

FOSTER YOUTH COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT PROJECT (FYCAP)

Nationally, 65% of all jobs will require postsecondary education by 2020, yet by age 26, just 8% of foster youth completed an associate or bachelor's degree as compared to 46% of their peers.



FYCAP is a collective impact initiative working to improve the rates of college enrollment, retention and degree completion among transition-aged foster youth in Los Angeles County in order to help them transition to sustainable careers and achieve self-sufficiency.

FYCAP leverages a **robust network of systems leaders and stakeholders** across child welfare, probation, K-12 education, the court system, community-based organizations, and higher education to **focus on five key strategies**:

Facilitating **cross-sector collaboration** and systems alignment.

Building **social worker knowledge** and capacity.



Instituting **targeted training and education** for caregivers.

Increasing **financial aid application completion rates**.

Promoting **college persistence**.

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE 2017



CAREGIVER TRAINING MANDATE

Partnered with the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to require caregivers who provide placement to youth between 12-19 to complete 3 hours of postsecondary educational training.



COLLEGE OUTCOMES TRACKING

Partnered with Los Angeles Unified School District, the largest district in California, and two other K-12 districts, to participate in the first-ever data sharing mechanism within Cal-PASS Plus to track longitudinal college outcomes for foster youth.



COLLEGE BOUND ANTELOPE VALLEY

Co-designed and launched a pilot with DCFS to increase college attainment among foster youth in the Antelope Valley through targeted training and on-going coaching of social workers.



FINANCIAL AID ATTAINMENT

Increased rate of FAFSA completion among foster youth high school seniors by 12 percentage points through development of a FAFSA tracking mechanism, countywide trainings, targeted technical assistance, local policy change, and the creation of foster-youth specific tools and materials.

For more information, contact Jessica Petrass, FYCAP Project Manager, at jessica@jbay.org

An initiative within the L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC), FYCAP is led by John Burton Advocates for Youth and UNITE-LA