Senate Bill 1023: Supporting foster youth in California community colleges

• Authored by Senator Carol Liu, signed into law in September 2014
• SB 1023 allows the California Community College Chancellor’s Office to enter into “agreements with up to 10 Community College Districts to provide additional funds for services in support of postsecondary education for foster youth.”
Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support Program

• CAFYES will be a supplemental component of the existing Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) program.

• The purpose of the program is to support higher education success, health and well-being of current and former foster youth who are enrolled in California’s community colleges.
CAFYES Program Funding

• The budget provides up to $15 million for the program in 2015-16 and is expected to continue in future years.

• The Chancellor’s Office and participating Districts will report to the legislature biennially.
Core CAFYES Services

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

• Matriculation and transfer counseling
• Monitoring of academic progress
• Tutoring
• Academic mentoring
• Frequent in-person contact
• Allowances for books and supplies

SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

• Referrals to counseling and mental health services
• Independent living skills
• Housing assistance
• Child care allowances
• Transportation allowances
• Career counseling
CAFYES Eligibility

• Person whose dependency in California was established by the court on or after the youth’s 16th birthday and who is younger than age 26.

• Authorizes participants to be enrolled in at least 9 units, rather than the required full-time load of 12 units.
Community College District Participation

• Per guidance in SB1023, the Chancellor’s Office facilitated an Application To Participate (ATP) process for Districts interested in administering CAFYES.

• All 72 Districts throughout the state were eligible to apply.

• Following the ATP process, formal notification of intent to award CAFYES funds to 10 Districts was distributed.
The following Districts have been recommended for participation

- **Northern California**: Shasta-Tehama-Trinity CCD, Sierra CCD
- **San Francisco Bay Area and Central California**: Peralta CCD, Sonoma County CCD, State Center CCD
- **Southern California**: Allan Hancock CCD, Coast CCD, Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD, Los Angeles CCD, Pasadena Area CCD
Additional Information

The list of recommended Districts will be presented for review and approval during the California Community College Board of Governor's meeting scheduled for November 17-18.

For additional information regarding CAFYES please visit http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/EOPSCARE/CAFYES.aspx

Please submit questions regarding the CAFYES program to cafyes@ccccco.edu.
Campaign Overview

Presented by:
Amanda J. Davis, Program Manager
“I Can Afford College” Campaign
Campaign Background

- Statewide initiative funded by Proposition 98
- Started in 2003-04 academic year due to fee increase concerns
- Annual campaign budget of $2.8 million
- Directed and managed by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
Budget Act language states specific key campaign messages:

- California community colleges remain affordable
- Financial aid is available to cover enrollment fees and help with other costs such as books, supplies
- Free one-on-one assistance
The campaign’s key target audiences are low- to middle-income:

- High school juniors and seniors
- Recent high school graduates
- Current community college students
- Re-entry students
- Influencers
All activities drive people to the heart of the campaign, icanaffordcollege.com, which launched in May 2004

- Key features of the website include:
  - Bilingual - English/Spanish
  - Types of financial aid and how to apply
  - Direct links to applications
  - Contact information for community college financial aid offices

- Completely revamped site launched in March 2014
Ongoing Website Updates

- Completed in 2014-15
  - College Cost Calculator
  - Smart Search
  - FAFSA Videos & Forecaster
  - New Student Success Stories
  - Financial Literacy Info
- Planned for 2015-16
  - Additional Scholarship Info
  - New AB 540 Info
  - Financial Aid Glossary
Creative Ad Campaign

- Radio
- Television/Video
- Online
- New radio & TV ads are in development
  - In production now – look for the new ads in January 2016!
Star Power & Presence

Ryan Seacrest
Nick Cannon
Ed Crane

will.i.am

iHeart Radio Festival

Wango Tango
Robust Statewide Outreach

- High school events
- College fairs
- Community events

Irvine Community College
Legislative Outreach

- Governor’s Office Annex Display
- Op-Eds Authored by Legislators
- Governor’s Commemorative Message for Financial Aid Awareness Month
Collateral & Informational Materials

- Available items include:
  - Brochures
  - Posters
  - Folders
  - Bookmarks

- Order through icanaffordcollege.com
Getting Social

- Twitter & Facebook
- YouTube
- Instagram
Where can you find us?

- **Campaign Website**
  - icanaffordcollege.com

- **Social Media**
  - http://twitter.com/icanafrdcollege
  - www.facebook.com/icanaffordcollege
  - http://instagram.com/icanaffordcollege
  - www.youtube.com/user/ICANAFRDCOLLEGE
Foster Youth Success Initiative

Kathleen Casela
Statewide Foster Youth Success Initiative
Foundation for California Community Colleges

A joint effort between the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
In 2006, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) sponsored the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) to respond to the significant challenges and lack of resources available to foster youth in accessing postsecondary education.

The FYSI was built through CCCCCO leadership to provide support for foster youth attending community colleges. It was a collaborative effort between individuals, non-profit agencies and representatives from postsecondary educational institutions.

Currently, there are 113 community colleges who have an identified FYSI Liaison, serving as the main point of contact for foster youth on campus.
FYSI Goals

• Assist foster youth with access to academic support, student services and resources
• Coach foster youth to pursue an education despite challenges
• Provide support in completion of units, certificates, degrees, or transfer to a 4 year university
Community College Support

• Serves greatest number of foster youth of all three systems (est. 14,000)
• 113 Colleges throughout state with a range of programs:
  – High school diploma
  – 2-year Associate (AA) degree
  – Career & Technical Education – occupational certificates
  – Transfer to 4-year university
Challenges in Higher Education

- Inadequate housing options
- Lack of financial resources
- Frequent changes in home and school leave youth unprepared
- Lack of adult role models
- Lack of information on access to higher education
- Untreated trauma or undiagnosed mental health
Foster Youth Success Initiative Liaison

• An FYSI Liaison is an identified campus staff who can provide a bridge for foster youth entering community college for the first time or those who may be returning

• 113 community colleges have an identified FYSI, some have multiple liaisons
Critical Role of an FYSI Liaison

Step 1: Create a place for foster youth to belong

Step 2: Connect students to financial aid and academic advising

Step 3: Cultivate FYSI champions on campus and connect youth

Step 4: Connect youth to community resources
Connecting Foster Youth to Resources

- Financial Aid
- Campus Support Programs and Services
- Academic and Career Exploration
- Housing Resources
- Graduation
- Off Campus Partnership
Financial Aid Support

• Complete Free Application Federal Student Aid
• Acquire supporting documents
• Priority Enrollment
• Board of Governors Fee Waiver
• Chafee Grant and other foster youth scholarship opportunities
• Provide technical assistance with other financial matters
Campus Support Program and Services

- Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)
- Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE)
- CalWorks/Medi-Cal
- Disabled Student Programs and Services
- Childcare center/Parenting Support
- Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success-ILP (if campus has program)
Academic/Career Exploration

- Assessment Testing
- Orientation
- Development of Educational Plan
- Tutoring
- Career Counseling/Advising
- Work/Study
- Job placement assistance
Housing Resources

• Connecting students with AB 12 Extended Foster Care services
• THP-Plus/THP + Foster Care
• Off Campus Housing Support
Graduation

• Letters of recommendation
• Transfer services
• Awards ceremony for foster youth completing certificates or degrees
• Graduation cap and gown
Off Campus Partnerships

- Develop off-campus partnerships
- Develop partnerships with non-profits, K-12 and other higher education partners
- Outreach
Resources for FYSI Liaisons

- FYSI Webpage
- FYSI Listserve
- FYSI Promotional Materials
- Web Based Orientation and Training Modules
- FYSI Annual Training
- Quarterly Regional Representatives Advisory
- Statewide Foster Youth Success Initiative Liaison
- FYSI Training Manual
Section 1: Foster Youth Background
Section 2: Starting an FYSI Program
Section 3: Financial Aid
Section 4: Data Collection/Legislation
Section 5: Resources for Students
Section 6: Glossary and Appendix
Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)
College and Financial Aid Resources for Students

- Resource guide provides information about programs and services available to support foster youth
- Provides step by step instructions on how to apply for college, available scholarships and importance of college degree
Statewide Foster Youth Success Initiative Liaison

- Overall program coordinator
- Maintains FYSI content and materials
- Facilitates orientation/other training
- Support Regional Representatives Advisory
- Participates in foster youth focused workgroups
- Collaborates with various state agencies (CDE, CDSS, CSAC)
FYSI Liaison Events and Activities

• Foster Youth Summit (Cabrillo, Norco College)
• Cash 4 College Workshops
• Local Foster Youth Higher Education Committees
• First Art Slam (Solano College)
• Independent City Santa Clara County (Mission College and neighboring colleges)
• May is Foster Care Awareness Month Activities (statewide)
• Provide workshop at conferences highlighting FYSI program
• And many more!!
Helpful Websites

• Foster Youth Success Initiative:
http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/FosterYouthSuccessInitiatives.aspx

• Foundation for California Community College
https://foundationccc.org/

• I Can Afford College:
http://icanaffordcollege.com/