



# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM



Each year, approximately 4,000 foster youth in California turn 18 age-out of foster care. Studies show that once a young person ages out of the system they do not have the same resources and opportunities to transition successfully into adulthood.

To better prepare foster youth for the transition into independence, Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success –Independent Living Program (YESS–ILP) was developed by the Foundation for California Community Colleges in partnership with the California Department of Social Services.

YESS-ILP continues to be a crucial resource and safe space for the transition age foster youth throughout California.

## Local Connections

YESS–ILP strategically brings together High Schools, Community Colleges, Local County Social Services Offices, and Community Organizations that are invested

in improving outcomes for transition age foster youth.

## Personalized Service

There is no one size fits all when it comes to supporting current/former foster youth. Each young person impacted by the foster care system has a unique experience and support needs vary by each participant.

YESS-ILP was developed with that understanding in mind. This program offers educational workshops and hands-on life skills training activities intentionally crafted to meet the needs of the participants in the counties where YESS-ILP is hosted.

Through our program students have the support and resources necessary to make educated decisions about important life events like: educational opportunity, living independently, employment and so much more.

## The Empowerment Message

YESS–ILP is designed to communicate a positive message that says: “YESS, together we can empower current and former foster youth to make educated decisions, access support and resources needed to be successful in post secondary education, build community, and transition into independence successfully.”

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## Highlights

- YESS–ILP is offered on 18 college campuses throughout the state.

### Each year on average

- 2,000+ foster youth are served
- 1,000+ hours of hands on training is provided to participants
- 6,000+ hours of one-on-one support is provided to participants

## Partner Organizations

- California College Pathways
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Foster and Kinship Care Education
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Foster Youth Success Initiative
- California Department of Social Services

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state support.

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