

# Foster Youth Success Initiative

Education, advocacy and equality for disadvantaged youth through systemic change

## BACKGROUND

The Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) is presently an unfounded program that, with financial support, has the potential to positively impact thousands of foster youths' lives and change the way resources are deployed.

What began as the development of a manual that the California Community Colleges System Office hired Tracy L. Fried & Associates to create has spontaneously grown into a statewide, and perhaps nationwide, collaboration attracting the attention and passion of dozens of organizations. This training manual was initially conceived as a guide for financial aid administrators to:

- Understand the unique challenges and barriers faced by foster youth
- Define who is a "ward/dependent of the court" for the purposes of federal aid
- Develop a referral network of available on/off campus support services, resources and programs
- Establish a statewide network of FYSI liaisons representing financial aid offices in the California Community College System Office
- Design and facilitate a three-day training for FYSI liaisons

## GOALS

FYSI wants to improve current and former foster youths':

- Academic performance
- Access to student services, resources and academic support
- Enrollment; retention; completion of attempted units, programs and degrees

## KEY COMPONENT

FYSI would benefit greatly from corporate or foundation sponsorships. Such support would allow the program to maintain and expand key components:

- Developing the FYSI manual: A Guide for Financial Aid Administrators

- Establishing a statewide network of community college financial aid FYSI liaisons
- Identifying key partners (on campus and off), bringing them to the table, building the program infrastructure, and increasing program capacity
- FYSI training
- Creating a statewide listserv tool for liaisons to share ideas, ask questions and provide mutual support

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