



Top 10 Things to Know About NextUp



#1 – Staffing Decisions Can Make or Break Your Program



Appropriate level of staffing to address the complex needs of foster youth

Advocacy Strategies:

- Remind administrators that funding is ongoing
- Upfront investment is necessary to grow program
- Track data regarding service intensity



Staffing expertise appropriate to the population

#2 – A Robust Outreach Plan is Crucial



Partnering with Campus Departments

- Campus Training
- Cross-referrals and collaboration with categorical programs



Using Data

- Financial aid data
- CCCApply/MIS
- Automated emails



Community Referrals

- County Child Welfare & Probation
- Transitional Housing
- ILP
- K12 districts/alternative schools
- WIOA/workforce development programs
- COE FY coordinating services



College Preview Days

**Workshops at high schools,
ILP, etc.**



College and Career Fairs

Website

Program Flyers

Branded Swag



High school FASFA workshops

**Outreach
(cont.) -
Marketing
Ideas**

#3 – Determining Eligibility Requires an Understanding of the Child Welfare System

*“a **current or former foster youth** in California whose **dependency** was established or continued by a court of competent jurisdiction, including a tribal court, **on or after the youth’s 13th birthday.**”*

Out of home placement



Court dependency through Juvenile Dependency or Delinquency Court



Finding of abuse or neglect



Final exit from foster care was not before youth turned 13



Kinship placements may qualify (if foster care placement)

#3 Eligibility (cont.) – Verification

Options for verifying status:

Letter from or documented phone call with:

- **Child welfare or probation agency**
- **State Ombudsperson's office**
- **Placing agency or THP-Plus program**
- **FYSCP or high school**
- **Verification from another college**

Webgrants/Chaffee roster



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

Students can call or email Ombudsperson's office for help at:

<https://fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov>

#4 - NextUp Students Have Different Needs from EOPS Students (and therefore different requirements)

What makes Foster Youth Students Different?



Developmental trauma & mental health challenges

Academic & relationship disruptions

Institutionalization

Food and housing insecurity

Lack of family privilege

Intersectionality

Skill gaps



Foster youth are not subject to regular EOPS requirements such as full-time status, SAP status, unit cap, etc.

#5 - Lots of Financial Aid is Available...

But it Takes WORK to Get

All NextUp students should qualify for Independent status

Financial Aid Options for Foster Youth:

**Chafee
Grant
\$5,000**

**CalGrant for
Foster Youth
\$6,000 &
eight years**

**Expanded
SSCG
\$10,500**

Must be verified with CSAC to receive

[Link to Form for manual verification](#)

Financial Aid (cont.)

SAP – New policies coming soon!

COA Limits:



For 2023/2024 NextUp grants and resources like transportation assistance, meal programs, etc. must be reported as aid and count against the student's unmet need



Beginning 2024/2025, **Chafee Grants** and emergency grants issued after packaging for elements of COA no longer count against unmet need

#6 – The Funding is Permanent (but the amount may change)

Funding is ONGOING

Future amounts will be based on number of students served (prior-prior year) with 70% minimum year-to-year guarantee

Academic Year	Funding basis year	Formula
2022/2023 (Spring only)	2020/2021	46% of all foster youth
2023/2024	2021/2022	46% of all foster youth
2024/2025	2022/2023	46% of all foster youth or NextUp enrollment, whichever is higher
2025/2026	2023/2024	NextUp funding formula (based on program enrollment)

#7 – Collaboration is Essential



**ID key campus,
county, and
community
stakeholders**



**Develop
systems for
referrals and
collaborative
case
management**



**Create an
advisory
committee**



**Monthly meetings
with campus
categorical/stude
nt support
programs to
streamline
services**

#8 - The Funding is Very Flexible

What you can spend your money on:

- Staffing
- School supplies
- Branded swag
- University campus tours
- Multicultural experiences/field trips
- Academic and personal development workshops + food
- Community-building events
- Awareness initiatives
- Meal program
- Transportation assistance
- Childcare
- College fees
- Housing Assistance
- Unmet need grants
- Internship, training or study abroad program fees
- Technology (graphic calculators, laptops)

Funding (cont.)

What is NOT allowed:



Indirect costs



Fundraising with NextUp Dollars



Spending NextUp money on non-NextUp students



Political, non-profit, or professional association dues and/or contributions

When do you need prior written approval from the Chancellor's Office & What is the Process?

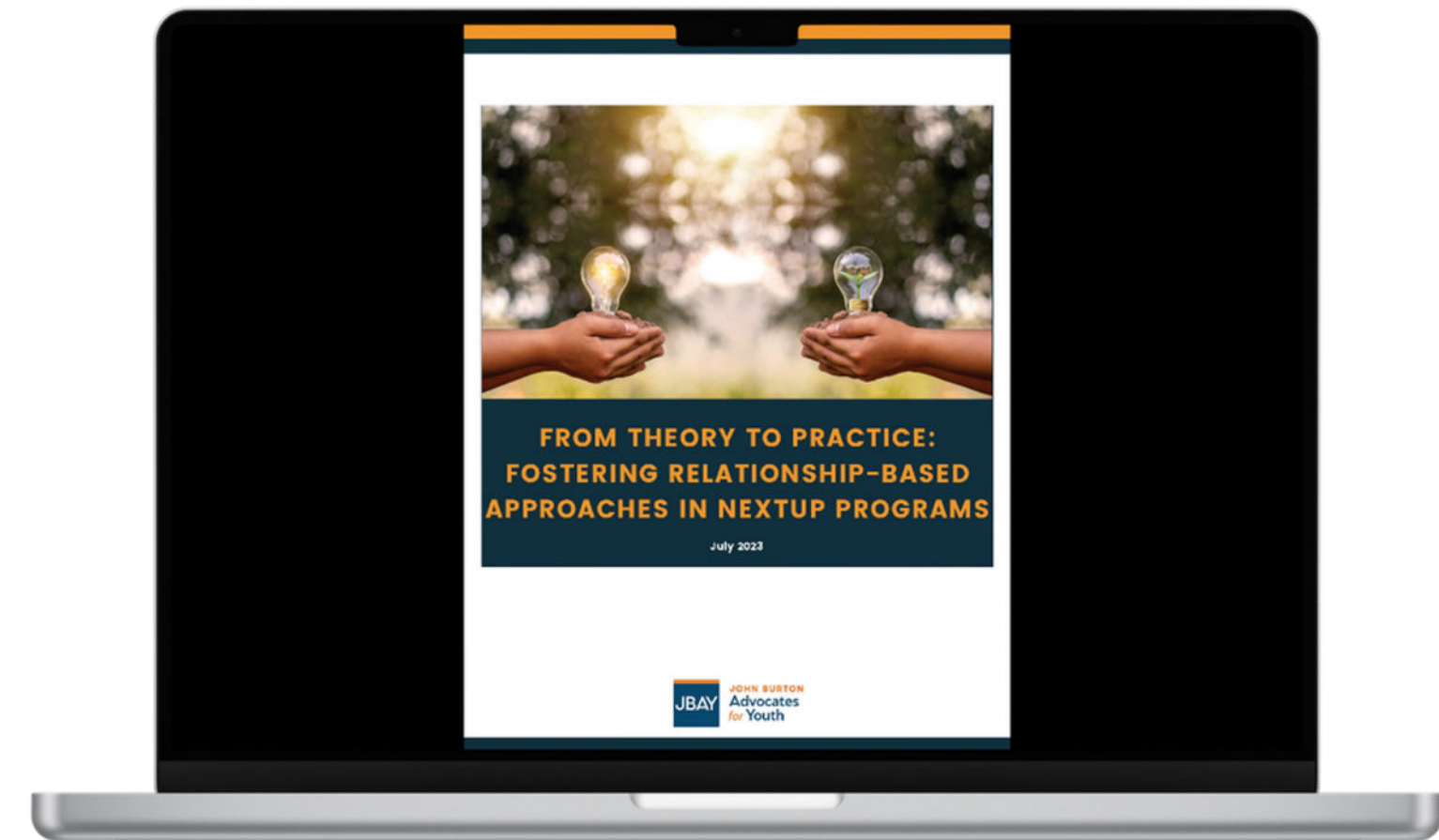
- Contracts
- Equipment
- Furniture
- Construction/Renovation or remodeling not approved in advance of encumbrance by the Chancellor's Office

Process: send an email to tmarroquin@cccoco.edu with a cost estimate and small description of the project

#9 – Intentional Engagement Strategies that are Student-Centered Go a Long Way

- Personalized, caring approach
- Phone calls/texts > emails
- Holiday and milestone celebrations
(semester kick-off, birthdays, holidays, commencement)

Check out JBAY's resource:
**From Theory to Practice:
Fostering Relationship-Based
Approaches in NextUp
Programs**



#10 – Help is Available!

Resources:

- Google Drive NextUp resources folder:
<https://jbay.org/resources/nextup-implementation/>
- California Community Colleges Vision Resource Center: [Log in to the VRC](#), then [follow this link to the module: Supporting Foster Youth Through NextUp](#).

Get in touch with us:



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