Foster Youth Success Initiative
an effort of the California Community College System
What is FYSI?
What is the Foster Youth Success Initiative?

An effort of the California Community Colleges

- FYSI started in 2007
- All 112 CA Community Colleges have FYSI Liaisons
- FYSI Liaisons & College staff are more sensitive & understanding of foster youth
- Support for current and former foster youth
- Help youth find $$ and resources to go to college
When I see this Symbol it means...

FYSI
This Symbol means

- A safe, supportive environment or person whose familiar with your issues & challenges
- An office and/or person committed to helping you access college
- An office and/or person who’s able to help you connect with college & community resources
Could this be YOU?

FYSI
Could this be you?

- I have a Social Worker (or Case Worker)
- I live with a relative or with someone else (not my parent)
- I couch surf, I don’t live at home
- I live in my car
- I live in a foster (or group) home
If this is you.......  

You could be eligible for FREE MONEY to go to college.
Who is the FYSI/Foster Youth Liaison and how do I find them?
Who is a FYSI Liaison?

A Person at a CA Community College who...

- Helps with college information
- Has Financial Aid knowledge
- Is familiar with your situation
- Will be sensitive to your needs
- Helps you figure out your college / career path
- Provides guidance on choosing your college major
- Can help you succeed in College
Where can I find a FYSI Liaison?

Student Support Services Department

Are offices there to help you succeed from enrollment to graduation:

- Financial Aid Office
- Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)
- Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS)
- Academic Counseling
- Outreach Office
What Does a FYSI Liaison Do?
What does a FYSI Liaison do?

- Arrange college tours
- Assist with college applications
- Helps complete financial aid/FAFSA & Chafee applications, & reviews eligibility for financial aid
- Assessment, testing, determines if Ability to Benefit (ATB) test is needed
- Explains what satisfactory academic progress is
What else does a FYSI Liaison do

### Connect students with:

- Counseling Department
- Health Services
- Transfer Options
- Tutoring Centers
- Other Programs & Services

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>On and Off-Campus resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>ILP Coordinators or Offices</td>
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<td>Assist with obtaining Letter of Verification</td>
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Other College Programs supporting Foster Youth

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College Programs Supporting Foster Youth

- **FKCE - Foster Kinship Care Education** – classes for caregivers to support youth in their home
- **EOPS/CARE - Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education**
- **YESS-ILP - College students who are ILP eligible can continue YESS ILP classes at colleges where it's available**
- **YESS-LA or YDS - Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success, Life Skills classes provided in LA County**
- **California College Pathways Projects** supports improved access to higher education in programs such as Guardian Scholars, Renaissance Scholars Programs and other Foster Youth Support Programs in higher education
What CA Laws support Foster Youth in Higher Ed

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CA Law Supporting FY in High Ed

- **AB 1393** - Requests CA Community Colleges & UCs, and requires the CSUs to give priority to current and former foster youth for on-campus housing and **priority housing that’s open the most days in a calendar year** to ensure stable housing for foster youth throughout their college education.

- **AB 669** – A student who currently lives in CA, is 19 years or younger at the time of enrollment, who is or was a dependent /ward of the CA child welfare system, and is no longer being served either due to emancipation or aging out of the system, may be entitled to resident classification until he or she has resided in the state the minimum time necessary to become a resident.

- **AB 490** – Equal right to education including, immediate enrollment without delay; partial credits must be accounted for; right to remain in school of origin; not penalized when absent for court related activity.

- **SSI** – Social Security Insurance – what is it and what does it mean?
Did you know...?

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National Statistics

Did you know....

- 70% of Foster Youth desire to go to college
- Less than 50% will Graduate from High School
- 15% Attend a college
- 9% Complete a college program
- 7% Complete an A.A. / Certificate degree
- 2% Attain a Bachelors degree

As there is no reliable data available, these figures are approximations.
National Statistics

- Desire to go to college: 70%
- Graduate from High School: 50%
- Attend College: 15%
- Complete College Program: 9%
- Complete a A.A./ Certificate Degree: 7%
- Attain a Bachelor Degree: 2%
Many Choices... Different Outcomes
Did you Know...

- 20% of the nation’s foster youth are in California.
- Approximately, 77,000 children/youth are in California’s foster care system.
- Approximately, 4400 youth age out of foster care each year.
- It's estimated that only 50% of foster youth will graduate high school.
- In 2008-09 over 8,000 students from foster care attended a CA Community College.
Community Resources

- Food Stamps / Food Banks
- Housing
- County ILP
- 211 - Emergency Shelter and Crisis Hotline
- Mental Health Services / Disability Services
Community Resources

- Medical & Dental Low Cost Resources
- Legal Advocates
- Children’s Rights Projects: [www.publiccounsel.org/overview/crp.html](http://www.publiccounsel.org/overview/crp.html)
- Regional Occupational Programs
Resources on the WEB

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Community Resources on the web

Department of Social Services:
- Left side bar in blue shaded area: Applying for FS benefits
- Center section: Application for Food Stamps under Applications/Forms header

Foster Care Main Menu:
- The Social Services Department website has many services and information to offer Foster Youth aging out of the system
Click ‘N’ Connect

Support and Resources Available online

- California College Pathways Project [http://www.cacollegepathways.org/](http://www.cacollegepathways.org/)
- Orphan Foundation of America [http://orphan.org/](http://orphan.org/)
- California Youth Connection [http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/](http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/)
- Chafee [https://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.aspx](https://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.aspx)
- Foster Ed Connect [https://www.fosteredconnect.org](https://www.fosteredconnect.org)
Insert Name of Your Community College

College Student Support Services Contacts

- FYSI Liaison (s)
  - Name, Phone, Email
- Financial Aid
- EOPS
- Counseling
- DSPS
- Admissions and Records
- Health Services
Quinn Tatum Jr., age 20
1st year student at Mesa College, San Diego

Michael Davis, age 25
1st year student at Mesa College, San Diego

Shaeed Marshall, age 18
1st year student at Mesa College, San Diego

Clifton Hidds, age 19
2nd year student at Mesa College, San Diego
Annette Ruiz-Esparza - Evergreen Valley College, San Jose
Katy Fitzgerald - Mission College, Santa Clara
Anafe Robinson - Pierce College, Woodland Hills
Yvette Tafoya – Cerritos College, Norwalk
Yajayra Vejar – Cerritos College, Norwalk
Lil Sass – Citrus College, Glendora
Katrina Hewitt – Citrus College, Glendora
Mayra Gonzales - Mesa College, San Diego