



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATING PROGRAM & FAMILIES IN TRANSITION FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

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Independent Living Program & NextUp

Independent Living Program (ILP) is an outstanding program for current or former foster youth in San Joaquin County between the ages of 16 - 21 who want to develop the skills and confidence needed to become self-sufficient. It's like Adulting 101, covering essential aspects such as securing employment, applying for college, and managing finances, and even day to day tasks like cooking, doing laundry, and changing a tire. Topics vary every week. Youth participants receive support, resources, and additional prizes and gifts for participating in classes and activities. This program includes independent living skills assessments, job skill training, college and career tours, one-to-one case management, a transitional housing program, and a written transitional independent living plan for each participating foster youth. The sessions are every Tuesday at Delta College from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Contact Julie Baron (jbarron@sjgov.org) or Cynthia Lederle (cllederle@sjgov.org) for more information.

The NextUp Program is designed to serve current or former foster youth up to the age of 26 who are enrolled in San Joaquin Delta College by giving them access to the services offered by EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services). NextUp's mission is to assist and guide current or former foster youth with their education goals by providing personal guidance, and academic, and financial support.

College & Career Field Trips

The FYSCP & FIT team had the opportunity to invite students to participate in the College & Career Field Trip. Students explored different career options to determine if they would be interested in attending these schools in the future. Our first stop was San Jose State University, home of the Spartans.

As the oldest university on the West Coast, students learned about the campus history, academic programs, and state-of-the art facilities. Students toured various campus's buildings including Tower Hall, the Science Building, the Art Building, the Aquatics Center, and the Student Union. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Library provides study areas, research assistance, 3D printing, and computing facilities for students. Popular majors at SJSU include Business, Management, and Marketing.

Later that day, we visited the San Jose Job Corps Center. San Jose Job Corps offers free career training to help students gain the skills and tools they need for success. The school offers a wide variety of training programs, such as; Culinary Arts, Medical Administrative Assistant, and Office Administration. Students were given a presentation about each program, followed by a campus tour of the cafeteria, wellness center, recreation area, and housing.



This summer, our transition specialists, along with Human Services Agency (HSA) staff, took foster youth from San Joaquin County on a field trip to California State University Monterey Bay (CSU Monterey) and Columbia College in Sonoma, CA. Students were able to make connections with college staff, explore new interests, and learn about the many programs on campus available to them.

CSU Monterey provides high-quality broad liberal educational programs. It offers opportunities for students to engage in campus life through Associated Students, Inc., an array of clubs, and service learning that addresses human and community needs. Through leading-edge programs, superior teaching, and extensive workforce training opportunities, CSU Monterey students graduate with the critical thinking skills, industry knowledge, and hands-on experience necessary for employment and career advancement.

Some of our students have had the chance to venture out of town for the first time thanks to our college and career trips. In the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, we aim to organize more field trips while classes are in session, which would allow students to discover the benefits of college life.



We are excited to meet on October 20, 2023, for the FYSCP Executive Advisory Council (EAC) and Families in Transition (FIT) Liaison Meeting. Our CBOs are invited to reconnect and gain knowledge about new resources while networking with one another.



According to, Connie Cochran, Community Relations Officer for the City of Stockton, "An unprecedented partnership to address the homeless crisis in Stockton was announced at a press conference with St. Mary's Dining Room, City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, Health Plan of San Joaquin, and Dignity Health St. Joseph's Medical Center. Through a collaborative effort that resulted in more than \$16 million in funding, St. Mary's Dining Room will soon have low-barrier space for hundreds of the most vulnerable individuals in Stockton who are unsheltered, including women, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

St. Mary's Dining Room – one of the largest homeless service agencies in San Joaquin County – received \$6.5 million from the Board of Supervisors through the City of Stockton that propelled its unique homeless shelter project forward, an additional \$3.6 million from the City of Stockton, \$5.4 million from the Health Plan of San Joaquin, and \$2 million from Dignity Health. St. Mary's has worked with Siegfried Engineering of Stockton to design a project that will include hundreds of modular units by late 2024. The project will fill the critical gap of non-congregate shelters for the clients that St. Mary's already serves through its daytime programs and services. In addition, Pathways will remove the four major barriers to accessing congregate shelters by accommodating partners and pets and providing privacy and security for property. The on-site location of the units will enable guests to easily access the Dining Room, Shower and Clothing Center, Dental and Medical Clinics, and Resource Center. The social services team can provide consistent support and connections to resources that will shorten the pathway to permanent housing. The average stay is projected to be six months. For additional information about St. Mary's Dining Room and the Pathways Project, please contact Petra Linden, CEO at plinden@stmarysdiningroom.org or (209) 467-0703"

Save the Date

Our second E.A.C. meeting will be held on 01/19/2024

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