



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth



BACKGROUND

John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) is a nonprofit organization founded by former President of the California State Senate John Burton in 2004. JBAY works to improve the quality of life for youth in California who are homeless or in the foster care system. JBAY achieves this by advocating for better laws, training communities to strengthen local practices, and conducting research to inform policy solutions. JBAY has 11 staff members located in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

THE NEED

JBAY works to improve the quality of life for youth and young adults who have been in foster care or homeless. Foster youth have been removed from their families due to abuse and neglect. Once in foster care, they commonly experience multiple foster care placements and school changes. Currently in California, there are 60,000 children and youth in foster care.

JBAY also works to address the needs of California's homeless youth, who share many of the same attributes as foster youth. Studies have shown that three out of four homeless youth fled unsafe conditions in their home. Once homeless, youth are vulnerable to violence and exploitation. On any given night in California, more than 12,000 youth are homeless. Both homeless youth and foster youth face a challenging transition into adulthood. This includes experiencing low educational attainment, homelessness, unemployment, and criminal justice involvement as adults.

ORGANIZATION

JBAY improves the lives of youth who have been in foster care or homeless through a three-pronged approach that includes policy advocacy, training and direct service to youth. Policy advocacy includes advocating for better laws at the state and federal level, together with the necessary funding to responsibly implement them. Training includes educating local stakeholders, including county agencies, college campuses, nonprofit housing providers and others on how to implement newly passed legislation. Direct service to youth includes JBAY initiatives that directly assist foster and homeless youth, including the Burton Critical Needs and Opportunity Fund, which provides resources to pay for unanticipated critical needs and to provide opportunities to develop and enhance their natural talents.

JBAY GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

JBAY is based in San Francisco and is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors, chaired by John Garcia. JBAY's annual budget is \$3.4 million. JBAY receives funding from 25 corporate and private foundations as well as over 500 individual donors.

INFORMATION

To learn more about JBAY, visit our website at www.jbay.org or contact Executive Director Amy Lemley at amy@jbay.org or 415-348-0011.

235 Montgomery Street, Suite 1142
San Francisco, CA 94104



JBAY PROGRAMS



Both foster and homeless youth enroll in college and earn college degrees at low rates, resulting in long-term economic insecurity as adults. JBAY's education program works to change this through a range of strategies. Examples include:

- Establishing a training mandate for social workers on how to help foster youth successfully transition to post-secondary education.
- Increasing state funding for financial aid and creating requirements that all foster and homeless youth receive assistance applying for financial aid.
- Training campus representatives on how to modify their policies to prevent foster youth and homeless youth from losing financial aid.



JBAY's housing program is committed to increasing access to safe, affordable housing for foster and homeless youth. Youth who "age out" of foster care are at heightened risk of experiencing homelessness, which can lead to chronic adult homelessness. JBAY's housing program works to help foster and homeless youth make a safe, supported transition to young adulthood through a range of strategies. Examples include:

- Successfully advocating for the expansion of foster care from age 18 to age 21, an approach that has been replicated in 22 states.
- Successfully advocating for homeless youth to be included in the larger, mainstream sources of state homelessness funding, thereby considerably expanding funding to address youth homelessness.
- Providing technical assistance and planning grants to help nonprofit providers build affordable housing for foster and homeless youth.



JBAY's final program area is health. Youth who have been in foster care or homeless face special health challenges, given their history of trauma, instability, and lack of access to consistent health care. JBAY's health program works on multiple fronts to address these challenges. Examples include:

- Successfully advocating for the creation of a prenatal benefit for young parents in foster care.
- Expanding access to mental health services for homeless youth attending college.
- Requiring all foster youth to receive comprehensive sexual health education.
- Providing direct financial assistance to over 1,000 youth annually through the Critical Needs and Opportunity Fund.

JBAY IMPACT

Since it was founded, JBAY has championed 52 major legislative reforms, which have resulted in over \$3.4 billion in new state and federal investments. In the most recently adopted California state budget, JBAY was successful in securing \$519M in new investments, which included funding to:

