

2006-07  
Foster Youth Services Grant Program Plan

Plumas County

Submitted by:  
Plumas County Office of Education

Prepared by:  
Plumas County Office of Education  
Foster Youth Services Liaison & Advisory Group

Due: December 1, 2006



Plumas County Office of Education  
50 Church Street – Quincy, CA 95971  
530-283-6500

## Guidelines

Date: 11 / 29 / 06 Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

County: Plumas Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior to the final disbursement of the 2006-07 Foster Youth Services (FYS) Program grant funds for the expansion of services, the California Department of Education (CDE) requests all FYS grant funded programs to submit a plan identifying how the FYS Program will meet the provisions of the California *Education Code (EC)* Section (§) 42921. The plan should include the following:

1. Identification of how the FYS Program will meet the provisions of *EC* § 42921(b) and (c) specific to a foster youth educational services coordinator.
2. Description and the methodology that the FYS Program will use to determine which foster youths will be served, pursuant to *EC* § 42921(b).
3. Description of the FYS Program's guiding principles underlying the establishment of a hierarchy of services to be provided to foster youths, pursuant to *EC* § 42921(d).

Plans should be developed in collaboration with your FYS Program's local advisory group as suggested in *EC* § 42921(b)(2). Advisory groups typically include representation from agencies and organizations that have responsibility to represent the diverse needs of foster youths including foster parents, county welfare and social services departments, county mental health, county probation, county health departments, local educational agencies, and community representatives. Plans should be submitted by **December 1, 2006** to:

Foster Youth Services Program  
Counseling, Student Support, and Service-Learning Office  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street, Suite 6408  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

## SECTION 1

### Foster Youth Education Services Coordinator

*EC* § 42921(b) requires that each foster youth services program have at least one person identified as the foster youth educational services coordinator, if sufficient funds are available.

#### **Describe how your FYS Program will meet the requirement for a foster youth educational services coordinator.**

Under the direction of the Plumas County Office of Education (PCOE), a new Foster Youth Educational Services Liaison was appointed on October 30, 2006. This position is currently scheduled to provide services ten months per year at the rate of four hours per day. The individual serving in this position also serves as the Homeless Liaison under the direction of Plumas Unified School District. This partnership of duties allows foster children a greater level of protection as programs are able to combine resources that allow for expanded direct services. It is the duty of the Foster Youth Educational Services Liaison to meet all of the responsibilities as outlined in Section 42921 as amended in the California Education Code.

#### **Describe the responsibilities of the foster youth educational services coordinator for your FYS Program.**

In accordance with *EC* § 42921(c), the responsibilities of the Foster Youth Educational Services Liaison for Plumas County shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Working with the child welfare agency to minimize changes in school placement.
- (2) Facilitating the prompt transfer of educational records, including the health and education passport, between educational institutions when placement changes are necessary.
- (3) Providing education-related information to the child welfare agency to assist the child welfare agency to deliver services to foster children, including, but not limited to, educational status and progress information required for inclusion in court reports by Section 16010 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (4) Responding to requests from the juvenile court for information and working with the court to ensure the delivery or coordination of necessary educational services.
- (5) Working to obtain and identify, and link children to, mentoring, tutoring, vocational training, and other services designed to enhance the educational prospects of foster children.

- (6) Facilitating communication between the foster care provider, the teacher, and any other school staff or education service providers for the child.
- (7) Sharing information with the foster care provider regarding available training programs that address education issues for children in foster care.
- (8) Referring caregivers of foster youth who have special education needs to special education programs and services.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Description and Methodology for Determining Foster Youth Population to be Served**

*EC § 42921(b)* indicates that FYS Programs may prescribe the methodology for determining which children may be served and identifies potential methodologies as serving specific age groups, serving children in specific geographic areas with the highest concentration of foster children, or serving the children with the greatest academic need. It also specifies the intent of the Legislature that children with the greatest need for services be identified as the first priority for foster youth services.

#### **Introduction to County's Foster Youth Population**

Plumas County is a rural, frontier county covering 2,600 square-miles in the northeastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. There are 20,842 residents living in four small communities, at least 30 miles apart. The county population is 90% white, 6% Latino and 3% Native American. The per capita income of \$19,391 is 75% of the state's average of \$26,368. Approximately 13.1% of the county and 16.9% of its children live in poverty. Unemployment averages 10.6% (ranging as high as 17% during winter) compared to 6.2% for the state. The Plumas Unified School District 2004 Poverty Report indicates 41.89% of the local children access the free or reduced lunch program.

There are a limited number of licensed foster family agency homes and no group homes in Plumas County. As a result, local residents who require foster care are often placed in out-of-county placements, especially those requiring high levels of care. Many times, court dependent children are placed in kinship care relationships in an attempt to keep children local within their normal setting, allowing for greater availability for reunification efforts. Unfortunately, extended families are often unprepared for the challenges of minors in their homes which may lead to discipline problems, poor performance in school, truancy and delinquency. The alternative at that point is that youth are placed in out-of-county settings offering higher levels of supervision or remanded to boot camps in nearby Shasta and Colusa counties.

While the development of the Foster Youth Educational Services Program has assisted in creating a greater level of communication and coordination between

foster youth-serving partners, there is still much work to be done. The development of the new Foster Youth Advisory Board has prompted program ideas that will serve as a systems change in how children entering the foster care system are identified and offered immediate services. PCOE anticipates that these changes will fully develop over the next six months, creating a greater presence for the County Office of Education to offer support and opportunities for positive change as foster youth transition the system to independence and adulthood.

### **Data on Foster Youth in Care and Placement Type**

Most children in Plumas County are removed from their homes due to neglect. According to the Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, as of January 1, 2006, Children in Child Welfare Supervised Foster Care in Plumas County received the following placements:

<b>Pre-Adopt</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Kinship Care</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Foster Family Agency</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Transitional Housing</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>39</b>

The only group home in Plumas County closed in March of 2006. According to the Plumas County Probation Department statistics spanning the past five years, the average number of minors placed in foster care is approximately fifteen per year. Due to the high cost of foster care placements, the use of electronic monitoring, house arrest and monitored curfew are some of the tools utilized to limit local and out-of-county placements. During the 2005/2006 school year, the Foster Youth Educational Services Program of PCOE provided educational services to over 90 foster youth through various levels of support and case management services. PCOE believes that this number will significantly expand during the 2006/2007 school year as a result of the newly appointed liaison, enhanced outreach activities and the expansion of program services inclusive of early identification of foster youth in the system.

### **Involvement of Local Advisory Group/Consortium**

The Foster Youth Advisory Board will be meeting on a monthly basis to assist the Foster Youth Educational Services Liaison in identifying educational service gaps and designing and developing new protocol and communication techniques for foster-youth serving partners. Membership of the existing Board will be expanded to include representation in all areas of youth services.

### **Determination of the Foster Youth Population to be Served**

As a small rural community, PCOE has the opportunity to offer services to all foster youth county-wide. Cases will be triaged for priority services based on the

academic, social and placement risks of the student which have been identified through the services of the Foster Youth Educational Services Liaison in partnership with the Advisory Board and local collaborative partners. Priority issues will include foster youth who are:

- Not on track for graduation or at-risk of academic failure
- Participating in the Independent Living Skills Program
- Referred by Plumas County CPS or Probation Departments

Through a team approach, foster youth will be ensured the same opportunities as those provided to other students to meet the academic achievement standards to which all students are held; that stable school placements are maintained; that foster youth are placed in the least restrictive education placement; and that foster youth have access to the same academic resources, services and extracurricular and enrichment activities as all other students. Education and school placement decisions will be dictated by the best interest of the child.

### **SECTION 3**

#### **Guiding Principles for Establishment of a Hierarchy of Services**

*EC § 42921(d)* requires each foster youth services program to include guiding principles that establish a hierarchy of services, in accordance with the following order:

- (1) Provide, or arrange for the referral to, tutoring services for foster youth.
- (2) Provide, or arrange for the referral to, services that meet local needs identified through collaborative relationships and local advisory groups, which may include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:
  - (A) Mentoring.
  - (B) Counseling.
  - (C) Transitioning services.
  - (D) Emancipation services.
- (3) Facilitation of timely individualized education programs, in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.), and of all special education services.
- (4) Establishing collaborative relationships and local advisory groups.
- (5) Establishing a mechanism for the efficient and expeditious transfer of health and education records and the health and education passport.

#### **FYS Advisory Group Composition**

The Foster Youth Services Program initially utilized the Local Advisory Group Collaborative as its advisory group. This collaborative included the Plumas County Office of Education (PCOE) Student Services Director, Mental Health Director, Chief Probation Officer, Social Services Director, Family Empowerment

Director and the Mental Health Clients Rights Advocate. Meetings were held on a bi-monthly basis. This group now meets quarterly. With the installation of a new Foster Youth Services Program Liaison and the proposed expansion of county-wide services to foster youth, a new Advisory Board has been convened which will meet on a monthly basis to assist in guiding the program as it expands its services.

The Foster Youth Services Advisory Board is comprised of representatives from the County Office of Education and Plumas Unified School District that serve children residing in foster care as well as representatives of the SELPA, Plumas County Children’s Protective Services, Plumas County Probation, Plumas County Mental Health, Family Empowerment Center and Foster Family Agencies. Additional members will be added over the next few months as the new board becomes fully established.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
Carla Crawford	Plumas County Children’s Protective Services	Director
John Sebold	Plumas County Mental Health Services	Director
Tori Willits	Plumas County Office of Education – SELPA	Director
Michael Chelotti	Plumas County Superintendent of Schools	Superintendent
Cathy Rahmeyer	Plumas County Office of Education – Foster & Homeless Youth Services Liaison	Liaison
Linda Wymore	Plumas Rural Services – Family Empowerment Center	Director
Mary Berry	Mountain Circle Foster Youth Agency	Social Worker
Angela Everson	Environmental Alternatives Residential Care for Children	Social Worker
Sharon Reinert	Plumas County Probation Department	Probation Officer

**Description of Local Need**

Current needs for foster youth in Plumas County are centered on several priority areas: increasing collaboration between foster-youth serving organizations to include greater communication and a system of sharing of information among agencies; increased case management services through the Foster Youth Educational Services Liaison; development of a consistent protocol to immediately assess the needs of foster youth upon their placement in school through Student Study Teams; access to and development of a pool of tutoring services to provide independent one-on-one and group educational services; access to afterschool and other enrichment opportunities; increased support of transition and emancipation services for youth aging out of the foster care system; and a dedication to seeking additional funding sources to meet program gaps through district grants and support of community partners as identified.

## **Principles/Methods Used to Determine Local Need and Priority for Services**

Local need and priority for services were determined through Foster Youth Advisory Board input, meetings with local collaborative partners and a review of last year's program services and stated future goals.

## **Services to be Delivered**

The Plumas County Office of Education Foster Youth Educational Services Program will dedicate its program resources for the 2006/2007 year to the following services:

1. Mentoring/Academic Tutoring – To meet the academic needs of foster youth, PCOE will establish contracts/agreements/memoranda of understanding covering a variety of tutoring options that include agencies, credentialed teachers, volunteers and teachers in training at the local community college.
2. Foster Youth Services Advisory Board – Will be further developed and expanded to include representation from all foster-youth services agencies, including foster parent representation.
3. Collaborative Agreements – To increase the development of collaborative partnerships, interagency agreements and memoranda of understanding to address the educational support needs of foster youth while expanding and sharing information and avoiding duplication of duties and resources.
4. Data Collection – To serve as the keeper of a centralized data collection system regarding Plumas County foster youth placement, educational services, case management and supportive services information.
5. Educational Advocacy – To devote a substantial amount of time to educational advocacy and case management services on behalf of foster youth, including assisting in the transfer of health and education records and passports and timely individual education program assessments.
6. Transition & Emancipation Services – To assist and support community partners in providing quality services to support foster youth in a successful transition to independent living.
7. Expanded Services – To increase the number of foster youth served and the number of services offered through the Foster Youth Educational Services Program as a result of increased program awareness through marketing, outreach and partnership activities. These expanded services will support foster youth in experiencing a sense of school “connectedness” in completing their education and making a smooth transition to adult life.
8. Funding Sources – To seek increased utilization of supplementary funding sources such as Title 1 Neglected or Delinquent Funds and other grant resources to meet the tutoring, case management, workforce/career development needs and other services as identified for the provision of countywide services to foster youth.

<b>Budget Information</b>		<b>Program name</b>
<b>Foster Youth Educational Services</b>		
<b>Michael Chelotti – Cathy Rahmeyer</b>		<b>Program managers</b>
<b>Class/program type:</b>		<b>31,555.00</b>
<u>  X  </u> Foster Youth Grant 06/07		self-fill with the proper amounts
<b>Object</b>	<b>Description</b>	
1100	Teachers Salaries	_____
1130	Teachers - Extra Duty	_____
1140	Teachers - Substitute	_____
	<b>TOTAL CERTIFICATED</b>	_____
2100	Instructional Aides Salaries	_____
2130	Instructional Aides - Extra Duty	_____
2140	Instructional Aides - Substitute	_____
2400	Clerical and Office Salaries	13,745.00
2430	Clerical and Office - Extra Duty	_____
2440	Clerical and Office - Subs	_____
2900	Other Classified Salaries	_____
	<b>TOTAL CLASSIFIED</b>	<b>13,745.00</b>
3100	Certificated benefits (12.10%)	_____
3200	Classified benefits (16.87%)	2,318.78
3400	Health Insurance (\$9530 per FTE)	5,082.67
	<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>7,401.45</b>
4100	Textbooks - Adopted	_____
4200	Books/Reference Materials	750.00
4300	Materials and Supplies	524.55
4400	Non Capitalized Equipment (\$500 - \$5000)	275.00
	<b>TOTAL SUPPLIES</b>	_____
5200	Mileage	2,592.00
5300	Dues and Memberships	_____
5500	Operations and Housekeeping	_____
5600	Rentals/Leases/Repairs	_____
5800	Professional/Consulting	5,725.00
5900	Communications (Postage, telephone)	717.00
	Staff Development / Conference	950.00
	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	_____
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>32,680.00</b>
	<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>50,680.00</b>

## **SECTION 4**

### **FYS Local Advisory Group Attachments**

Attached are the following documents:

1. FYS Advisory Group Agenda
2. FYS Advisory Group Communication
3. FYS Advisory Group Sign In Sheet