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Information to Participate

- Today's PowerPoint can be downloaded from the "handouts" section of your control panel
- To submit questions, click on the "Questions" panel, type your question, and click "send"
- Presentation materials and audio will also be posted at www.jbaforyouth.org

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Today's Presenters

- Tia Holiday, John Burton Advocates for Youth
- Jessica Petrass, John Burton Advocates for Youth
- Jason Haley, Tulare County Office of Education
- Stacy Diemert, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- La Shona Jenkins, Los Angeles County Office of Education

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Agenda

- FAFSA Challenge History
- Webgrants
- Best Practice Recommendations
- County Spotlights

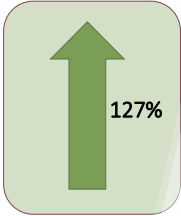


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Financial Aid Makes a Difference


Very low-income students are **127%** more likely to immediately enroll in college if they complete the FAFSA




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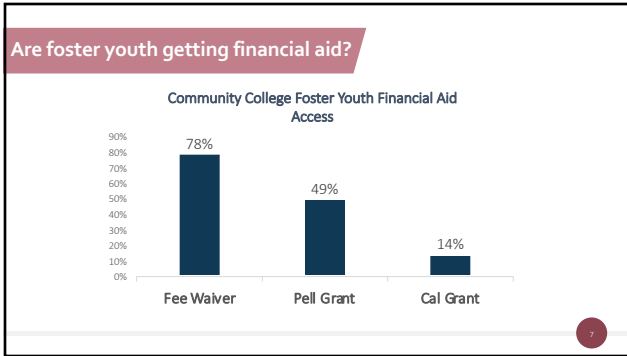
Financial Aid Makes a Difference

 \$7,500 in financial aid
49% transferred or graduated

 \$1,000 to \$2,500 financial aid
17% transferred or graduated

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Central Coordination Needed

Independent Living Programs

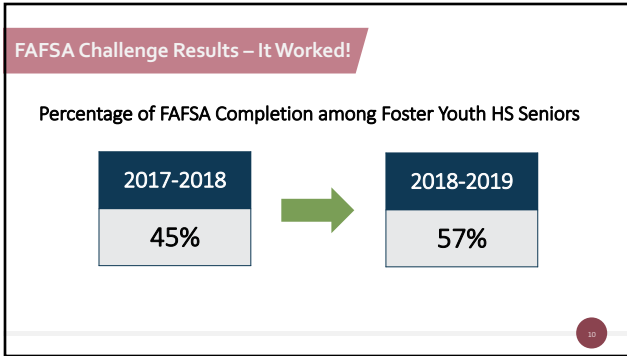
- Social Workers
- HS Counselors
- Probation Officers
- AB 490 Liasons
- College Programs
- Resource Families
- CASAs

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So Began the...


- Launched November 2017
- Now in third year
- FYSCPs serve as central coordinators of effort
- 52 of 58 FYSCPs participate
- Use WebGrants to track completion
- Coordinate partners

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FAFSA Challenge Winners



	2017/2018	2018/2019
Large Counties:	Orange, San Diego	San Bernardino, Riverside
Medium Counties:	Fresno	Fresno
Small Counties:	Sonoma	Tulare, Kings
Very Small Counties:	Yuba, Shasta	Nevada, Mariposa
Most Improved:	N/A	Los Angeles

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WebGrants and the FAFSA Challenge



- Allows LEAs to look up student level data regarding FAFSA/CADAA completion
- Tool for tracking completion
- Identify patterns in completion rates
- Enables student specific intervention

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Publication



THE FAFSA CHALLENGE: Promising Practices to Increase Financial Aid Access Among Foster Youth

jbaforyouth.org/fafsa-challenge-report-2020/

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Best Practices Recommendations

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Best Practice Ensure foster youth in 12th grade have been accurately identified by FYSCP and school district

- By the start of the academic year
- When a new foster youth student enters a county/school district during the school year

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Useful Tools for Identification & Tracking

CalPADS

Foster Focus

JBAY Tracking Tool

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Best Practice Execute data-sharing agreements between FYSCPs, school districts, and child welfare partners.

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County Spotlight **Jason Haley** **Tulare County Office of Education**
Tim A. Hirs, County Superintendent of Schools

- Identifying Students weekly & compare w/CalPads
- WebGrants & GPA Verification
- Identify support teams & Collaboration
- FAFSA is a conversation about the future

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Best Practice **Leverage resources through collaboration.**

School Counselors

- Provide info on how to complete and submit a FAFSA/CADAA before 12th grade (AB 2015)
- Provide individual assistance with FAFSA/CADAA

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Best Practice **Leverage resources through collaboration.**

Independent Living Programs (ILP)

- Provide one-on-one FAFSA/CADAA completion assistance
- Coordinate financial aid workshops or events
- Provide SSN or Chafee Grant eligibility info
- Provide training about financial aid and ILP resources

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Best Practice Leverage resources through collaboration.

Child Welfare and Probation Agencies

- Ensure point person is identified in the case plan to help with financial aid applications (SB 12)
- With data sharing, provide follow-up to students
- Provide one-on-one FAFSA/CADAA completion assistance
- Provide SSN or Chafee Grant eligibility info

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Best Practice Leverage resources through collaboration.

Community Colleges & Universities

- Leverage FYSI Liaisons and other campus supports
- Provide one-on-one FAFSA/CADAA assistance
- Host workshops or college events
- Provide training

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Best Practice Leverage resources through collaboration.

CASA's

- Provide one-on-one FAFSA/CADAA assistance
- Provide support with additional documentation and follow-up
- Provide SSN information

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County Spotlight

Stacy Diemert
San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools

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County Spotlight

Stacy Diemert
San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools

- Marketing materials
- Attending meetings + strengthen relationships
- Coordination w/districts + school counselors + local colleges
- FAFSA is a conversation about the future
- Emphasize scholarships + Chafee completion

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Best Practice

Ensure foster youth in non-traditional school settings are included in FAFSA completion efforts.

Students who attend:

- Alternative schools
- Probation schools
- Non-public schools

Students:

- With disabilities
- Who did not graduate with a high school diploma/ GED

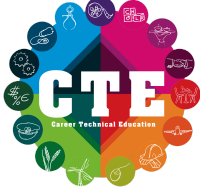
Can all be successful college students & qualify for financial aid

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Alternative Routes & Supports for Post-Secondary Education

Career Technical Education



College Support Services



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Best Practice Ensure CalGrant access for foster youth by verifying that LEAs have submitted GPA verifications.

What's at stake?


- Largest source of state funded student financial aid
- Pays for:
 - **Full cost of tuition** if attending a CSU or UC
 - **\$1,656 per year for non tuition costs** for both university and community college students
 - **NEW! \$6,000 for non-tuition costs for parenting youth**

➔

Must have GPA verification submitted to verify a high school GPA of 2.0


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GPA Verification for Foster Youth



Challenges:

- School mobility
- Incorrect data match
- Ineligibility for CalGrant





Solutions:

- Verify successful match
- Alert appropriate personnel
- Make corrections, if needed

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Best Practice Ensure FAFSA completion of foster youth in non-traditional school settings can be monitored and have access to CalGrant

Challenges:

- Administrative hurdles
- Unaccredited schools

Solutions:

- Verify manually
- Assist students to create a WebGrants 4 Students account
- Assist schools in getting access to Webgrants

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Best Practice Provide extensive technical assistance.

FYSCP's

Direct Services → Technical Assistance & Coordination

- Establish buy-in as a technical assistance provider
- Provide targeted training to school district and community partners
- Provide toolkits and quick reference materials
- Distribute promotional materials
- Use outcome data to drive technical assistance

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Using outcome data to drive TA

Data is a powerful tool to inform planning and strategies

- Pinpoint districts who need additional support
- Direct child welfare and probation case managers to include info about FAFSA/CADAA during visits
- Measure effectiveness of initiatives
- Review other relevant data points like college enrollment data (hdq.cde.ca.gov/Dataquest)
- Help identify strategies and best use of resources

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Spotlight on Resources



Webinar Training
www.jbaforyouth.org/11-7-19-webinar/



Training Curriculum
www.jbaforyouth.org/training-curricula/




Tools & Resources
www.jbaforyouth.org/fafsatools/


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Best Practice Provide high-touch assistance around the financial aid process to foster youth.



Connect foster youth to individual one-on-one support whenever possible



Use Peer Ambassadors to support high school students to complete the FAFSA/CADAA




Be aware of the intensive efforts needed to make group events/ workshops successful

← →

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Group Events/Workshops



Most successful when there are:

- Multiple outreach strategies
- Intensive follow-up
- Accessible Transportation
- Student-friendly hours
- Adequate computer and internet access
- Embedding into other college events or tours targeted for foster youth
- Advanced preparation to ensure students have necessary information

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Best Practice Provide high-touch assistance around the financial aid process to foster youth.

Prepare students in advance to bring what they need to fill out their FAFSA/CADAA

Educate that filling out a financial aid application is just the first step

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Reinforcing that financial aid is a multipart process

1. Complete the FAFSA or CADAA at fafsa.ed.gov or dream.csac.ca.gov
2. Complete the Chafee Grant at chafee.csac.ca.gov
3. Create a WebGrants for Students Account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov
4. Ensure student's high school submitted a certified GPA verification

Adult supporters should consider also discussing:

- Steps to do "After the FAFSA"
- Student's future and career goals

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Best Practice Institutionalize FAFSA tracking/completion efforts within FYSCPs.

- Messaging from institutional leaders
- Present to Board of Education
- Codify efforts by to achieve long-term institutional change
- Highlight Successes

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Best Practice Institutionalize FAFSA efforts within school districts and child welfare departments.

Utilize policy-making bodies

Align with existing school district priorities to gain buy-in

Leverage existing regional meetings to set FAFSA completion as a priority

Develop support among key leaders

Leverage SB 12 requirements to gain buy-in a child welfare and probation

Codify efforts to achieve long-term institutional change

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Best Practice Put structures in Webgrants to streamline accessing foster youth data for FYSCPs.

Data sharing pilot allows counties to receive financial aid completion report, including Chafee Grant data

Increase functionality to allow all counties to produce such reports within the system

Add ability to search for individual students by their name or Statewide Student Identifier

Work with non-traditional schools to ensure GPA uploads are taking place

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Support Letters Needed!

FAFSA COMPLETE

- SB 860 (Beall) - Improving FAFSA Completion For Foster Youth**
 - Clarify the role of FYSCPs to include coordination of efforts to support FAFSA completion among foster youth who are high school seniors
 - Add FAFSA completion rates to reporting requirement
- SB 958 (Leyva) - Improving College Outcomes For Foster Youth**
 - Expand access to the NextUp program to youth who exited foster care after the age of 13
 - Other changes to the program rules to allow the program to better meet the needs of students

NEXT UP

Visit <https://www.jbaforyouth.org/2020-support-legislation/> for details and to download a sample letter

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**County Spotlight:
Los Angeles County**

La Shona Jenkins, DSW, LCSW
Project Director III,
Foster Youth Services
Coordinating Program,
Los Angeles County Office of
Education

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**FAFSA Challenge 2018/2019:
Most Improved**

- Largest child welfare agency in the nation
- Percentage of FAFSA Completion among Foster Youth HS Seniors:

2017-2018	→	2018-2019
33%		61%

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**FAFSA Challenge 2018/2019:
Most Improved**

- Institutionalized efforts: County Board of Supervisors' Board Motion
- Collaboration across systems
- Data-sharing
- Leveraging school districts
- FAFSA/CADAA workshops for one-on-one assistance

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Questions of Comments?

To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”



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