FAP)

Why TAY-FAP?

- Increased awareness that local foster youth face financial barriers to attending post-secondary education, and often times lack personal connections and support systems as well.
- Most youth continue receiving assistance from parents until the age of 26 years, we felt a responsibility to the youth in our care to support them in pursuing their education.



Who is involved?



Purpose of TAY-FAP

*To **provide financial support** to ILP eligible TAY with needs related to enrolling in or maintaining enrollment in school or employment that **enhances their ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.***

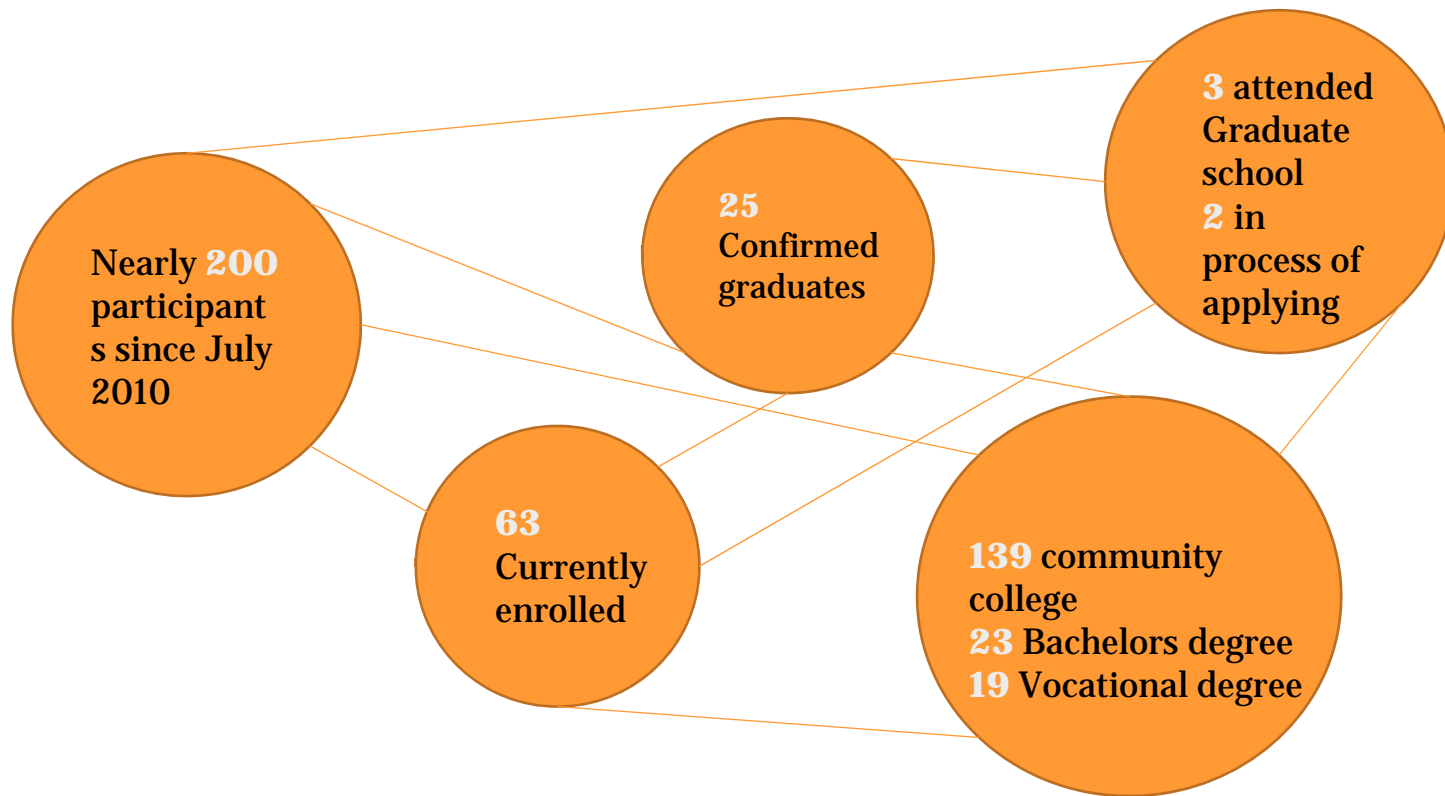
TAY-FAP Eligibility

Core Requirements for Eligibility

- Eligible for ILP** in San Luis Obispo County (this includes THPP, THP+ and THP+FC youth in SLO county) and:
- Attending or enrolled in a California University (CSU or UC), California Community College or Vocational Program
- Has exhausted all other financing options covered by Financial Aid, Chafee Grants, etc.
- Funds will enhance TAY's ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency

**Exception: If a youth is currently receiving TAY-FAP funds and enrolled in school beyond the age of 21, they may receive funds continuing support until they graduate (not to exceed 24 years of age)

TAY-FAP Results



Degree Completion Rate Comparisons

- National percentage of former foster youth who complete a degree is 2-3%
- SLO County TAY-FAP participants complete a degree at the rate of 18%
 - 7% will have completed a bachelors degree by May 2017

Youth Housed through TAY-FAP Support

- Helped to reduce homelessness by providing housing assistance to 26% of TAY-FAP participants
- 27% of participants were also in THP+-FC
- 19% of participants were also in THP+

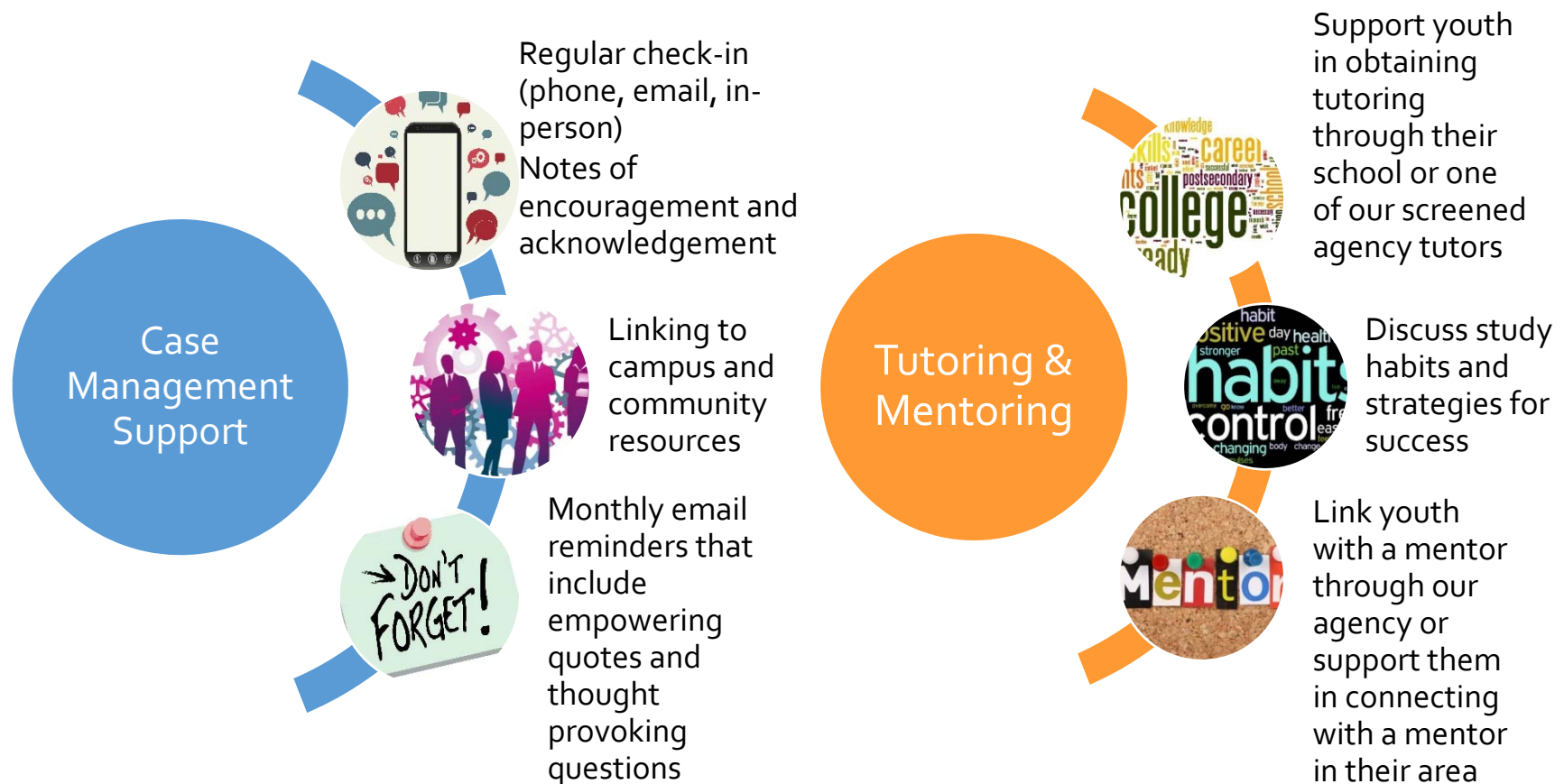
What does TAY-FAP provide?

- Housing in a dormitory or apartment
- Transportation Assistance
- School supplies, textbooks, lab fees
- Urgent or essential needs
- Savings match <\$100 a month
- Mentorship & Tutoring
- Case management support through age 24

Non-Financial Supports



Non-Financial Supports



Annual Events

- College & Career Exploration Night
 - 14-24 year olds
- Financial Aid Night
 - High school seniors & college age youth through 24 years
- High School Winter Social Skills Camp
 - 8th-12th graders focused on goal setting and future planning
- ILP Awards Night
 - 14-21 years, Scholarships awarded
- High School Summer Social Skills Camp
 - 8th-12th graders focused on goal setting and future planning

Lessons Learned

- Partnering with the community
- Collaboration and role clarification
- Finding the teachable moments-looking for solutions
- Empowering & coaching youth to take responsibility and the lead on their lives

how to apply ●.....

1. Referrals can be made only after it has been determined by the TAY's Transitional Living Team (TLT) or ILP Case Manager that there are no other funding options available to the TAY. When possible, TAY needs for TAY-FAP support shall be included in their Transition to Independent Living Plan.
2. If the youth is a participant in SLO THPP, THP+FC, THP+ they may make their request through their program Case Manager or Social Worker to the TAY-FAP Coordinator in collaboration with ILP.
3. Request must be initiated in writing by the TAY needing assistance, using the TAY Financial Assistance Request Form.
 - For TAY placed in THPP or THP+, Financial Assistance Request Forms shall be given to their FCNI SW or RS to be presented to the TAY's TLT.
 - For TAY served solely by the ILP Program, Financial Assistance Request Forms shall be given to their ILP Case Manager.
4. The youth will sign a TAY-FAP Agreement of Responsibility Form.
5. All approved TAY Financial Assistance Request Forms shall be forwarded to the FCNI TAY-FAP Coordinator for processing.
 - All payment requests must be approved by DSS and FCNI management prior to release of funds.

The Department of Social Services and the Family Care Network agree that the philosophy and practice underlying the TAY Financial Assistance Program is to empower TAY to achieve self-sufficiency and establish essential community connections to meet their needs.

resources ●.....

If you have looked into all other funding options such as working, scholarships, grants and loans, but still are in need of funds, talk with your case manager and see if the TAY Financial Assistance Program would be a good fit for you. If you think it is, we can get you a request form today!

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Chafee Grant
<https://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov>
- Board of Governors Fee Waiver Application (BOGW) (For any CA Community College)
- Federal Work Study Program (qualify thru FASFA)
- Visit your high school's career center or counselor's office and/or website to find local scholarship opportunities
- Access Foundation Scholarship (THPP & THP+ only)
<http://www.finaid.org/>
- <http://www.fastweb.com>
- California College Pathways
<http://www.cacollegepathways.org/>
- <http://ccccc.edu/>
Click on Student Support tab



Family Care Network, Inc.
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
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Revised: 8/14/15

transitional ●..... age youth financial assistance program● (TAY-FAP)





TAY-FAP provides financial support to ILP eligible TAY with needs related to enrolling in or maintaining enrollment in school or employment that enhances their ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.

eligibility requirements

- Eligible for ILP* in San Luis Obispo County (this includes THPP, THP+ and THP+FC youth in SLO county) and:
- Attending or enrolled in a California University (CSU or UC), California Community College or Vocational Program
- Has exhausted all other financing options covered by Financial Aid, Chafee Grants, etc.
- Funds will enhance TAY's ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency
- Be willing to sign an agreement
- Funds are limited and availability is subject to change based on the funding of the program

**Exception: If a youth is currently receiving TAY-FAP funds and enrolled in school beyond the age of 21, they may receive funds continuing support until they graduate (not to exceed 24 years of age)*

financial assistance options

- Housing in a dormitory, student housing or apartment
- Transportation needs
- School supplies, text books, lab fees, or other required school related tools
- Meeting urgent, essential or emergency needs related to living (e.g., utilities, household items, furnishings, etc.)



support

- As an incentive to those participants that are enrolled in school and employed, TAY-FAP will provide a savings match, up to \$100 per month per participant, payable to the participant at the end of the participant's first year (Participant's personal bank statement is required to verify eligibility for this savings match. This does not apply to Participants in THPP, THP+FC and THP+.)
- TAY-FAP participants who are interested in a mentor may request one through the TAY-FAP Coordinator.
- Those youth who are interested in case management support beyond the age of 21 may request support by contacting the TAY-FAP Coordinator.

independent living plan

When possible, your needs for TAY-FAP support shall be included in your Transition to Independent Living Plan (TILP). This encourages planning, exploring other resource options, team participation, and minimizes crisis or emergency requests.



Budgeting Form and Teaching Tool

Budget

Month: _____ Year: ____ Name: _____ Prog: TAY-FAP _

Rec'd	Income	Estimated Amount (I plan to earn)	Actual (I actually earned)	Comments
	Wages, tips, etc.			
	Cal Fresh/Food Stamps			
	Scholarships/Financial Aid			
	TAY-FAP			
	Other			
	Total Income			

	Expenses	Estimated Amount (I plan to spend)	Actual (I actually spent)	Comments
Due	Housing Costs			
	Rent			
	Utilities (Gas, Electric)			
	Cell phones			
	Laundromat			
Due	Transportation			
	Payment (car/bus pass)			Interest Rate: _____ Balance: _____
	Insurance			
	Gas			
	Oil/Maintenance			
Due	Personal Living			
	Groceries purchased with food stamps			
	Groceries			
	Laundry/Bathroom/Cleaning Supplies			
	Eating out (sacks, Starbucks, etc.)			
	Child related expenses			
Due	Entertainment and Travel			
	Video/Games/Concerts			
	Hair/Nails			
	Other:			
Due	Clothing			
	Purchases			
Due	Loans/Outstanding Debt			
	Car Accident/Fines/Probation fines			Interest Rate: _____ Balance: _____
	Overdraft charges/Bank fees			Interest Rate: _____ Balance: _____
	Credit Card (_____)			Interest Rate: _____ Balance: _____
Due	Savings and Investments			
	Toward Goals Emergency			
	Toward long term goal			
Due	School			
	School Tuition/Fees			
	Books/School Supplies			
	Total Exp.			

Income minus Expenses

Total Income (from page 1)			
Total Expenses			
Over/(Under)			

Question & Answer

CLICK ON THE "QUESTIONS" PANEL, TYPE IT AND HIT "SEND"

Future Questions

- **Sara Goldware** | Beyond Emancipation
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