

Emancipation

The resources are out there!

Overview

- **Background**
- **Existing resources**
- **Current plans**
- **Brainstorm goals**

The deck is stacked against them: Education and Housing

- **There are 100,000 children in California's foster care system at any given time.**
- **Less than half of foster youth finish high school.**
- **Fewer than 10% enroll in college.**
- **Only 1% graduate from college.**
- **1/3 become homeless within a year of leaving the system.**

The deck is stacked against them: Employment... or not

- **50% of foster youth are unemployed within two to four years of emancipation.**
- **Foster youth earn an average of \$6000/year (below the national poverty level of \$7,890).**
- **25% of emancipated youth will become incarcerated within 2 years of emancipation.**
- **More than 40% are on public assistance.**

The deck is stacked against them: Health and Wellness

- **50% of foster youth suffer from chronic physical medical conditions.**
- **50-60% of foster youth experience moderate to severe mental health problems.**

Let's emphasize Permanency

- **Permanency provides lifelong connections to extended family, siblings, and other significant adults, family history and traditions, race and ethnic heritage, culture, religion and language.**
- **Youth need demonstrated, concrete ways to know they belong to a family for life.**
- **You don't have to BE the permanent figure to emphasize the importance of identifying the permanent figure(s).**
- **The clock is ticking...**

Interdependence, NOT Independence

- **Independence means going it alone.**
- **Interdependence means working in collaboration with others.**
- **CASAs can help their kids identify and tap into existing community resources for support as they emancipate.**
- **The first step is learning about these resources and reaching out - BEFORE emancipation!**

Community Resources

- **Most of the following information about local resources comes from The Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman.**
- **Feel free to contact the Ombudsman with any questions and for further information, and you can encourage your CASA child to do the same.**
- **1-877-846-1602**
- **www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov**

Resources: Education

- **If a foster child has not finished high school by their 18th birthday and would be able to EITHER finish high school or earn their GED by their 19th birthday, they are entitled to remain in foster care beyond their 18th birthday (until they either finish high school, earn their GED or turn 19 - whichever happens first).**
- **If a foster child is getting far behind in high school credits, explore the possibility of a continuation high school, independent study, adult school, taking classes at a community college in addition to high school classes, or a work study program to help catch up!**

Resources: Education

- **Community College is free to emancipated foster youth!**
- **Community College is an option even if the youth got poor grades in high school, did not graduate from high school or received a GED.**
- **Community Colleges also offer vocational training and the opportunity to transfer to a 4 year college.**
- **Community College Foundation
Independent Living Program 1-800-400-5881 www.cccco.edu**

Guardian Scholars

- **CSU Fullerton accepts a certain number of foster youth every year into the college and provides full scholarship, peer support, tutoring, and academic support.**
- **www.fullerton.edu/guardianscholars**

Financial Aid

- **Federal Pell Grants - federal money for low income students (does not need to be paid back)**
- **Cal Grants A, B, C, and T - state grants for low income students (do not need to be paid back)**
- **EOPS and EOP: Financial aid programs at community colleges and public four year universities that provide grants and stipends (do not need to be paid back)**

Financial Aid (Cont'd)

- **Federal loans (must be paid back after students graduate from college)**
- **Fee waivers - Community College programs that waive the cost of classes for low-income students**
- **Scholarships - grants of money from different sources that youth must find and apply for (doesn't need to be paid back) www.csac.ca.gov**

Financial Aid

Just for Foster Youth

- **The California Chafee Grant - free money for vocational school or college courses - applicants must file two forms: www.fafsa.ed.gov and www.chafee.csac.ca.gov**

Contact info: specialized@csac.ca.gov

**California Student Aid Commission -
Specialized Programs**

Attn: California Chafee Grant Program

PO Box 419020

Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029

1-888-224-7268 from 8am - 4:55pm M-F

Financial Aid

Just for Foster Youth (Cont'd)

- **The Orphan Foundation of America Scholarships for Youth in Foster Care - awards scholarships ranging between \$1,500 and \$10,000 a year to students pursuing two or four year degrees or a vocational training certificate**
www.orphan.org
- **“Dare to Dream” program at**
www.fosteradream.org.
Contact: 707-747-0100
info@fosteradream.org

Independent Living Before Emancipation

- **Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) offers a safe environment for youth to practice independent living skills.**
- **Participants must be:**
 - **A foster youth age 17-19 in out-of home care**
 - **Supervised by a social worker or probation officer**
 - **Actively participating in an Independent Living Program**

Housing after Emancipation

- **Transitional Housing Programs (THP) through ILSP**
- **Emergency Shelters - temporary housing to help kids get back on their feet**
- **www.fullcirclefund.org/fpsy.php**
- **Catholic Charities serves emancipated youth ages 18-24 through their CARE project**
 - **Contact Tehuley Banks at (925) 957-2417, tbanks@cceb.org**
- **Lutheran Social Services - Laverne Adolfo Permanent Housing Program**
 - **Contact Concord Office 925-825-1060**

Employment

- **California One-Stop Career Centers (for current and former foster youth age 14-21) www.edd.ca.gov/ONE-STOP/osfile.pdf**
- **Information on entry-level employment (jobs for youth aged 16-24) www.entry-level.net**
- **California Employment Development Department jobs www.edd.cahwnet.gov**
- **Job Search Guide by California region www.jobsmart.org**

Employment (Cont'd)

- **Job Corps - provides a place to live, medical care, vocational training and a GED for FREE to 16-24 year olds.**
1-800-733-JOBS www.jobcorps.org
- **Americorps - provides a living allowance, health insurance, training and a \$4,275 education award to help pay for college or vocational training for serving in community service.**
www.cns.gov/americorps/joining/
- **Youth Development Services**
<http://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/stsvcs/yds.html#foster>

Employment (Cont'd)

- **Conservation Corps - a residential program for 18-23 year olds who live on campus and are paid to do day to day conservation work and emergency response. 1-800-952-JOBS
www.ccc.ca.gov**
- **Youth Employment Opportunity Program - provides services to youth ages 15-21 to assist them in achieving their educational and vocational goals
www.edd.ca.gov**
- **www.craigslist.org - extensive bay area job listings**

Health/Mental Health

- **The Extended Medi-Cal Program assures that emancipated foster kids can continue to receive Medi-Cal until their 21st birthday. Medi-Cal hotline 916-636-1980.**
- **Medi-Cal can cover therapy services.**
- **Teenage Health Resource Line - nurses are available to answer confidential health questions 7am-11pm 7 days a week.**

**Contact: 1-888-711-TEEN
teenhealth@lpch.stanford.edu**

Youth Crisis and Help Lines

- **California Youth Crisis Line - 24-hour counseling services information and referrals for all areas of California regarding medical services, shelters, crisis centers, AIDS testing and transportation info. Contact: 1-800-843-5200**
- **NINELINE provides 24-hour information, referrals and assistance to any youth in crisis. Contact: 1-800-999-9999**
- **National Runaway Switchboard - provides 24 hour assistance, information and referrals to youth who have run away or other youth in crisis. Contact 1-800-621-4000**

Upcoming Trainings

- **ILSP**

- **Wednesday, October 24, 2007 7:00-8:00pm**
- **1875 Arnold Drive in Martinez**

- **Job Corps**

- **Phone tag underway, date to follow.**
- **You can take your CASA child for an orientation any Thursday on Treasure Island at 9am.**

What can CASA do to help
your emancipating youth



Let's Brainstorm...