

Resources

This checklist references sections found in the *Postsecondary Education Planning Guide for Adults Supporting California's Foster Youth*. Visit jbay.org/resources/ed-planning-guide to access the complete guide.

K-12 Academic Enrichment Programs

Academic enrichment programs are experiences that extend beyond the student's traditional school curriculum and encourage academic performance and college attendance. Adult supporters can help students find programs that fit their interests and goals. In some counties, programs exist specifically for foster youth. Talk to a school counselor, County Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, or foster youth district liaison to learn about which programs are available in your community. Below are some examples.

- ◆ **GEAR UP:** Serves a cohort of students beginning no later than the 7th grade and follows the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. www2.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html
- ◆ **Federal TRIO Programs:** Programs such as Talent Search and Upward Bound provide services to increase high school graduation and postsecondary educational attainment. ope.ed.gov/programs/trio/.
- ◆ **Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP):** Each UC campus has an EAOP office to work directly with students at underserved schools to increase the number of students who achieve a college education. eaop.universityofcalifornia.edu

- ◆ **Puente:** Supports educationally disadvantaged students to complete college degrees and serve as mentors and leaders to the future generation. This interdisciplinary approach includes writing, counseling, and mentoring components. thepuenteproject.org
- ◆ **Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA):** Provides individualized academic plans, academic workshops in math and science, study skills training, PSAT and SAT preparation, hands-on math and science competition, career and college exploration, and more. mesa.ucop.edu.
- ◆ **Boys & Girls Clubs:** Many Boys & Girls Clubs offer academic success programs across a range of topics to help youth graduate from high school and prepare for postsecondary education and the workforce. bgca.org.

K-12 Academic Resources

- ◆ **CaliforniaColleges.edu:** Provides information for California students in 6th-12th grade and their caregivers regarding college applications, financial aid, and career pathways and allows students to monitor their progress. californiacolleges.edu.
- ◆ **Foster Youth District Liaison (AB 490 Liaison):** The Foster Youth Liaison can be found at each district in California and can help collect transcripts from different schools, help obtain partial credits to stay on track for graduation, identify tutoring resources, and assist with graduation requirements for the student.
- ◆ **County Office of Education (COE) Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP):** FYSCPs can ensure that health and school records are obtained to establish appropriate placements and can coordinate counseling, tutoring, mentoring, professional development training, college and career transition services, and more. Contact information for each county can be found at cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy.

- ◆ **Learn to Be Tutoring:** Provides free one-on-one online tutoring to underserved youth around the United States. Learntobe.org.
- ◆ **UPchieve Tutoring:** Provides free online tutoring and college counseling. upchieve.org/students.

Students With Learning Needs

- ◆ **California Department of Education Special Needs Section:** Provides information and resources to serve the unique needs of persons with disabilities. cde.ca.gov/sp/se/.
- ◆ **Department of Rehabilitation (DoR):** Offers student support services for individuals ages 16 to 21 who are enrolled in school. Students must have an active 504 Plan, IEP, have a disability (or believe they have a disability even if it has not been formally diagnosed) to receive services. Go to dor.ca.gov and search for Student Services.

Child Welfare and Probation Resources

- ◆ **Independent Living Program (ILSP or ILP):** A voluntary program offered through the child welfare and probation departments that provides services and benefits to assist current and former foster youth in achieving self-sufficiency. Youth who were placed in foster care or Kin-Gap at any time between ages 16 to 18 can receive support from an ILP Transition Coordinator until they are 21. Contact the youth's social worker or probation officer for more information or view this ILP roster: jbay.org/resources/ilp-roster/. The ILP Coordinator can also assist in determining the youth's eligibility.

- ◆ **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA):** CASA volunteers work one-on-one with a foster youth, advocating for their best interest. Access is dependent on local availability of volunteers. californiacasa.org
- ◆ **California Foster Youth Ombudsperson Office:** A neutral office that provides information about the rights of foster youth and helps solve complaints about the care that they receive. They can also provide former foster youth with a verification letter which is often required to access benefits in college such as financial aid, priority registration, or campus support programs. Go to fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov or call 877-846-1602.
- ◆ **California Family Urgent Response System (FURS):** A free 24/7 hotline for current and former foster youth and their caregivers to call and get immediate help for any issue big or small. It also provides local mobile response teams that can come in-person to create a plan to help stabilize the situation. Cal-FURS.org

Other Resources

- ◆ **CalFresh:** California's food stamps (SNAP) program, provides free money for food for eligible individuals that are low-income. getcalfresh.org
- ◆ **iFoster:** Provides free resources to transitional age foster youth, such as cell phones, tutoring services, and a digital locker to safely store important documents. Become a free member at: ifoster.org
- ◆ **Medi-Cal Health Insurance:** Youth who leave foster care on or after their 18th birthday can continue to receive Medi-Cal until they turn 26. This includes coverage for mental health services, like therapy, counseling or medication support. Coveredtil26.org

Financial Aid Resources

- ◆ **California Student Aid Commission (CSAC):** Provides information on state financial aid resources, like the Cal Grant, Chafee Grant, and the California Dream Act Application. It also includes a list of Cal Grant eligible institutions. csac.ca.gov or csac.ca.gov/foster-youth-students.
- ◆ **Federal Student Aid:** Provides information about different types of federal financial aid, how to submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), how aid is calculated, and how to manage loans. studentaid.gov
- ◆ **John Burton Advocates for Youth:** Provides comprehensive information on financial aid resources for California foster youth, including the Financial Aid Guide for California Foster and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth with embedded scholarship resources, FAFSA and CADAA step-by-step visual guides, and a “how-to” training for adult supporters. jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide/.

California Community College Programs and Benefits

- ◆ **Basic Needs Centers:** Provide direct services, and referrals to address students’ needs for food, housing, safety, and well-being.
- ◆ **California College Promise Grant:** Allows low-income students at California community colleges to have enrollment fees (i.e. cost of classes) waived. Foster youth can maintain this benefit regardless of academic performance once in college. Students can access this benefit by completing a FAFSA (fafsa.gov) or CADAA (dream.csac.ca.gov).
- ◆ **California College Promise Program:** Some colleges offer this program. Students must be full-time (12+ units) and CA residents or meet AB 540 criteria. Many colleges that offer this program waive tuition fees and offer additional supportive services for eligible

students. Students enrolled in Disabled Student Programs and Services can enroll with less than 12 units.

- ◆ **Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS):** All community colleges offer EOPS to enable low-income, educationally disadvantaged students to complete their educational goals. EOPS offers academic counseling, book grants, and more. These programs have limited space so it’s important to apply as early as possible.
- ◆ **Campus Support Programs (CSP) for Foster Youth:** All California community colleges have NextUp, a support program specifically for foster youth. Services can include assistance with admissions, financial aid, housing, orientation, academic counseling, and tutoring. Many community colleges also have additional foster youth support programs that serve foster youth who are not eligible for NextUp and these program names, services, and eligibility vary by campus. cacollegepathways.org/search-foster-youth-programs/

NextUp Eligibility: *Students under age 26 at the time of program enrollment and who were in foster care on or after their 13th birthday, can qualify for special assistance including one-on-one support, book vouchers, and additional financial resources. icangotocollege.com/financial-aid/foster-youth-support*

- ◆ **Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) and CalWORKs:** CARE programs offer additional assistance to EOPS students who are single head-of-household parents who receive public assistance (cash aid) from CalWORKs/TANF. Students may be eligible to receive grants, child care assistance, job placement assistance, and more.

- ◆ **Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)/Student Accessibility Services (SAS):** These programs provide assistance and accommodations that help students with physical, mental, and/or learning disabilities in achieving their educational goals. They can provide note-taking assistance, special test-taking conditions, and more.
- ◆ **Dream Resource Centers:** Located at many community colleges, these centers and programs provide a safe space, supportive network, and access to resources to support students who are undocumented.
- ◆ **LGBTQ+ Services:** Some colleges have resource centers, programs, and/or services for LGBTQ+ students: ccclgbt.org.
- ◆ **Physical and Mental Health Services:** May include physical exams, family planning, pregnancy testing, prescription refills, and mental health counseling. Counseling services are often short-term, but foster youth with Medi-Cal can access long-term counseling through Medi-Cal providers.
- ◆ **Priority Registration for Foster Youth:** Allows foster youth who were in care at least one day after the age of 13 and under the age of 26 to register for classes before the general population. Application deadlines vary by campus.
- ◆ **Rising Scholars:** Serves students who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Learn which colleges offer this program by visiting: risingscholarsnetwork.org.
- ◆ **Student Success Completion Grant:** A community college financial aid program that provides a grant of \$5,250 per semester to students who were in foster care on or after the age of 13, receive the Cal Grant B or C and enroll in 12 or more units.

- ◆ **Umoja Community:** Located at some community colleges, Umoja is a community and resource dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other students. umojacommunity.org

CSU and UC Programs and Benefits

- ◆ **Application Fee Waiver:** Foster youth are likely to qualify for an application fee waiver for up to four CSUs and four UCs. No additional application is required.
- ◆ **Basic Needs Centers:** Provide direct services, information, and referrals to address students' needs for food, housing, and safety in an effort to promote well-being and ensure students' academic retention and success.
- ◆ **Campus Support Programs (CSP) for Foster Youth:** All CSU and UC campuses have programs specifically for foster youth that can include assistance with admissions, financial aid, housing, academic counseling, tutoring, mentoring, life skills, and employment and career planning. To qualify, students must be in foster care at least one day. Program names and services vary by campus. Visit: cacollegepathways.org/search-foster-youth-programs/
- ◆ **Educational Opportunity Program (EOP):** Provides admission, academic, and financial support services to historically underserved students. EOP accepts students who do not meet regular admission criteria as well as those who qualify for regular admission. Students should apply for EOP when completing their undergraduate application for admission. EOP is available at all CSUs and some UCs.
- ◆ **Priority Housing:** Foster youth can receive priority for on-campus college housing, and some students can stay on campus year-round including holiday breaks. Contact the college to learn more.

- ◆ **Priority Registration for Foster Youth:** Current and former foster youth receive priority course registration at all CSUs and most UCs. This benefit makes it much easier to enroll in competitive classes. At the CSUs, this benefit is for youth under age 26 who were in foster care at least one day after the age of 13. Eligibility varies across the UCs. Students should visit the website of the college they plan to attend for more information.
- ◆ **Resources for Undocumented Students:** Many campuses across the CSUs and UCs provide Dream Centers or other support services and resources for undocumented students. Contact your college to learn more.
- ◆ **Justice System Involved Students:** Many campuses have programs, such as the UC's Underground Scholars, for students with prior involvement with juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.
- ◆ **Services for Students With Disabilities:** Each UC and CSU has a program for students with disabilities. These programs provide assistance and accommodations that facilitate students with physical, mental, and/or learning disabilities in achieving their educational goals. They can provide note-taking assistance, special test-taking conditions, and more.
- ◆ **TRIO Student Support Services (SSS):** Serve first-generation and low-income students as well as individuals with disabilities in their academic, personal, and professional growth. TRIO programs can be found at some CSU and UC campuses. Contact the campus of interest to inquire.

- ◆ **California College Pathways:** Provides general information about postsecondary education for foster youth including resources for understanding and getting help with financial aid, finding scholarships, and accessing foster youth support programs on college and university campuses. cacollegepathways.org

Student Spotlight:
Benefits of Priority Registration

Click jbay.org/resources/student-spotlights/to-watch.

Scan here to watch