DID you know...

In the 2008-09 school-year over 8,000 California Community College students were former foster youth.

United States
- Approximately 500,000 children are in the foster care system
- 20,000 age out of foster care every year

California
- Approximately 77,000 children and youth are in foster care
  - By far the largest number of any state in the United States
- 4,400 age out of California’s foster care system every year

“I would like to see this initiative as a catalyst for supplying hope and guidance to youth encouraging them that they can attend college and that it’s not as daunting a process as they may fear it to be.”
...former foster youth

This foster youth friendly logo was created to symbolize a safe and supportive environment or person, familiar with both the issues and challenges that youth from foster care face. College students who see this symbol will know that staff are equipped to assist them in higher education.

The color blue was selected to coincide with the Foster Care Awareness month blue ribbon. The focal point of the graphic is a larger heart wrapped around a smaller heart symbolizing the importance of wrap-around services and support for youth from foster care in higher education.

The left side of the hearts are larger representing a need for the presence and permanency of caring and supportive adults in the lives of youth from foster care. Finally, and most importantly, the smaller right side of the heart symbolizes successful achievement of the youth’s aspirations and dreams including their graduation from college symbolized by the mortarboard cap on the graduates head.

Foster Youth Success Initiative

FYSI Liaison Contact Information

For a list of CA Community College FYSI Liaisons go to

http://www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/Divisions/StudentServices/StudentFinancialAssistancePrograms/FosterYouthSuccessInitiativeofFYSI/tabid/997/Default.aspx

“Higher Education is the key to opening doors, and more opportunities for greater success.”

California Community College System Office
Student Financial Assistance Programs Unit
The California Community Colleges established the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) to assist foster youth in accessing and successfully completing college.

The purpose of FYSI is to increase the number of CA Community College students receiving degrees or vocational certificates who are former foster youth.

FYSI created partnerships to combine efforts to support students with college and community resources.

College-focused services include:
- Outreach
- Mentoring
- Academic Counseling
- Assist with college admission
- Financial aid application
- Ongoing assistance to students enrolled in a CA community college.

FYSI goals are to improve:
- Access to college services and resources
- Completion of attempted units
- Retention
- Completion of college degrees or certificates
- The number of community college students transferring to a university

All 112 California Community Colleges have FYSI/Foster Youth Liaisons

WHO is a FYSI Liaison?
- Works at a CA Community College
- Sensitive to your needs
- Familiar with foster care

WHERE can I find a FYSI Liaison?
At a CA Community College Student Support Services Departments
- Financial Aid
- EOPS

Howard can FYSI Liaisons help you?
FYSI Liaisons have the knowledge, resources, and connections necessary to enhance college access for foster youth.
- Arrange college tours
- Assist with college applications
  - Admission process
  - College assessments (testing)
- Financial Aid assistance
  - FAFSA application
  - Chafee Grants (for eligible Foster Youth)
  - Federal & State Grants
  - Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver (BOGG) - Pays CA Community College Tuition and other fees
  - Federal Work Study (Available work opportunities ON and OFF campus)
  - Scholarships
- Locating & Connecting to the:
  - College Counseling Center
  - EOPS Department
  - Tutoring Centers
  - And Other Programs

“This is your CHANCE This is your FUTURE”
...Mesa College student, former foster youth

“Invest in our youth's education today to ensure their tomorrow.”
...Margaret Mack, CA Workforce Investment Board

“There's a missing link between what I need and the people who can give it to me”
...SJSU student & former foster youth