California College Pathways
Rapid Response Program
Today’s PowerPoint can be downloaded from the “handouts” section of your control panel.

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

Presentation materials and recording will also be posted at www.jbaforyouth.org.
Today’s Presenters

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Executive Director  
Together We Rise  

Mario Gonzalez  
Emergency Response Manager  
Together We Rise
Thank You

Donor Advised Fund aligned with the Reissa Foundation
Purpose of Partnership

To provide access to flexible resources to quickly address challenges presented by COVID-19 that threaten a foster youth’s ability to transition to and through college.

Housing, food, technology access, transportation, health care, and other emergency needs.
Program Partners

- JBAY
- Referring Agency
- TWR
Fund Structure

Step 1: Agency applies to become an authorized referrer

Step 2: Once approved, agency refers students to Together We Rise

Step 3: Together We Rise provides assistance to student
Eligible Recipients

- Current or former foster youth residing in California
  - No age cap
  - In care at any age
- Current college student or enrolled for summer or fall
  - No minimum unit requirement or academic standard
  - No requirement that the youth has previously participated in the foster youth campus support program
- The request addresses a challenge that, if not addressed, threatens to disrupt a foster youth’s post-secondary education
- Other public and private resources are not available to address the immediate need
- Must be referred by an approved agency
Eligible Referring Agencies

- College campus foster youth support program or non-profit organization that serves the eligible population
- Able to verify that students meet eligibility criteria
- Located in California
How to Become a Referring Agency

● Complete the form that will be sent following this webinar

● **ONLY ONE FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED PER AGENCY**

● Service provided in a first come first serve basis

● Must agree to:
  
  ✓ Verify eligibility for each referral
  ✓ Utilize all other options available for emergency support prior to making a referral
  ✓ Make referrals only for emergency needs

For questions about the referral process, email emergencyfund@jbay.org
together we rise
Helping children in foster care
Overview

1. Overview of Together We Rise (TWR)
2. Summary of TWR’s Emergency Response Initiative to COVID-19
3. Overview of Rapid Response Program
4. General Contact Information
Together We Rise is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a vision to improve the lives of children in foster care. TWR collaborates with individuals, companies, and community partners to bring resources to foster youth and use service-learning activities to educate volunteers on issues surrounding the foster care system.
Emergency Response to COVID-19

1. On March 16th, Together We Rise expanded its services to address the growing needs of college foster youth impacted by COVID-19.

2. TWR’s Emergency Response Initiative assessed the urgent needs of college students from all across the nation:
   a. Housing Needs
   b. Grocery Support
   c. Transportation & Relocation Assistance
   d. Utility & Personal Expenses
   e. Access to Technology
   f. General Resource Lists Per Region
Together We Rise - Rapid Response Program
Together We Rise - Rapid Response

- **Rapid Response Program** is TWR’s support initiative for California college foster youth.
- Together We Rise is committing to provide immediate services to youth in need within a 24-hour period after initial referral is submitted and assessed.
Together We Rise - Rapid Response

List of Services Offered

- Emergency Housing & Funding
- Grocery Support
- Utilities & Personal Expenses
- Travel & Relocation
- Healthcare & Mental Health Aid
- Technology for Educational Purposes
- General Educational Expenses
- General Resources
Together We Rise - Rapid Response

24-hour Rapid Response

Student in Need

Campus Staff Completes Referral

Confirmation Email

Campus staff

Student

TWR Receives Referral

Needs Assessment Survey

Phone Call To Verify Needs

TWR Direct Service Provided

TWR Staff Reviews Assessment

Service Offered
- Emergency Housing Aid
- Grocery Support
- Utilities & Personal Expenses
- Travel & Relocation Expenses
- Healthcare & Mental Health Costs
- Technology for Educational Purposes
- Educational Expenses
- General Resources
Step 1 - Student Eligibility

1. Referral agency must verify eligibility prior to making each referral
2. Student Eligibility Requirements
3. Agency Staff may only refer students to TWR as a last resort. All options must be exhausted first before referring student.
4. This fund is meant to address immediate emergency needs only
Referral Step-by-Step

Step 2 - Completing Referral Form

1. The Referral Form link will be emailed to each program upon approval by JBAY
2. Agency Staff will conduct a basic needs assessment for each student being referred (Urgent & Non-Urgent Needs)
3. Agency Staff will submit TWR Referral Form on students behalf.
   a. Students should not have access to referral form
The following information will be required to collect for each student campus staff refers:

- Full Name
- Email Address
- Valid Phone Number
- Student’s City & State
- College Enrollment Status
- Urgent Needs
- Non-Urgent Needs
- Knowledge of Services the Student has Accessed*
Step 3 - Confirmation Emails

1. Agency Staff will receive confirmation email notify them the submission was receive
2. Student will receive confirmation email with additional Needs Assessment Survey & with ability to schedule phone call w. TWR at students earliest convenience.
3. TWR Team will address the students needs and services will be rendered accordingly
4. Emails may go to spam folder, please have student clear out spam or provide a spam-free email
Direct Services Provided

- TWR will request to make direct payment for utilities, travel, housing, healthcare, & educational needs.
- A $60 grocery stipend will be scheduled on bi-weekly basis via Venmo or PayPal, upon student request.
- TWR will make an effort not to provide funds directly to student. TWR will not fund the following:
  1. Insurances
  2. Non-essential expense (entertainment, leisure, vice, gambling)
  3. Provide direct funding to the student in large amounts
  4. Personal loans included car payments, student debt, or cash loans
  5. Non-essential medical procedures, including medication
  6. Childcare, eldercare, or funding to anyone besides the student
General Resources Provided

1. State SNAP Programs (CalFresh)
2. Health Care & Medicaid Access including Mental Health
3. EDD Unemployment
4. State/Federal Income Taxes including Earn Income Tax Credit (EITC)
5. Financial Aid
6. Future State & Government COVID support programs
1. Week 1 - Needs Assessment & Direct Services
   a. 24-hour Response
   b. Additional Services will be delivered through the week
2. Week 2 - Student Follow Up & Demographic Survey
3. Week 3 - Longterm School Assessment
4. Week 4 - Finalize Long Term Strategy
   a. Schedule 3-month Follow Up With Youth
5. Week 15 - Three month follow-up
   a. Additional needs can be addressed
1. Campus/npo staff will be provided a report at the end of the month. Report will notify them of short-term services provided and longer-term services accessed by the student.
2. Campus/npo staff will be able to request additional information for each student.
3. Together We Rise & Agency collaboration is strongly encouraged to provide a comprehensive wraparound service for each student.
Post Services Follow Up with Campus Staff

For Campus staff-related questions

- Mario Gonzalez - Rapid Response Manager
- Email - MG@togetherwerise.org

For Student-related questions - Rapid Response Coordinators

- Alondra - AN@togetherwerise.org
- Melissa - MZ@togetherwerise.org

Text line at 714-887-6680

For general questions about Together We Rise - info@togetherwerise.org
Questions and Comments

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