BEYOND THE SAFETY NET
FINDINGS FROM A TWO-YEAR INITIATIVE TO TRANSFORM HOUSING PROVIDERS INTO COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAMS

July 17, 2019
INFORMATION TO PARTICIPATE

- Call-in information:
  Phone Number: (631) 992-3221
  Access Code: 328-639-162

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

- Presentation materials and audio will be sent to all registrants and posted at [www.jbaforyouth.org](http://www.jbaforyouth.org) under “Training Archive.”
TODAY’S AGENDA

- Why the Focus on Post-Secondary Education?
- Overview of Beyond the Safety Net
  - Areas of Notable Progress
  - Provider Experience: New Alternatives in San Diego
- Lessons Learned & Policy Implications
- Question & Answer – *don’t forget to submit your questions!*
TODAY’S PRESENTERS

Amy Lemley
Executive Director
John Burton Advocates for Youth

Carol Lockwood
Program Manager
New Alternatives, San Diego County

Simone Tureck Lee
Acting Director of Housing & Health
John Burton Advocates for Youth
WHY THE FOCUS ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?

Higher education levels =
- Lower unemployment rates
- Higher earnings
- Lower rates of incarceration
- Improved health outcomes
- Higher levels of civic participation including voting
- Greater likelihood of one’s children attending college
- Increased career satisfaction
The extension of foster care to age 21 presents a tremendous opportunity to impact the post-secondary educational outcomes of foster youth.

- The majority of non-minor dependents have a high school credential:
  - 71% by age 19
  - 84% by age 21

- The natural next step is post-secondary education—whether a traditional degree path or a career technical program.

- Foster youth indicate they want to go to college:
  - 85.5% indicate this aspiration at age 17
  - 96.3% indicate this aspiration at age 19
WHERE TO START? WITH FUNDED HOUSING PROVIDERS!

**THPP-NMD**

- 1,974 youth in THPP-NMD as of 4/1/19
- Monthly Rate: $3,474
- 68 providers

**THP-Plus**

- 1,946 youth served in FY 18
- Average monthly rate: $2,540
- 54 providers

**RYHA**

- Transitional Living Program
- $48 million federally
- 16 funded providers in CA
OVERVIEW OF BEYOND THE SAFETY NET
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide intensive, academic-focused <strong>case management/coaching</strong></th>
<th>Ensure youth are accessing tutoring and other <strong>academic support</strong> to meet their individual needs</th>
<th>Develop a <strong>college-going culture</strong> in your program</th>
<th>Enable youth to be students with as <strong>little work obligation</strong> as possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a close working relationship with all local <strong>campus support programs</strong></td>
<td>Ensure all youth complete the FAFSA and <strong>financial aid</strong> process from start to finish, and maintain their aid</td>
<td>Assist youth with avoiding unnecessary placement in <strong>remediation</strong> and accessing best options for addressing remediation needs</td>
<td>Collect <strong>data</strong> on PSE outcomes of your youth participants &amp; use that data to inform service provision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.jbaforyouth.org/core-practice-model-btsn/
WHAT DID THE BEYOND THE SAFETY NET INITIATIVE ENTAIL?

Cohort-based learning community:

- 6 web-based trainings to build knowledge & expertise
- 369 hours of individual & small-group technical assistance to support goals
- 3 in-person convenings to promote learning & peer sharing
- 6 practice tools tailored to meet the needs of programs serving current & former foster, probation & homeless youth
JBAY LAUNCHED THE BEYOND THE SAFETY NET INITIATIVE IN 2017

- Funded by The California Wellness Foundation
- Two-year initiative; preceded by a year-long pilot project
- 37 housing programs serving 1,796 youth across 18 counties

- 6
  - THPP-NMD, THP-Plus & homeless youth program(s)
- 14
  - THPP-NMD & THP-Plus
- 8
  - THPP-NMD only
- 5
  - THP-Plus only
- 4
  - Homeless youth program(s) only

- 11% Northern/Mountain Region
- 19% Bay Area & Coastal Region
- 8% Central Valley Region
- 59% Southern Region
Our hats off to these amazing programs committed to supporting young people in achieving their educational goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COHORT 1: 2016-2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspiranet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Wilson Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casa de Amparo</td>
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<td>Encompass Community Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Alternatives</td>
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<td>First Place for Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larkin Street Youth Services</td>
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<td>Mariposa County Human Services Agency</td>
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<td>Olive Crest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Side by Side</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Quest Transition Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Anne’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>TLC Child &amp; Family Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unity Care</td>
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<td>YMCA Youth &amp; Family Services</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>COHORT 2: 2017-2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspiranet</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.H.A.I.N. Reaction, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covenant House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David &amp; Margaret Youth &amp; Family Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Place for Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jovenes, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles LGBT Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lutheran Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Safehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego Youth Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bay Community Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Vista</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteers of America of No. CA &amp; No. NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walden Family Services</td>
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</table>
## AREAS OF NOTABLE PROGRESS: 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Area</th>
<th>Program Component or Practice</th>
<th>% Utilizing Sept. 2017</th>
<th>% Utilizing Sept. 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic-Focused Case Management</td>
<td>Case managers are well-versed on post-secondary education.</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case managers actively support participants with enrolling, completing matriculation, applying for &amp; receiving financial aid, &amp; accessing priority enrollment.</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case managers are familiar with the academic calendar &amp; with students’ individual calendars in order to help remind them about critical dates, support them during stressful times, &amp; assist them in balancing competing priorities.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Support</td>
<td>Program supports youth in accessing tutoring or other academic support.</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program develops opportunities for youth to learn the skills necessary to be a successful student, such as how to study, time management, note-taking, how to read a syllabus, etc.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program supports &amp; encourages students to reach out to professors early on in the semester to establish a relationship &amp; ask for assistance when needed.</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## AREAS OF NOTABLE PROGRESS: 2017-2018

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relationships with Campuses</td>
<td>Program has a strong working relationship with the foster youth and/or homeless youth contacts at all or most of the local campuses and regularly refers youth to them.</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracking Data on Post-Secondary Education</td>
<td>The program tracks post-secondary education outcomes of their participants.</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Area</td>
<td>Program Component or Practice</td>
<td>% Utilizing Sept. 2017</td>
<td>% Utilizing Sept. 2018</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>Program ensures all current and potential students are completing the FAFSA &amp; related financial aid forms by their priority deadlines.</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program ensures that students are following up &amp; submitting any additional documentation requested of them by their school to complete the financial aid process after they fill out the FAFSA.</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If a student accrues student debt, the program assists the student with negotiating payment arrangements immediately and brainstorming methods of repayment.</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Homeless youth providers only) Program ensures that for every year youth are in school, they are verifying their homeless youth status for financial aid.</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### AREAS OF NOTABLE PROGRESS: 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
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<th>% Utilizing Sept. 2017</th>
<th>% Utilizing Sept. 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College-Going Culture</td>
<td>The program holds college-themed events for youth.</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The program has college-themed program space or offices.</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## AREAS OF NOTABLE PROGRESS: 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>% Utilizing Sept. 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimizing Work Obligation</td>
<td>The program has a work requirement. *Of the 23% that still have work requirements, 43% are county-enforced, and 57% enforce the requirements independently.</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>23%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The program provides an adequate monthly stipend/allowance.</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The program builds in financial incentives that reinforce college enrollment, persistence and success or discounted rent for students.</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### AREAS OF NOTABLE PROGRESS: ENROLLMENT RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2017</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total # of Youth</strong></td>
<td>1,674</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1,796</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong># attending or completed PSE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>% attending or completed PSE</strong></td>
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HOW ONE PROVIDER CHANGED THEIR PROGRAM
NEW ALTERNATIVES, SAN DIEGO
NEW ALTERNATIVES, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

- Provides housing & services to current & former foster youth in Orange & San Diego Counties.
- All programs provide case management & other supportive services (i.e. home management, daily living skills, budgeting, employment, educational support.

THP-Plus
65 former foster / probation youth age 18-24

New Alternatives in San Diego has 3 transitional housing programs serving up to 145 youth

THPP-NMD
60 non-minor dependents (current foster / probation youth) age 18-21

TYH
20 former foster / probation youth ages 18-24 who don’t meet THP-Plus eligibility requirements
KEY FOCUS AREAS DURING BEYOND THE SAFETY NET

- Each staff assigned to a campus (12 main colleges & universities)
- FYSI Liaisons coming to staff meetings as guest speakers

Campus Connection

- Created a student checklist per semester with key information, deadlines & information to guide case management
- More touchpoints and engagement around post-secondary education

Academic-Focused Case Management

- More awareness about post-secondary education and financial aid
- Visual reminders
- Binder on each school in clubhouse

College-Going Culture
# Student Checklist

**Student:** 
**School:** 
**Semester:** 

**Start Date:** 
**End Date:** 
**Add/Drop Deadline:** 

## Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DAY/TIME</th>
<th># of UNITS</th>
<th>PROFESSOR</th>
<th>MIDTERM DATE</th>
<th>FINAL EXAM</th>
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</table>

## EOPS

**Contact Person:** 
**Phone:** 

**Email:** 

**Dates of 1:1 Meetings:** #1) #2) #3) 

**Received Book Voucher:** [ ] Yes [ ] No 
**Transportation Assistance:** [ ] Yes [ ] No 

## Financial Aid

**Semester Aid:** [ ] Pell Grant [ ] Cal Grant [ ] Chafee Grant [ ] Guardian/ACE Scholars 
**Other Scholarship/Grant:** 
**Total Amount of Semester Aid:** $

**Disbursement Dates:** 

## Items to Discuss

- [ ] Tutoring options 
- [ ] Homework and study practices 
- [ ] Office hours 
- [ ] Repayment of financial aid if student withdraws from school or drops to PT status. 
- [ ] Maintaining 2.0 GPA 
- [ ] Mid-session grades (obtain progress report) 

## Other Important Contacts

**Name:** 
**Position:** 
**Phone:** 

**Name:** 
**Position:** 
**Phone:** 

## Notes:
KEY OUTCOMES DURING BEYOND THE SAFETY NET

Youth feel more supported

Staff feel more supported

100% FAFSA completion rate

More youth maintaining 2.0 GPA or higher

Less youth losing financial aid

Agency culture shift
LESSONS LEARNED & POLICY IMPLICATIONS
THIS IS GREAT: BUT WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? HOW DO WE CHANGE THE WHOLE FIELD?

4 Findings

Rates
- THPP-NMD Rate
- THP-Plus Rates

Child welfare engagement
- SB 12 implementation

Continuum of Care engagement
- AB 801 implementation

Oversight and accountability
- THPP-NMD regulations
- AB 801 implementation
- AB 854 implementation
- FAFSA Challenge

8 Recommendations
Providers were enthusiastic about supporting youth with post-secondary education.

Participating providers chose to participate in this Initiative based on:

- Their **commitment to improving** educational outcomes of the youth they serve
- Their **understanding of the importance** of college access
- Their **need for resources** to assist their staff in supporting youth with post-secondary education
- Their **interest in contributing** to statewide learning and policy change

Participating providers were not monetarily compensated for their participation (i.e. no grant)
Post-secondary education services are being squeezed out by rising housing costs & higher service needs.

**REGIONAL HOUSING COSTS**

**Housing Cost**

- Cost of housing has increased 50% since 2011
- Providers privately fundraise to subsidize rates.
- Some providers offer lighter-touch services to grapple with the limited funding they have for staffing and other costs.

**HIGHER-NEEDSYOUTH**

**Higher Service Needs**

- Youth with higher needs or unique risk factors often require more support with post-secondary education.
- Without considering the true cost of serving higher-needs youth, all youth in the program are impacted.
How many counties have housing costs that exceed the housing portion of the THPP-NMD & THP-Plus rate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>THPP-NMD</strong></th>
<th><strong>THP-Plus</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Rates are standard statewide foster care rates.</td>
<td>• Rates vary across counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• THPP-NMD is uniquely a rental-based placement; regional variations in housing cost create vast inequity.</td>
<td>• Rates not always in line with local housing costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In 18 counties, the Fair Market Rent for ½ of a 2-bedroom apartment exceeds the housing portion* of the rate (based on FY19 THPP-NMD rates).</td>
<td>• Rates are not required to increase annually to account for inflation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Counties can look up their FMR here: <a href="https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html">https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html</a> and determine whether their (FMR) exceeds the housing portion (21.45%) of their current THP-Plus rate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*First issued in 2012, the THPP-NMD rate was developed based on a $600 housing portion, which was 21.45% of the rate at that time. This workgroup developed the rate based on existing THP-Plus rates and the portion devoted to housing, versus supportive services and admin. In 2018-19, the housing portion of the THPP-NMD rate is $715.57.*
In terms of youth with special needs, who requires a higher rate, and what is being paid for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certain conditions or risk factors result in higher-cost service needs:</th>
<th>Youth with significant mental / behavioral health challenges and/or substance abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth with developmental or learning disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victims / survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Custodial parents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of costs:</th>
<th>Special housing accommodations (i.e. 1 bedroom vs. shared living)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased emergency/on-call staffing hours</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emergency moves to ensure safety</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessive property damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Services relating to and for minor children of youth participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The California Department of Social Services should develop a new rate methodology for THPP-NMD that considers the higher cost of serving youth with special needs and the vast regional variations in housing costs.

**RECOMMENDATION**

AB 404 (Stone, 2017) requires CDSS to develop, implement, and maintain a rate-setting methodology and rate schedule for THP providers by 12/31/2019.

This is an opportunity to make the placement equitable for:

- Youth with higher-needs
- Youth from counties with high cost of housing

These youth should have access to supportive placements too…and an opportunity to be supported with post-secondary education.
Counties should set their THP-Plus rates according to local housing and service costs and provide annual increases.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- Look at your county’s Fair Market Rent:
  - [https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html)

- Determine whether your FMR exceeds 21.45% of your current rate

- Discuss service costs with your providers

- Set a new THP-Plus rate

- Consider an annual increase according to the CNI
  - i.e. for 2019-20 the CNI increase for foster care placements is 4.15%
Without involvement from county agencies, current and former foster & probation youth will not receive the necessary post-secondary education preparation and support.

- Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 12 (Beall, 2017) there was no state requirement for county child welfare agencies or juvenile probation departments to ensure foster or out-of-home probation youth are prepared for post-secondary education.

- Counties can either encourage or discourage support for post-secondary education on behalf of providers and caretakers.
County agencies should implement SB 12 and emphasize post-secondary education among providers.

- **SB 12 (Beall):** Effective January 1, 2018, for youth age 16 and older, social workers and probation officers must identify and list in the case plan an individual to help the youth complete applications for post-secondary education, including financial aid.

- **Emphasize post-secondary education among caregivers & providers:**
  
  - Include in contracts with providers & Needs and Services Plan.
  - Revise policies to eliminate policies that require work for students.
Post-secondary education is largely absent from the homelessness response system.

- Homeless youth providers reported lacking connection to campuses’ AB 801 Liaisons or other support services.
- This is a symptom of a systemic issue, and it goes both directions:

  Respondents to a survey of local homeless Continuums of Care indicated they have no formal engagement with their local campuses.

  82% of respondents to a survey of 81 college-level staff indicated housing is the need they are least able to provide students.
Homeless Continuums of Care (CoC) should use their role as community conveners to improve post-secondary education outcomes of homeless youth.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Engage local post-secondary education institutions, especially community colleges in the CoC.**

- Convene a working group to develop partnerships between homeless youth providers and campuses.
- Explore how Coordinated Entry System identifies, assesses and refers homeless students.

**Emphasize addressing post-secondary educational outcomes in local homeless planning processes.**

- Fund programs that provide post-secondary educational support to transition-age youth.
- Include measures of post-secondary education in reporting requirements for providers.
The state does not hold counties, local administrative entities or providers accountable for improving the post-secondary education outcomes of the youth they serve or administer funding to serve.

Although THPP-NMD & THP-Plus providers are required to provide post-secondary education support, regulations don’t adequately outline these services.

For homeless youth providers there is no state requirement.

There is no formal data collection on post-secondary educational outcomes of these populations.
The California Department of Social Services should include prescriptive language in the new THPP-NMD regulations that specify the type & intensity of post-secondary education support providers must offer youth participants.

RECOMMENDATION

Key components to include:

- Support with applying for and enrolling in post-secondary education
- Support with financial aid (applying, maintaining, appealing, etc.)
- Accessing tutoring and other academic support
- Planning for transportation and supplies
- Connecting with on-campus supports and resources
- Minimizing students’ work obligations

THPP-NMD regulations are in the process of being amended and re-issued.

Important opportunity for state prioritization of post-secondary educational outcomes.
The Homeless Coordinating & Financing Council should include post-secondary education in the statewide metrics being developed to measure goals related to youth homelessness.

### RECOMMENDATION

**Homeless Youth Act of 2018 (SB 918-Wiener)**

| Added new youth-related goals to the Homeless Coordinating & Financing Council (HCFC), the state entity charged with addressing homelessness | Requires the HCFC to set explicit goals related to youth homelessness | Requires HCFC to define outcome measures and gather data |

The California Department of Education should develop a mechanism for data sharing that allows full implementation of reporting requirements on foster youth transitioning to college.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- This data is not currently being reported on.
- CDE should work with the Cal-PASS Plus system to develop a mechanism that allows for data sharing for purposes of reporting aggregated statistics on the number of foster youth transitioning to college.

**Assembly Bill 854 (2015, Weber):**

Requires County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCPs) to provide educational outcome data to the Superintendent.
County Offices of Education should institutionalize the work they’ve done over the last two years through the California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge.

- Statewide campaign to increase the number of foster youth prepared for success as they matriculate from high school to college by ensuring foster youth are accessing financial aid.
- Led by county-based FYSCPs in collaboration with local partners.
- JBAY provides technical assistance, promotional materials and resources to participating counties to support them in increasing their FAFSA completion rate among high school seniors in foster care.
- Learn more here: https://www.jbaforyouth.org/fafsachallenge/

Data is tracked through Webgrants.
For more program-level lessons learned that informed the Initiative, refer to our 2017 report.

Beyond the Safety Net: Preliminary Findings from a Pilot Project to Transform Housing Providers into College Success Programs

Posted on JBAY website:
QUESTION & ANSWER

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