IACA Homeless & Foster Youth Subcommittee 2023 Legislative Report

Executive Summary

Introduction

History/Background to AB 565

The Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (IACA) within the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) was created to provide guidance and advise to the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards on apprenticeship programs and standards with the strategic aim to develop a skilled workforce and viable career pathways for the State of California for occupations that are not within the jurisdiction of the California Apprenticeship Council.

The Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship is comprised of 12 members representing various State Departments, Labor Unions, Employers, and members of the public. In addition, there are several subcommittees that serve and inform IACA. Three of these subcommittees are centered around job sectors which are Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology, and Healthcare subcommittees. The other subcommittees are centered around populations and include the Public Sector, People with Disabilities, and Equal Employment Opportunity Subcommittees and Homeless and Foster Youth.

Assembly Bill 565 (2022), which was chaptered into Labor Code on September 22, 2021, required the IACA to include the California Department of Social Services in the 12-member committee and to create the Homeless & Foster Youth Subcommittee.   The original members of the IACA Homeless & Foster Youth Subcommittee were appointed by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards Chief and represent various members of the apprenticeship community.

The Homeless & Foster Youth subcommittee first convened on October 24, 2022, to study and report on issues related to the participation of homeless youth and foster youth in apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships. The mission of the subcommittee is to develop an inclusive and equitable plan to ensure foster and homeless youth have the opportunity to engage in pre-apprenticeship and apprentice pathways that will help them attain economic self-sufficiency and be poised for upward mobility.

In alignment with the original legislative bill, the Subcommittee's Five goals are:

1. Collect and organize publicly available or agency member data on the number of homeless youth and foster youth served by California's apprenticeship system.
2. Evaluate the success rate of apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships among homeless youth and foster youth.
3. Identify existing challenges related to identifying, reaching, and recruiting homeless youth and foster youth.
4. Prepare recommendations on how to address the challenges identified, which may include considerations relative to the need for additional services or specialized training programs

which may include underserved population such as Foster, Homeless, Justice-involved, Refugee/Immigrant youth populations.

5. Form a Community of Practice that provides an ongoing platform for engagement of stakeholders in continuous improvement.

This subcommittee also supports the advancement of apprenticeships in California through the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) 2022 Five-point Plan, specifically supporting youth apprenticeships for in-school and out-of-school youth. Developing a clear framework supporting youth apprenticeships will provide a new way to cultivate a skilled, diverse, and young workforce that can compete as the technology and economy changes in California.

Our subcommittee is currently comprised of XX members who represent various sectors of the apprenticeship eco-system. We strive to maintain a balanced team of individuals who are committed to ensuring the success of Homeless & Foster Youth through their apprenticeships. We value everyone's unique experiences and knowledge to build a diverse cadre of subcommittee members with the goal of developing a more equitable approach to youth apprenticeships. The following is a list of the IACA Homeless and Foster Youth Subcommittee members who participated and contributed in the development of this report:

Sarah Holtzclaw, October 2022 – June 2023
Director of Apprenticeship Programs, Chabot-Las Positas Community College

Jen Jayme, October 2022 - Present
Senior Director of Institutional Development, NPower California

Dr. Amos Nugent, October 2022 - Present
Director of Adult & Career Education, Pleasanton Unified School District

Rosalinda Rivas, October 2022 - Present
Apprenticeship Director, Moreno Valley College

Jevon Wilkes, October 2022 - Present
Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth

Syd Steward, June 2023 - Present
Executive Director, Better Youth, Inc.

Apprenticeship Data

Who are our Foster Youth in California?

In California, a foster youth are defined as a child or youth who is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare & Institutions Codes (WIC) Section 300 and is declared to be a dependent of the Court due to risk of abuse or neglect. It also includes a child or youth who is the subject of a petition filed under WIC Section 602 and declared the child to be a ward of the court and removed from the home pursuant to WIC Section 727 and placed in foster care as defined by WIC Section 727.4 (d).

Throughout the State, California's county administered, state-supervised child welfare system, Independent Living Programs provide services to help youth transition to independence. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) addresses youth needs by providing services in the core areas of education, career development, health and safety, daily living skills, financial resources, and housing. Additionally, the CDSS establishes regulations, policies, and procedures to assist the development of these programs within the counties and provide technical assistance to counties in the provision of the care ILP services.

Assessment and Tools:

The Independent Living Programs mainly use the Casey Life Skills Assessment or the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills Assessment to determine a young adult's current functioning level. The Casey Life Skills Assessment and the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills Assessment allow for a better understanding of a young adult's strengths and needs, which are useful for the development, utilization, and completion of transition plans, such as the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). The TILP is based on an assessment of the youth's current functioning, and describes the emancipation preparation services that have been, and will be, provided to the youth, to assist in the transition from foster care to independent living. Caseworkers ensure that dependent children who emancipate have been given the necessary and appropriate educational, medical, and psychosocial foundations to enable them to maximize their capacities to become healthy, productive adults, when developing the TILP. The TILP is to be developed for an Independent Living Program (ILP) eligible youth, by the county social worker/probation officer, and includes the active participation of the youth and other supporting adults. Collaboration among the youth, the social worker/probation officer, caregivers, and/or other dedicated adults is key in developing the TILP.

Determining Eligibility of Benefits and Services:

The California Fostering Connections to Success Act was signed into law September 30, 2010, through AB 12 and became effective January 1, 2012. The bill and subsequent legislation allowed foster care for eligible youth to extend beyond age 18 up to age 21, known as Extended Foster Care (EFC). Under this program, youth must be subject to a foster care placement order on their 18th birthday, placing them under the care, custody and control of a county child welfare agency, probation department or tribal agency. The youth must meet one of the following criteria after reaching age 18:

- Working toward completion of high school or equivalent program (e.g. GED); or
- Enrolled in college, community college or a vocational education program; or
- Employed at least 80 hours a month; or
- Participating in a program designed to assist in gaining employment; or
- Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a documented medical condition.

Youth are eligible for the Independent Living Program (ILP) on their 16th birthday and can attend the classes and events while they are in foster care. The CDSS posts a contact list of each county ILP coordinator that is available to the public on the Transitioned Aged Youth (TAY)

website. To ensure all eligible youth have access to services, counties continue to collaborate with each other by assuring youth placed outside of their county or jurisdiction continue to receive services in their county of residence. For cases where a youth moves out of state, counties also coordinate service delivery with staff from other states. Additionally, counties are also working towards ensuring youth who are ILP eligible, and are no longer in care, are aware of their eligibility for services

Financial & Other Supportive Services:

Youths who exit foster care between the age of 18 and up to the day before their 21st birthday can remain in foster care. Those youth who exit foster care are offered financial, housing, counseling, employment, and education services from the ILP and various community and state agencies. Former foster youth are often eligible for CalFresh (food stamps). In addition to public assistance, current and former foster youth were able to receive prepaid Chafee Cash Cards

Transitional Housing and SILP:

California offers two transitional housing programs for youth ages 18 and older; THP-NMD (Transitional Housing Placement - Non-Minor Dependents) and the THP-Plus, as well as a Transitional Independent Living Setting referenced earlier in this report(TLS). To begin with, the THP-NMD program, established in 2012, is a housing option offered to Non-Minor Dependents participating in EFC. The licensed program provides various housing options whereby the youth live independently while receiving supportive services by a county contracted housing provider. All counties are required to offer the THP-NMD as a housing option within the EFC program, which includes various housing options that are meant to meet the needs of the youth at their developmental and self-sufficiency level. These housing options include host families where youth live with a caring adult or permanent connection, a single site where youth live in an apartment or a single-family home or apartment rented or leased by the housing provider, or a remote site where youth usually reside in an apartment complex or dwelling rented or leased by a provider but retains less supervision than the single site model.

The majority of California counties have a THP-NMD, with numerous providers operating in different modular capacities. Although THP-NMD provides added support for NMDs, the various housing models within this placement allow youth to begin testing the independent living skills they have learned. For example, most of the youth placed within a THP-NMD reside in a remote site where they live in an apartment owned or leased by a provider. This means youth can begin to utilize the tools they have gained through ILP regarding the ways in which they may successfully live on their own. The remaining youth who are not ready for the increased independence may elect to get support from either a residency within a single site, or a host family. Essentially, the CDSS has ensured that THP-NMD placements support the youth at their various stages of development.

The THP-Plus is a transitional housing placement opportunity for former foster youth that exited care on or after their 18th birthday. Recent legislation amended this California based program allowing all THP-Plus participants the opportunity to participate in this program for 36 months or until age 25, whichever comes first. The goal of the program is to provide a

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safe living environment while helping youth achieve self-sufficiency so they can learn life skills upon leaving the foster care support system.

In addition to the THP-NMD program, NMDs participating in EFC also have the option of living in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) or if necessary, utilize a temporary Transitional Independent Living Setting (TLS). The SILP is the most independent placement offered to youth participating in EFC, who are assessed as ready for the added responsibility. The SILP can take a variety of forms ranging but not limited to renting an apartment/room with a relative or bio-parent, college dormitories, living in an apartment on their own, among other options. For those youth that are re-entering the EFC program or are in between placements and are in need of a temporary living arrangement, counties now have the flexibility of providing those youth a TLS, which can take a variety of forms whether it's a short term stay in a hotel or are living with a friend, etc. The benefit of this option is that it provides NMDs housing security, while also preventing the disruption of their participation in the EFC program. As a result, the TLS option operates as a preventative measure to prevent homelessness.

While there continues to be approximately 30 THPP providers in over 20 counties within CA, the THPP program ceased to be a federally approved transitional housing placement on October 1, 2021. The programs that are still in existence have shifted to supporting youth between the ages of 16-18 who have been identified as part of the pregnant and parenting and/or CSEC communities.

Supporting Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act:
Through resources generated from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, California was able help over 16,000 current and former foster youth with financial assistance to cover their financial expenses.

CDSS ~~to~~ expanded services to meet the need for young adults who struggled to maintain employment as a result of COVID-19 complications.   The CDSS announced the release, guidance, and instruction for current or former foster youth ages 18 through 26, to receive prepaid cards which provided critical financial support during the pandemic . Additionally, young adults turning 21 years of age during the 2022 calendar year were provided with additional funding to help them support their transition into independence needs.

The CDSS offered grant funding to assist counties with supportive services to help their Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher programs. Four counties, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Alameda and Stanislaus, ~~counties~~ received these funds and are currently in the process of using these funds to build their housing programs to help transition youth out of foster care.

The CDSS partnered with the California Student Aid Commission, the agency who awards the Chafee Education and Training Vouchers to provide additional ETV awards to youth on the waiting list. There were appropriately 900 youth on this waiting list and these additional funds were instrumental towards securing payments to all individuals who applied and met eligibility.

Educational Supports and Engagement:

The Independent Living Program provides services and support to assist youth in the realm of education and career development. In the realm of career and job guidance, young adults within all age groups continue to participate in services that assist in areas of career exploration and planning, linking skills, interests, and abilities to employment/vocational goals, job placement and support, and job coaching and support in the workplace. In FFY 2022, approximately 2,772 child welfare and probation youth participated in career job guidance. In FFY 2022, there were approximately 3,136 child welfare and probation youth that received employment/vocational training.

Chafee & Education and Training Vouchers Program

The Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides resources specifically to meet the educational and training needs of eligible current or former foster youth. The Chafee ETV program offers up to $5,000 per year for post-secondary education and training to assist youth with skill development needed to lead independent and productive lives. California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is the state agency responsible for administering financial aid programs for students attending public and private universities, colleges, and vocational schools in California such as the Chafee ETV. In addition, CSAC administers additional programs including the Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship, California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program, Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant Program, and the John R. Justice Program, for which transition age youth may be eligible.

YESS-ILP Services

Through a contractual partnership with the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC), the CDSS continues to offer Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success—Independent Living Program (YESS–ILP) across 18 different Community Colleges, spread across the state. The YESS-ILP is a comprehensive program that unites community partners and academic leaders to empower current and former foster youth to successfully transition into independent living. Each county in California has an Independent Living Program for transition age foster youth and YESS-ILP builds on this model by hosting an expanded program that provides holistic support to foster youth in postsecondary education. The YESS-ILP opened a new program at a community college in Los Angeles County which is where the largest number of California's current and former foster youth population are located.

Preparation for Postsecondary Training and Education:

ILP coordinators, social workers and probation officers encourage foster youth to apply for scholarships and grants through the local college financial aid offices and educational scholarships offered by the ILP. The ILP also provides training to youth on applying for college and financial aid and are referred to college and university programs that specialize in assisting this population.

There are several barriers to improving educational outcomes for California's foster youth. These obstacles may include inadequate academic preparation for college, a lack of information about the matriculation process, insufficient access to financial aid and housing, and not enough support to help foster youth stay in college.

To assist youth in overcoming these barriers there are several academic support programs available throughout the state. The Guardian Scholars, offered in some counties, is a comprehensive program that provides a scholarship equivalent to the full cost of attendance and additional supportive services. Under the direction of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, ~~T~~the Board of Governors Fee Waiver omits the cost of enrollment fees for current and former foster youth attending community colleges.

As a part of the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI), foster youth attending public colleges and universities are entitled to priority registration, and all community college campuses have a designated Foster Youth Liaison. These liaisons assist foster youth in accessing financial aid, scholarships, student services and resources. Other foster youth programs and services that foster youth may avail includes the Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES), also known as the NextUp Program, which is available at 115 California Community College campuses and provides services including service coordination, counseling, tutoring, career guidance, childcare and transportation assistance, and grants to assist with the cost of books, housing and other non-tuition costs.

Permanent Connections, Mentorships, & Youth Engagement:

The CDSS recognizes the significance of permanent connections, as one of the key elements influencing positive outcomes for youth. During the last FFY, counties have reported that they are working towards employing more former foster youth to help mentor those still in care and be available during classes or workshops. Several counties also report having increased their youth-led workshops to help increase mentorship opportunities. Some counties have even created drop-in centers and have also discussed providing mentoring services to help promote mentorship among foster youth. Counties also reported using family finding to help their older youth identify natural supports that could become significant permanent connections.

The CDSS has engaged and solicited involvement from foster youth to expand "Youth Voice" through the partnership with state staff to identify strengths and barriers for youth engagement and provide feedback on policies and initiatives requiring youth input. Efforts of Youth Voice inclusion and engagement includes but are not limited to: the Youth Engagement Project (YEP) and the California Youth Connection (CYC).

The Youth Engagement Project (YEP) consists of current and former foster youth or ambassadors from over nine partnering Child Welfare Agencies and Probation Departments who enhance relationships between the foster youth and adult partnerships, through assistance from staff/management from the County, State and the CYC Program. Ambassadors work with local counties to identify local projects aimed at engaging foster youth and improving service delivery. Ambassadors also provide outreach and recruitment for ILP services by informing ILP eligible youth, ILP youth who actively participate, and their families/caregivers about the ILP program. The CDSS continues its partnerships with YEP and has expanded YEP recruitment efforts throughout the state.

YEP provides funding and support to counties to engage current or former foster youth on local projects designed to strengthen child welfare systems. These youth are called, YEP Ambassadors, and they originate from counties located in the North, South, and Central areas

attend. YEP hosts an annual statewide convening which exposes the Ambassadors to multiple different units within the CDSS and are provided an educational learning experience encompassing Child and Family Team Meetings, mock scenarios that include the development of a TILP.

CDSS contracts (utilizing funding from the federal Chafee allocation) with is the California Youth Connection (CYC). The CYC is a foster youth advocacy organization that works to promote positive change in child welfare practices by way of, a youth led organization that develops leaders who empower each other and their communities to transform the foster care system through legislative, policy, and practice change. Meetings are held with CYC on a quarterly basis and as needed. CYC is involved with several projects where the goal is to improve the ILP, including the participating in CFT/CANS implementation workgroups, participation in regional convenings, providing feedback on the fidelity assessment tools, the Foster Youth Education Summit, and the Chafee Cash Card Program.

Engagement with Indian Youth:

Over the next year, The CDSS will strengthen tribal partnerships by collaborating with tribal representatives to increase outreach and provide guidance for Chafee ILP and ETV programs, provide technical assistance to counties to ensure tribal youth are receiving culturally appropriate ILP services, and improve Transition Age Youth (TAY) data collection and reporting for Tribes.

Counties also reported working with Tribal Health and Wellness Centers to develop supportive plans for youth. Overall, counties reported that to better serve tribal youth, they are participating in workgroups, holding monthly meetings, and maintaining contact with tribal representatives who provide cultural supports to the youth. Within these meetings, counties indicate that services are individualized for tribal youth. Utilizing the support from tribal representatives, counties can identify comprehensive trainings to better understand cultural diversity and sensitivity to Tribes and tribal youth. The YEP program is currently in process of locating tribal youth to act as ambassadors to better support youth initiatives statewide.

Youth with Complex Needs:

Youth with complex needs are a diverse population with a mix of serious medical, long-term care, behavioral health, and social needs. The CDSS strives for a highly coordinated, person-centered form of service delivery that enables youth with complex needs to achieve optimum health and well-being. Some transitional age populations experiencing complex needs may include Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), pregnant and parenting youth, and Youth expressing Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression (SOGIE), and youth with disabilities. The California Department of Social Services, along with our systems partners, acknowledges that there are systemic shortfalls in meeting these youths' needs but are actively working towards better outcomes.

Bridging the Technological Divide for Foster Youth:

A lack of access to computers and stable Wi-Fi connections negatively impacted learning outcomes for K-12 students and beyond. Foundation CCC staff continue to seek out opportunities to bridge this technological divide for foster youth. Through continuous

donations from community partners like Ticket to Dream we have been able to support over 100 students with laptops in the first two quarters of this program year. Foundation CCC received philanthropic funding to support 25 students with Wi-Fi Hotspots that came with a free year of service. In December 2022, we were awarded grant funding to support an additional 250 foster youth throughout California with laptops along with IT assistance as they learn to navigate their computers.

Collaboration with Other Private and Public Agencies:
The CDSS continues to actively collaborate with advocates, county and state agencies including but not limited to: The CA Department Housing and Community Development (HCD), The CA Department of Developmental Services (DDS), John Burton Advocates for Youth, The Foundation for California Community Colleges, California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCC), The Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC), California Youth Connection (CYC), CA Franchise Tax Board (FTB), private non-profit foundations, tribal communities, and other interested stakeholders to ensure that all Chafee Independent Living Program (ILP) and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) services are available and accessible to all eligible foster youth across the state. The CDSS continues to collaborate with various educational agencies as a member of the California Foster Youth Education Task Force, dedicated to improving educational outcomes for foster youth in California.

CDSS has partnered with the CSAC and Chancellors' Office of Community Colleges as well as the Employment Development Department (EDD) and AmeriCorps, so foster youth can continue to receive the education and job opportunities that will aid their livelihood. The CDSS also recognizes it has a large population of dual status and probation youth that require assistance and thus, partnerships have formed between the CDSS and the CA Chief Probations Officers of California (CPOC), CA Department of Justice, CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, etc. Finally, the CDSS also initiated partnerships with various advocacy organizations that support or are run by current and former foster youth. These various partnerships have helped continue to support the department's growth in supporting youth and the programs that serve them.

Continuous Quality Improvement/ICPM:
National Youth Transition Database (NYTD)
California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) Database
Evident Change: SafeMeasures data

Foster Youth Data
California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) Data:
https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/

Children in Foster care – PIT

<INSERT GRAPH>

Methodology: These reports include all children who have an open child welfare or probation supervised placement episode in the CWS/CMS system.

- This graph shows the number and percentage of CWS & Probation youth aged 16-21 in an open placement on April 1 since 2019.
- Youth aged 18-21 have consistently had higher placement numbers than those aged 16-17.
- Although the total number of Foster placements have declined since 2019, older youth have consistently made up 21-23% of the entire caseloads.
- The number of 18-21 year olds peaked in April 2021 with 10,315 young adults with an open placement in California.

Children in Foster care – PIT
Child Welfare
<INSERT GRAPH>

- The total Child Welfare placement have decreased from 59,272 youth on April 1, 2019 to 51,339 on April 1, 2023.
- For Child Welfare, youth aged 16-21 have consistently made up 22-25% of the entire caseload.

Children in Foster care – PIT
Probation
<INSERT GRAPH>

- The total number of Probation placements have decreased from 2,806 youth on April 1, 2019 to 1,303 on April 1, 2023.
- Unlike CWS, Probation youth aged 18-21 make up substantially more of Probation's caseload at 64% with 835 youth.

Children in Foster care – PIT
Ethnicity
<INSERT GRAPH>

- This graph shows the total number and percentage 16-21 yr old youth in either a CWS or Probation Placement on April 1 since 2019.
- Latino Youth are the largest group represented in youth aged 16-21 years old with 7,389 (52.2%) young adults.
- However, Black and Native American youth have the highest disparity rates in California's Fostercare system. To find the disparity rates, please visit the CCWIP website: https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/DisparityIndices/STSG/r/rts/l

Children in Foster care – PIT
Placement Type (16-17)
<INSERT GRAPH>

- This graph shows the top 6 placement types used by youth aged 16-17.
- On April 1, 2023 1,391 Youth were placed with Relatives/NREFMs followed by 973 youth placed with a Foster Family Agency (FFA).

- Since 2019, the number of youth placed at a Group/STRTP Placement has continually declined from 1,756 youth to 827 youth in 2023.
- Relatives consistently are utilized as a main placement for older youth.

Children in Foster care – PIT
Placement Type (18-21)
<INSERT GRAPH>
- Older youth (18-21) are mostly in a SILP placement (n=3,176) followed by Transitional Housing (n=2,072).
- As the same with the 16-17 yr old youths, the reliance on Group Home/STRTP placements have steadily declined since 2019 for 18-21 yr old youths.
- Again, the number of placements peaked in 2021.

Exits from Foster Care
<INSERT GRAPH>
Methodology: These reports provide detail on exits from foster care for a specified year. The number of distinct children or discharge events per year and the type of exit (e.g. reunification, adoption) are provided.
- Older Youth exiting from foster care are mostly likely to Emancipate from the system, followed by reunifying with their family of origin.

Children with IEPs (CWS)
<INSERT GRAPH>
Methodology: Of all children who were in an out of home placement within each specified period, how many have ever had an IEP meeting.
- This outcome captures IEP information for CWS youth only.
- The percentage of CWS youth with an IEP have decreased from 15.4% of 16-18 year olds in 2019 to 12.8% in 2023.

Youth Parents in Foster Care
<INSERT GRAPH>
Methodology: These reports calculate the percentage of minor and non-minor youths (Age 10-20 years old) in out-of-home care who are parents. The measure excludes youth in incoming Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) placements and non-dependent legal guardian placements.

Youth Assigned by County
<INSERT GRAPH>
Methodology: This shows children in active cases broken down by facility type
- Los Angeles County has jurisdiction over the greatest number of youth aged 16-21 years old in California with 8,552 youth.
- San Bernardino has the second greatest number of youth at 1,395.

Current Placement Cities of Foster Youth

<INSERT GRAPH>
- <mark>The top three cities where youth (16-21 yrs) physically reside in are Los Angeles (n=1,975), Lancaster (n=517), and Fresno (n=456).</mark>
- Currently, youth live in 57 (out of 58) counties.

California Homeless Youth Data
Youth Count: California Youth Homelessness Data Hub
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7227e954a08a4d2cb990949aa029275d/page/You-Count-Home/

Point In Time
<INSERT GRAPH>
<mark>*Methodology: Youth experiencing homelessness who are not with a parent or guardian. Youth under 18 experiencing homelessness including those unaccompanied and in families. Percentage of youth experiencing homelessness who are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation.*</mark>

Who are our Homeless Youth?
Include definition of a Homeless/Unhoused youth
Homeless: # of Youth under 18,

*Note – HUD Homeless data is categorized as under 18, 18-24, and over 24 yrs old. There is no data on homeless foster youth in California.

Education Data
Data Quest:
https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/

Chronic Absenteeism
<INSERT GRAPH>
<mark>*Methodology: This report provides a total count of cumulatively enrolled students who were eligible to be considered chronically absent (Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment) and a count of students who were determined to be chronically absent (Chronic Absenteeism Count). Students are determined to be chronically absent if they were eligible to be considered chronically absent at the selected level during the academic year **and** they were absent for 10% or more of the days they were expected to attend.*</mark>
- <mark>This graph shows that 55.5% of Foster youth experience Chronic Absenteeism at a higher rate that Homeless youth (48.4%) and California (30.1%).</mark>
-

Stability Rates

<INSERT GRAPH>

Methodology: This report provides a total count of cumulatively enrolled students with an enrollment start date on or after July 1 and on or before June 30 (Adjusted Cumulative Enrollment), a count of students identified as part of the Stability Count (i.e., students with stable enrollments), and a count of students identified as part of the Non-Stability Count (i.e., students without stable enrollments). Students are determined to have a "stable" enrollment during the academic year if the enrollment record is a minimum of 245 consecutive calendar days at the same school without a disqualifying exit.

- Only 54.4% of Foster Youth are stable in their school compared to 71.2% of Homeless youth and 87.2% California Youth.

4-yr Graduation Rates

<INSERT GRAPH>

Methodology: This report displays the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR). The report also includes the number of graduates who (1) met UC/CSU entrance requirements; (2) earned a State Seal of Biliteracy; or (3) earned a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.

- Foster youth graduate at a rate of 61.4% which is lower than Homeless youth (72.9%) and California Youth (87%).

College Going Rates

<INSERT GRAPH>

Methodology: This report provides both a count and a rate of high school completers who enrolled in a postsecondary institution of higher education (e.g., college or university) within 12 or 16 months of completing high school, based on available report filters.

- Both Foster youth (44.4%) and Homeless youth (44.5%) enroll in college at lower rates than California youth at 62.2%.

PENDING Types of Data:

Foster care: Gender, Mental Health, Dual-Jurisdiction Youth, TAY Youth
Education: Suspension Rates, Expulsion Rates
Community College: Dual Enrollment, Concurrent Enrollment in Community College data.
Homeless Data: Sort by County
Other Youth: NEET (Not Engaged in Education/Training) Youth, Unaccompanied Youth, CalWORKs youth

Apprenticeship Data
Include Definitions of Apprenticeship and Pre-apprenticeship Programs

Data required by AB 565:
- *Number of homeless & foster youth registered for apprenticeships (current & previous 5 years)*
- *Number/Percentage of youth registered in a program with 5+ participants*
- *Percentage of those that complete their program this year & previous 5 years – Percentage of Homeless & Foster Youth that complete their program.*
- *Evaluate the Success Rate of apprenticeships & pre-apprenticeships among homeless & foster youth*
- *Data about organizations that serve youth – Number of organizations that serve foster/homeless youth. Better Youth, N Power, Kids in the Spotlight, Right way Foundation, CASA LA,*

- Occupations that youth are currently in, High School or Adult Education, - Narrow for Foster Youth, Homeless youth, and apprenticeships
- Apprentice Data: Pre-apprenticeship completion rates
- *Note – Currently there are no specific data points mixing Foster/Homeless Youth in Apprenticeships.

DAS

Remedial Action by the Division to assists programs in achieving affirmative action goals
Number of disputed issues
Number of applications received/approved/denied/ and reasons for denial
Number of programs approved/disapproved by Council and reasons why
Number of programs receiving reimbursement and mounts of reimbursement. Sec. 8152 or 79149.3 of Education code. – Chancellor's Office of the California Community College.
Number of programs receiving reimbursement. Paragraph 2, subdivision d of Section 84750.5 or 79149.1 of Education code. – Chancellor's Office of the California Community College.

Challenges

Challenges recruiting youth related to identifying, reaching, and recruiting homeless youth and foster youth, along with potential opportunities to improve the rate of successful apprenticeship completion

Challenges centered around:
Data
Operations/Training/Connections
Services
Fiscal
Policy

Challenges:

DATA
- Data Disconnect between Apprenticeship and Foster/Homeless Youth Data.
- Defining both populations and make it consistent throughout the report.
- Some youth may be both Former foster youth and Homeless. A young person may qualify for services through both populations.
- Definition of what is a homeless youth is. There are currently different definitions. Couch surfing. Housing insecure.
- Foster youth may not want to self-identify and therefore they may be underreported in data.
- Defining DACA students

CONNECTION/TRAINING/OPERATIONS
- Not connected to all the regional agencies connected to these youth.
- Youth may not know enough about apprenticeships to know the value of apprenticeships.
- LEAs understanding RSI and deploying that funding.
- Work more with PHIRA/HR Organizations. Sensitivity training.
- Linkage to services – Helping youth navigate the resources. Need a Resource Navigator for youth.
- Career Pathways are not plugged into the Continuums of Care (CoC). Disconnect between Homeless services and workforce training services.
- Workforce Development Boards: on the job incentives. They have OJT funds available. Give funds to the employers. Need to have those discussions and bringing that in.
- DACA Students

SERVICES
- Support services: Transportation is difficult for our youth. Food. Basic Needs. We need to address those basic needs. Allowances so youth can support themselves. Mental Health Access. Daycare.
- Plan for a success/support team for the youth. There is no permanency or a permanent adult in these youth's lives. Advocates. Connecting these youth to these programs. Youth need a team and we need to identify a team that will be working them. Concierge/Navigator.
- Defining access points and needs for each Foster and Homeless populations.
- Technology – Hardware, Internet. No reliable internet in shelters for youth. Cellphones available for foster youth, but not homeless youth. Increase in digital services.

- Digital Navigators
- Linkage to services – Helping youth navigate the resources. Need a Resource Navigator for youth.
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FUNDING

- Funding. Creating a streamlined approach to funding/serving these youth. Currently dependent on different funding streams (Behavioral Health, Homeless/Housing, Foster care, etc.).
- Employer Incentives: examples: California Commission Tax Credit. Workers Comp. Sensitivity Training is needed. What kind of incentives can we create for our Employers. Paid work Experience for a probationary period; first 90 days. Covered until the employers feel comfortable. Maybe a waiver could be instituted when they bring a youth on. Retention.
- Workforce Development Boards: on the job incentives. They have OJT funds available. Give funds to the employers. Need to have those discussions and bringing that in. High School youth.
- Upfront Funding needed.

POLICY

- Educational institutions/LEAs have challenges in relationships with Employers. "Sales Negotiation". They don't want to do the evaluations, mentoring. Employers don't want to sign the agreements: Salary, mentoring, etc.
- AB 130 – Fingerprinting. Still trying to figure this out in relation to youth apprenticeships. Age. 16-17 (minors).
- I9 Documentation for the undocumented youth. We are unable to serve them if they are undocumented. Is there a pathway for youth to move from undocumented to documented.

EMPLOYERS

EDUCATION

Intermediaries/CBOs

Recommendations

How to address the challenges identified, which may include considerations relative to the need for additional services or specialized training programs.

Recommendations:

1. Create a data connection between Homeless/Foster youth and apprenticeship outcomes

2. Create a comprehensive list/database of available apprenticeships/pre-apprenticeships for youth.
3. Create/Maintain a dashboard of connecting the population to apprenticeships.
4. Create fiscal plan to compensate youth subcommittee members

Connect (High, low, narrow, wide) Administration & Beneficiary
1. Create a Legislative report (Goal 1, 4)
2. Create a bridge between social service tracking of homeless and foster youth, and track those engaged in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. (Goal 1, 4)
3. Design a tracking/data reporting system that touches Social Services, Non-Profits, and DAS. Creating a bridge between DAS and Social Services data. (Goal 1, 4)
4. Identify and initiate key strategic partnerships that could have a high impact on engaging more homeless and foster youth in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship career pathways. (Goal 3)
5. Create networking opportunities for homeless and foster youth with educational providers, employers, unions. (Goal 2, 3, 4, & 5?)

Learn (data, technical gains, outcomes, innovation) Administration & Beneficiary
6. Evaluate the success rate and identify challenges in recruiting Homeless & Foster youth. (Goal 1,2,3,4)
7. Understand the systems and data sources for identifying and tracking homeless and foster youth, identify gaps and strategic bridges for data sharing and design a solution for universal tracking. (Goal 1,3,4)
8. Create training and networking opportunities for Youth, Parents, Caregivers, 9-12 HS Education Providers, Employers, Unions, Community Colleges, ILP Social Workers (Goal 5)
9. Promote and increase youth exposure to the various trades, apprenticeships, and pre apprenticeships before the age of 16. (Goal 5)

Grow (alumni, pathway guidance, outreach, partnerships) Administration & Beneficiary
1. Identify ways to increase youth participation in pre apprenticeships and apprenticeships in different communities throughout the state. (Goal 3, 4, 5)

Thrive (Sustainability, recruitment, landscape, alumni network) Administration & Beneficiary
1. Create a system of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and develop/monitor feedback from youth participants, employers, educational providers, unions. (Goal 2,3,4,5)
2. Examine emerging and best practices, and advocate for funding and needs for homeless and foster youth (Goal 5)