FAFSA CHALLENGE 2.0: LESSONS LEARNED

FYSCP TA Call: November 14, 2018

Deborah Pruitt, JBAY
Mindy Kukich, San Diego COE
Jason Haley, Tulare COE
Information to Participate

• To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “send”

Or

• Raise your hand

• Presentation materials and audio will be posted at http://cacollegepathways.org/fyscp-resources
The Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge!

2018/2019 Goal

At least 60% of California’s high school seniors in foster care complete the FAFSA/CADAA

Last year’s rate = 45%
Students overall = 58%
What’s New this Year

• New prize for “most improved”
• Reports to be submitted online
• Updated materials
  • Financial aid guide – now in Spanish
  • New poster
  • Updated toolkit
What’s New this Year (Cont.)

Verification of FAFSA/CADAA completion via WebGrants required in most circumstances

Increased emphasis on ensuring Chafee application and GPA match is completed

No student scholarships 😞
New FAFSA Phone App – My Student Aid

App released Oct 1 will:
• have 2019/2020 application only
• have IRS Data Retrieval Tool functionality
• have an option to complete a renewal FAFSA and/or make corrections
• will require an FSA ID in order to use the app

Application can be started on one device and completed on another with the Save Key
COE - FYSCP Awards

Unrestricted support for foster youth post-secondary educational achievement

Awards for very small, small, medium and large counties

Additional award for most improved
Two Chances for Counties to Win

Report by March 18th

- students who complete by the March 2 priority deadline

Report by June 15

- students who complete by May 31
Full FAFSA Challenge Webinar Available
Jbay.org/fafsachallenge
Visual Guide to Assist Homeless Youth with Completing the FAFSA

The Visual Guide to Assist Homeless Youth with Completing the FAFSA provides a step-wise guide to completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Unaccompanied youth who are homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless as of July 1st of the year prior to the award year, are eligible for "independent student status" on the FAFSA. This means that a student does not have to provide any parental information, including income information, and is key to ensuring homeless students are awarded need-based financial aid. This guide provides detailed instructions for completing the entire FAFSA, with special attention on how to ensure eligible homeless youth are granted independent student status.

October 2018

Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth & FAFSA Visual Guide

The financial aid process no longer has to feel intimidating and confusing; the new student-friendly JBAY Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth takes the mystery out of applying for and keeping financial aid. This comprehensive guide begins with an explanation of different types of financial aid available, includes a step-wise guide to completing the FAFSA, tips on what to do after the FAFSA to ensure maximum aid awards, and explains how to stay in good standing and keep getting financial assistance for school.

The visual guide is intended to complement Part 3 of the Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth, "How do I Apply for Financial Aid?" found within pages 6-10, with screen shots of the actual FAFSA application and detailed instructions.

October 2018

Foster Youth Educational Planning Guide (Spanish version now available)

This education planning guide is intended to help foster youth about their options in the college that is right for their interests and career goals. It also
Changes to CalGrant Eligibility

• **Application window**: Up to age 26.

• **Time limit**: Extends the maximum length of time a foster youth is eligible for a Cal Grant from 4 years to 8 years of full-time status enrollment.

• **Application deadline**: Extends the deadline for the Cal Grant entitlement application from March 2nd to September 2nd for foster youth attending community college.

GPA MUST BE SUBMITTED AND MATCHED TO QUALIFY
Today
FAFSA Challenge 2.0: Lessons Learned

**Goal:** Share experience and ideas that help folks across counties to enhance their outreach to seniors for college transition.

In particular – what did you learn from the first FAFSA Challenge that you will use to Improve, expand, or refine what you do this round?

Discussion with

Mindy Kukich, San Diego COE
Jason Haley, Tulare COE
Learnings:
Identifying FY seniors and tracking in and out for reporting totals. Handling non-public schools, charters, continuation schools, etc.

San Diego
• Monthly CALPADS reports comparison
• Contacts with all SDFCL for any school or district a senior is attending
• Out station Liaison in EFC

Tulare
• Weekly Foster Focus reports of 12th grade students
• Monthly CALPADS report comparison (for counties not using Foster Focus)
• Safe Measures report from child welfare
**Learnings:**
Reaching the hard to reach youth – finding out who has not been counseled and getting to them.

**San Diego**
- Contacts with school counselors and any other contacts we can find. Going to the student even if needed.

**Tulare**
- Use of Web Grants to ensure completion
- Identify support team (SW, ILP, FP, School Counselor)
- Assist youth one-on-one if necessary (often for OOC youth)
**Learnings:**
The most effective outreach strategies/events. What worked, what didn’t work so well? Why?

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<th>San Diego</th>
<th>Tulare</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Last year self-reports</td>
<td>• Annual FY Education event</td>
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<tr>
<td>• This year self-report but verify in Web grants</td>
<td>• Several ILP workshop sessions</td>
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<td>• Some people did not respond to emails</td>
<td>• HS Counselor outreach and capacity-building</td>
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<td>• This year we have an earlier start: more time to do out reach</td>
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<td>• Road map, other tools, workshops</td>
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**Learnings:**
WebGrants and completion tracking.

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<td>• Excited to have WebGrants this year</td>
<td>• Helpful, but tedious (2-monitor setup recommended)</td>
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<td>• GPA Verification</td>
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<td>• Foster Focus Grad Tracker</td>
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Learnings:

Anything else...

San Diego

• Collaboration is key with ILS, EFC, CASA, Attorneys, other community partners like P2K

Tulare

• Collaboration is most important
• Recognize FAFSA is a conversation about their future
Contact Info

Mindy Kukich
San Diego County
mdittman@sdcoe.net
619-683-9340 X 33033

Jason Haley
Tulare County
Jason.Haley@tcoe.org
559-730-2910 X5145

Deborah Pruitt
John Burton Advocates for Youth
deborah@jbaforyouth.org
510-919-7770

Presentation materials and audio will be posted at
http://cacollegepathways.org/fyscp-resources
Discussion