

March 9, 2017

Web Seminar: On-Campus Supports & Resources for Foster Youth

QUESTIONS ANSWERED SUBMITTED BY ATTENDEES

1. Is there an age at which former foster youth will age out of these services?

- a. The various campus support programs and resources discussed on the web seminar each have eligibility criteria that you will need to refer to. Some of them have age requirements and some of them do not. For example, the CAFYES/Next Up program goes up to age 26, and the age limit for priority enrollment is also age 26, however FYSI Liaisons are available to assist any student who was in foster care within their lifetime.

2. What are the various eligibility criteria for campus support programs discussed on the webinar? Is there one central place where they are all located?

- a. No, there is not one central place where eligibility criteria are all located for campus support programs. The most comprehensive information on these programs collectively, is on the California College Pathways website (<http://www.cacollegepathways.org/find-campus-support-programs/>), but eligibility for all programs is not included. Below you will find the eligibility criteria for campus support programs on California Community College campuses. To find out what the eligibility criteria are for EOP or any other support programs at CSUs or UC, it is best to contact the schools directly.

Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) Liaison: FYSI Liaisons can assist any current or former foster youth at a community college.

Extended Opportunities Programs & Services (EOPS): Student must be a California resident or AB 540 student, enrolled full-time, not have completed more than 70 units of degree applicable credit course work in any combination of post-secondary education institutions, qualify for the Board of Governor's Fee Waiver, and have an educational disadvantage as verified by the EOPS director.

To participate in programs within EOPS such as CARE, CalWORKs or CAFYES, students must be EOPS-eligible, in addition to meeting any eligibility requirements for the supplemental program (CAFYES is an exception in that the number of units required for CAFYES is 9 instead of 12).

Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES)/Next Up: Students must be under age 26, in foster care on or after their 16th birthday and enrolled in at least 9 units at a community college with a CAFYES program.

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs): Those eligible for services through CalWORKs at a community college are current CalWORKs recipient students and those in transition off of CalWORKs.

Cooperating Agencies Resources for Education (CARE): Students eligible for CARE at a community college are unmarried with children under age 14, and are CalWORKs recipients.

Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS): The student’s disability must be verified, and there must be an education limitation that precludes the student from fully participating in general education without additional specialized services.

3. Are these services available for youth who are exiting the THP-Plus program, and are wanting to receive a certification such as a Phlebotomist Program?

- a. A certification such as this is usually provided through a community college vocational program (for credit) that awards certificates or degrees. This sort of program is also offered in other community colleges through a not-for-credit program offered to the community through the continuing education office.

The services students are eligible for will vary depending on the institution and the certificate program the student is seeking. The best option is to have a student meet with a local community college counselor to identify an appropriate course of study and related support programs.

4. Can you double dip by being part of CAFYES/Next Up and EOPS?

- a. CAFYES/Next Up is a program within EOPS, so it is not “double-dipping”. If you are participating in a CAFYES/Next Up program, you are technically participating in EOPS.

5. Do foster youth participating in Extended Foster Care and receiving an infant supplement, qualify for the CARE program?

- a. Receiving the infant supplement does not make a student eligible for CARE, and nor does being in foster care. Students eligible for CARE are unmarried with children under age 14, and are receiving CalWORKs payments.

6. Are the names of the campus support programs chosen by each campus, or must the programs follow a guideline at the state-level? For example, are these Guardian Scholars Programs required to follow a certain guideline or can any foster youth group create their own Guardian Scholars Program and name their program that?

- a. Many of the programs that were discussed on the web seminar are standard programs with specific names, available across campuses, such as the EOPS programs (including the programs within EOPS like CAFYES and CARE), however some of the foster youth support programs such as Guardian Scholars and Renaissance Scholars are independently funded and vary across campuses. These programs tend to have names that were selected by youth and/or staff who created the program. “Guardian Scholars” is not a name that is owned by any individual program, and can be adopted by other foster youth programs across the state.

7. While today’s presentation refers to California programs, are there “like” programs in other states – Texas specifically?

- a. To learn what programs might be available in other states, it would be best to contact the college in that state where the youth is planning on (or currently) attending. In regards to financial support, a California foster youth attending school out of state could be eligible for the Pell Grant and the Chafee Grant, however they would not be able to utilize the Board of Governors Fee Waiver nor the Cal Grant at an out-of-state college.

8. I have a student with an Independent Educational Plan (IEP) that is a ward of my county, resides in another, wants to go to school in Washington State. Do I work with the FYSI Liaison in my county to coordinate this?

- a. You could work with either your Regional Representative from that County, or you could work with the Statewide FYSI Liaison, Jessica Smith (jsmith@foundationccc.org). Since each state, and even sometimes each county, has different processes, the Regional Representative is really an expert on how things work on the campuses within their region, although may have an extended network of contacts or knowledge about other systems as well.

As I'm sure you are aware, it would also be important, if this youth is going to be participating in Extended Foster Care, to arrange for his/her placement as far in advance as possible, first determining whether this state will accept an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) for the placement and provide the monthly supervision, or if that is not an option, arranging for how your county will be conducting the monthly supervision. It is also important that the placement is approved in a timely manner so that payment to the non-minor dependent is not delayed. See [ACL 14-33](#) for more information on out-of-state placements.

9. For the North Bay Area (Napa/Sonoma), what FYSI Liaison Regional Representative would be the best one to contact for questions?

- a. For Napa, the FYSI Liaison is Flo Charlie at Sierra College (916-660-7397, fcharlie@sierracollege.edu). For Sonoma, the FYSI Liaison is Raheema Islam (510-215-3899, rislam@contracosta.edu).

10. What is the typical background of the FYSI Liaison? Student advisor, social worker..etc.?

- a. FYSI Liaisons come from all kinds of different backgrounds, not necessarily social work or even any field that has had contact with foster youth in the past. Most FYSI Liaisons work either within the financial aid department or a program like EOPS. The level of knowledge regarding foster care varies.

The Foundation for California Community Colleges works to ensure that each of their FYSI Liaisons gets the appropriate training and information on how best to work with and understand foster youth. They hold orientation web seminars for the FYSI Liaisons, with their next one taking place in May. Anyone is welcome to tune in to these web seminars.

11. Which website will have the map of FYSI regions?

- a. The map of FYSI regions is located on the California Community College Chancellors Office website, at the following URL:
<http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/FosterYouthSuccessInitiatives/FYlpc.aspx>

12. I work with a stand-alone non-credit institution that is part of a community college district. Should this institution also have an FYSI Liaison?

- a. Each of the 113 campuses has an FYSI Liaison, but not all satellite campuses. It's best to check either with the Statewide FYSI Liaison, Jessica Smith (jsmith@foundationccc.org) or the Regional Representative within your region to find out who else within the district can assist you if there is not an FYSI Liaison on your campus.

13. If a youth is still under the jurisdiction of California, but will attend junior college in another state, do we still utilize the FYSI Liaison here in California?

- a. If you are already working with an FYSI Liaison on a campus here in CA, that Liaison should be able to assist you with making that transition out of state. If you are not in contact with an FYSI Liaison on any campus, please contact the Statewide FYSI Liaison, Jessica Smith (jsmith@foundationccc.org) in order to get assistance with facilitating that transition.

14. Is it the FYSI Liaison at the community college level that can help link the foster youth to campus employment?

- a. Yes, the FYSI Liaison should be able to link foster youth to employment services, both on and off campus. They can assist the student with applying for work-study.

15. I have a student who professors suspect has a learning disability. She was told by the campus office of students with disabilities that they do not offer testing there. Where and how can foster youth obtain free testing?

- a. Depending on the student's age, testing can be conducted with a local high school, continuation school, or at another college campus.

16. How do we request an assessment for Disabled Student Programs & Services?

- a. The process varies at each campus but starts in the DSPS office.

17. What type of documentation is needed for DSPS?

- a. This varies between campuses, but usually they will accept an Individual Education Plan (IEP) from a high school (for recent high school graduate), letter from physician or licensed professional that is treating student, or copy of student's 504 plan.

18. Is there a list of community colleges that offer housing? One of the reasons our program encourages students to attend 4-year colleges is for the student housing. Often these students aren't ready for a 4-year college and are more suited for a 2-year, most of which don't offer housing.

- a. Yes. The California Community College Chancellor's Office maintains a list of community colleges that provide dorms or other housing assistance. That can be accessed here: <http://www.cccco.edu/CommunityColleges/CollegeHousing.aspx>

19. What if a foster youth is attending classes during the summer? Will housing be covered at the CSU?

- a. Most campuses that have student housing, have housing available during the summer. However, in most cases the cost is not covered. Some campus programs offer cash assistance for summer housing. The way the campus handles summer housing varies by campus so it is best to inquire with the foster youth program at the campus(es) being considered.

20. For youth who miss the March 2nd financial aid priority deadline, is there anything that can be done to receive or access financial aid, or do they have to sit out the school year?

- a. The March 2nd deadline, while EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, is not the final deadline for all aid. Here is a breakdown of the deadlines:

FAFSA/Dream Act: Students are encouraged to submit the FAFSA (or Dream Act application if undocumented) by March 2nd for optimal financial aid. If they miss this deadline, they can still submit their FAFSA by September 2nd, but some students may miss out on some aid they were eligible for. (See below)

Cal Grants: For a youth who submits the FAFSA and GPA verification by March 2nd, Cal Grants A and B are entitlements if they are otherwise eligible, meaning a youth is guaranteed a Cal Grant if they meet the requirements (see a recent blog posting for more info and for a list of requirements). Once the March 2nd deadline passes, Cal Grants A and B become competitive grants for *community college students only*, to those who submit the FAFSA and GPA verification by September 2nd, subject to remaining funds. However, Dream Act students **MUST** submit by March 2nd. If they miss the March 2nd deadline, they will not be eligible for the Cal Grant A and B competitive grant.

Chafee Grant: The Chafee Grant priority deadline is March 2nd, and the final deadline is September 2nd. Chafee funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis, subject to availability, so youth are encouraged to submit the FAFSA and their Chafee application by the March 2nd deadline.

Pell Grant: Students are strongly encouraged to file their FAFSA by March 2nd in order to ensure access to all available financial aid. For community college students however, there is no specific deadline for submitting the FAFSA in order to qualify for a Pell Grant, and other financial aid may be available even if applications are received after the deadline.

21. Is there a separate application for the Chafee Grant from the FAFSA?

- a. Yes, the Chafee Education and Training Voucher has its own application that must be completed. It is important that youth complete both the FAFSA *and* the Chafee application. The FAFSA can be completed here: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>, and the Chafee application can be completed here: <https://chafee.csac.ca.gov/StudentApplication.aspx>.