YOUTH EMPOWERMENT STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS LOS ANGELES

The Foundation for California Community Colleges' Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success – Los Angeles (YESS–LA) program aims to help current and former foster youth transition successfully into adulthood. In Los Angeles, nearly 2,000 foster youth are emancipated each year. Studies show that as many as 50 percent of emancipated foster youth become homeless, have serious money problems, or end up incarcerated. To better prepare foster youth for independence, YESS–LA was developed in 2007 by the Foundation and funded through the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services.

Coordinated Resources

The YESS program services bring together local campus and community resources to provide services that address the specific concerns foster youth face at different points along their path. Approximately 1,240 young people between the ages of 14 and 20 will access the two contracted program services (tutoring and life skills training) during the 2011–12 program year. Since 2007, YESS–LA has served close to 5,000 youth.

Continuum of Service

The YESS program subcontracts with seven Community College campuses in Los Angeles County. Foster youth and former foster youth are referred to the program by Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and probation staff of transition coordinators. Participants and their caregivers receive in-home visits, one-on-one mentoring, academic assessments, and access to web-based and local resources. Depending on their age, participants also receive tutoring (ages 14–15) or life skills training (ages 16–21). The program's end goal is for participants to pass the California High School Education Examination (CAHSEE), graduate high school, begin earning a college degree or technical certificate, and understand and gain the skills needed to be self-sufficient and gainfully employed.

The Empowerment Message

The YESS Program's 3Rs (Rigor, Relevancy, and Relationships) communicate a positive message that says: "YESS, together we can empower youth to better understand the impact of their choices, access post secondary education, build permanent relationships with caring adults, and obtain the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to succeed."

Contact

Colleen Ammerman
Program Director
1102 Q Street, Suite 3500
Sacramento, California 95811

Regional Contact
Delia Johnson
Los Angeles Regional Director
T: 310.216.7708
F: 310.216.7739
E: djohnson@foundationccc.org

www.foundationccc.org/YESS

The YESS Program's 3Rs

- **Rigor**: Challenging, confidence-building, interactive, outcome-oriented learning experiences that address the needs of youth.
- **Relevancy**: Multi-level training and experiential learning opportunities that correspond to real-life situations.
- **Relationships**: A continuum of service through which college and YESS program staff model and promote the development of permanent relationships with caring adults.

Partner Organizations

- Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services
- Foster & Kinship Care Education

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 while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. ***For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.***