

Foster Youth College Support

The 2022/2023 budget bill included funding for campus support programs for foster youth across all three public postsecondary systems. Language governing these programs was included in AB 183, the higher education budget trailer bill.

HOW MUCH FUNDING WAS ALLOCATED?

The budget includes the following:

- An additional \$30 million annually for the NextUp program at community colleges for a total of \$50 million.
- \$12 million for foster youth programs at California State University campuses
- \$6 million for foster youth program at University of California campuses

WERE ANY RULES CHANGED FOR THE NEXTUP PROGRAM?

Several new provisions were put in place along with the new funding. These include:

- A removal of the cap on the number of districts that may operate the program.
- Changing the statutory name of the program from the Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support Program to NextUp.
- Allowing the Chancellor's Office to allocate funding to districts through a letter of interest rather than an application process.
- Allows students enrolled in fewer than nine units to be accepted into the program if enrollment is part of an education plan designed to move the student toward subsequent enrollment in at least nine units.
- Reduces the amount of funding available to the Chancellor's Office for administration, program development, and program accountability from 5% to 1%.

WHAT RULES WERE PUT IN PLACE FOR PROGRAMS AT CSUs AND UCs?

AB 183 requires the following for both CSU and UC foster youth programs:

- Each systems office shall develop a formula to allocate funding to each campus that offers a foster youth support program. The formula shall be based on the number of students participating in the program at each participating campus.
- Services may include, but are not limited to outreach and recruitment, consultation and eligibility verification, consultation and referrals for students deemed ineligible, service coordination, counseling and academic advising, grants for books, supplies, tutoring, childcare, housing, or transportation, independent living and financial literacy skills support, frequent in-person contact, career guidance, referrals to health services, mental health services, housing assistance, and other related services, and direct financial support.
- Services may be provided for matriculated students whose courses have not yet begun
- Services may be provided during the summer term for students enrolled in the upcoming fall term.
- Each campus must offer a full-time designated program director or coordinator with experience relevant to working with foster youth and former foster youth, campus office and meeting space, and opportunities for peer mentors.
- Where existing targeted programs for foster youth and former foster youth exist on campus, funding shall be used to continue and expand these programs.
- To the extent possible, service shall supplement and not supplant existing services
- Each systems office must submit a report every two years, beginning on March 31, 2024.