

Foster Youth Executive Advisory Council (EAC) Meeting

March 21, 2023
12:00-1:30



Educational and Community Partnerships

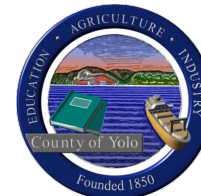
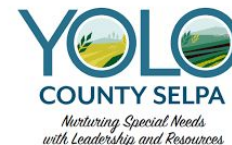


Maria Arvizu-Espinoza
Associate Superintendent, Education
Services

Sonia Quiñones Rambo, Ed.D
Director, Prevention and Wellness

Andrew Martinez
Program Specialist, Prevention and
Wellness

Chelsea McLaughlin
Outreach Specialist, Prevention and
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Welcome to YCOE

Thank you for supporting our Foster Youth in Yolo County!



Introductions

Warm Welcome:

- Name, Organization, and Title
- What is your favorite part of  *Spring*

Reminder of Purpose

The purpose of EAC is to bring community and educational partners together to learn about foster youth, laws, rights, and services. The council will also work together to remove barriers for foster youth and collaborate on systems of support.



Foster Youth Coordinating Services (FYSCP) Plan

Next meeting: Review of plan (2021-2024)

Explore together and familiarize yourself with the plan

Guest Speakers

- Welcome Amal and Jasmine
- Foster Youth
- AmeriCorps partners
- Advocates for foster youth





INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP)

Presented to you by ILP FKCE Yolo AmeriCorps
Members



Eligibility

- **14-21 years of age.**
- **Any youth who was/is in foster care or out of home placement at any time from 14-19 years old.**
- **Have a Yolo County dependency or live in Yolo County**



Who we serve?



Foster Youth

A youth removed from home and placed in the dependency of the court

Dependent

Any eligible youth in the child welfare and probation systems.



Wednesday

5 - 6:30 PM

Friday

5 - 6:30 PM

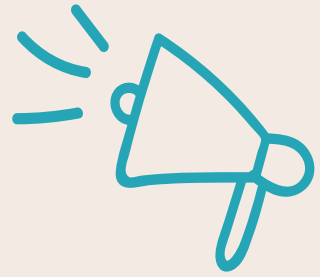
Woodland Community College

Every Other Month

2 Classes a
Week Via Zoom



These classes are paid!



\$25 a dollar a class

(up to \$100 max a month)



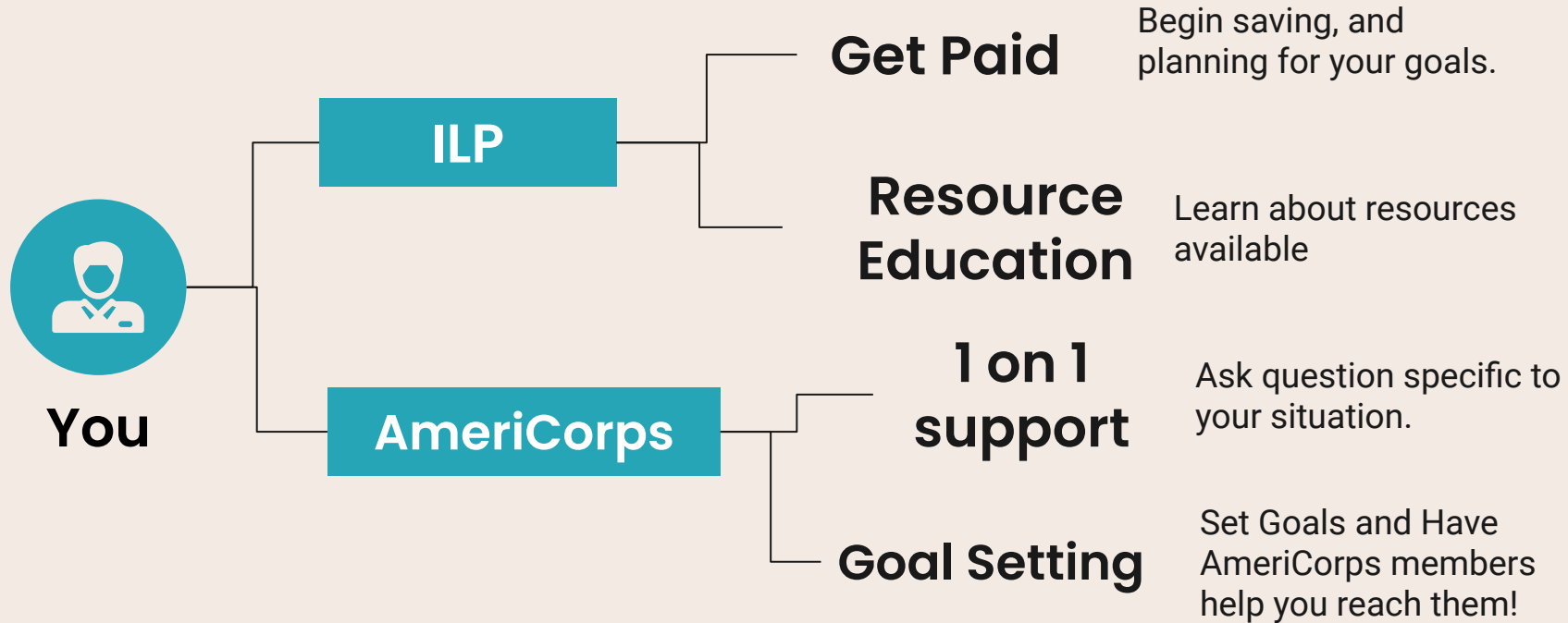
Plus the opportunity to win gift cards and prizes.

Classes on:

- College resources
- Foster Youth Rights
- 4 Pillars of Stability (**H**ealth and Wellness, **E**ducation, **A** Place to Call Home, **L**ifelong Connections)
- Completing the FASFA, Chaffee and scholarship applications
- Success in Education
- Access to Higher Education
- Employment and Career Readiness
- Healthy Sexual Development
- Puberty, Gender Orientation & Expressions, LGBTQ+ resources
- Financial Literacy
- Opening Your First Bank Account
- Budgeting
- Credit and Credit Cards,
- Getting Your First Apartments
- Housing Basics



ILP + AmeriCorps Can Work with You !



Foster Youth Bill of Rights Categories



Personal Rights



ICWA



SOGIE



Education



Sexual
& Reproductive



Mental Health



Health



Court



Case Plan



CFT



Family
Connections



Adulthood &
Money
Management

Personal Rights



Youth have the right to live in a safe, comfortable home where you are treated with respect and to have:

- enough clothes and healthy food
- clothing, grooming, and hygiene products that respect your culture and ethnicity
- a private place to keep their things
- a phone they can use to make private calls (unless a judge says you cannot)
- a caregiver that has special training on trauma and ways to help you

Youth have the right to:

- go/not go to religious services and activities of their choice
- participate in cultural, racial, ethnic, personal enrichment, and social activities
- fair and equal access to all available foster care services, placements, care, and benefits

No one can:

- lock youth in a room or a building (unless you are in a community treatment facility)
- make youth stay in juvenile hall because they can't find you a home
- use law enforcement as a threat or retaliation
- abuse you physically, sexually, emotionally, or exploit you for any reason
- punish youth by physically hurting you for any reason
- look through their things unless they have a reasonable or legal reason
- treat youth unfairly because of youth their race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental or physical disability, HIV status, or tribal membership

Education Rights



Youth have the right to:

- go to school every day
- get help with school
- stay at the same school if it's best for them
- enroll right away at a new school
- get partial credits for all classes they were passing if you change schools
- go to after-school activities
- have priority enrollment in pre-school and after-school programs
- have priority enrollment at California State Universities and community colleges
- access information about college and career education programs

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) Rights



Youth have the rights to protect and express their SOGIE. Youth have the right to:

- live in a home or STRTP based on their gender identity
- be called by their chosen name and gender pronouns
- see a doctor or counselor who is gender affirming
- have clothing, grooming, and hygiene products that respect their gender identity and expression
- have a caregiver, social worker/probation officer, and lawyer that have been trained on SOGIE and how to care for LGBTQ+ youth
- keep their SOGIE information private



Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights



Youth have sexual health rights, that includes the right to:

- get information about their sexual health in a way that they understand
- use or refuse services for birth control, condoms, other types of protection, and pregnancy care, including abortion, without telling an adult
- get healthcare services for sexual assault without telling an adult
- if youth are 12 years or older, choose your own doctor or counselor and make decisions about preventing, testing, or treating STIs and HIV without permission from any adult



SCHOOL DISCIPLINE RIGHTS

- You cannot be suspended for more than five school days in a row or for more than 20 days in a school year.
- You have a right to be told why you are being suspended and the right to provide your version of events and evidence before you are suspended, unless there is an emergency. If the behavior for which you are being suspended could subject you to criminal charges, you should consult with your ERH or attorney before providing an oral or written statement to the school or police.
- Your attorney and social worker must be invited to a meeting before your suspension can be extended beyond five days and a suspension can only be extended if you are being considered for expulsion.
- You have a right to a formal hearing, and to be represented by an attorney at that hearing, before you are expelled.
- If you are facing school discipline, your ERH, attorney and social worker must be notified. If you are in special education, they must be invited to a meeting to decide whether your behavior was related to your disability.

Mental Health Rights



You have mental health rights too. You have the right to:

- keep your mental health records private
- get gender affirming mental health treatment
- work with your doctor to safely stop taking psychotropic medication
- refuse to take psychotropic medication, and no one can punish you for it
- know about your diagnosis and understand treatment options
- get help with an alcohol or drug problem without permission
- get mental health services in a place that meets your needs
- if you are 12 years or older, choose your own doctor or counselor and make decisions about your mental health treatment

Health Rights



Youth have health rights that include :

- see a doctor, dentist, eye doctor, or talk to a counselor when they need to
- see a doctor who is gender affirming
- refuse to take any medicines, vitamins, or herbs, and no one can punish you for it
- keep your medical records private
- have the risks/benefits of treatment explained to you in a way that is easy to understand

Communication Rights



You have the right to:

- use a phone to make and get confidential (private) calls
- use a computer and the internet
- privately use email, text messages, or other electronic communication
- send and receive unopened mail

These rights can be changed if there is a safety concern. Only a judge can take these away or stop you from communicating with certain people.

You have the right to contact the following people in private, and no one can stop you or punish you for speaking with them:

- your social worker/probation officer
- your lawyer
- service providers
- foster youth advocates and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
- Education Rights Holder
- Tribe (if you have one)
- Office of Foster Care Ombudsperson (OFCO)
- Community Care Licensing Division (CCL)

Child and Family Team Rights



Youth have the right to a CFT. You have the right to:

- request CFT meetings
- have support people at their CFT meeting
- talk about their needs in the CFT meeting
- a CFT meeting within 60 days of entering foster care
- a CFT meeting every 6 months
- a CFT meeting at least every 90 days if they are in an STRTP or in a therapeutic foster home
- a CFT meeting at least every 90 days if they are getting certain types of services
- a CFT meeting when any changes are going to be made to their case plan

Family and Social Connections Rights



Youth have the right to:

- visit and contact parents, siblings, and other family members in private (unless a judge says otherwise)
- contact people who are not in the foster care system (like friends, church members, teachers, and others), unless a judge says otherwise



Preparing for Adulthood & Money Management



Youth have the right to do some things on your own. Youth have the right to:

- have an allowance
- have their own bank account (unless their case plan says otherwise)
- learn job skills for their age and work (unless the law says their too young)
- earn, save, and manage their money (unless their case plan says otherwise)
- go to Independent Living Program (if you are old enough)
- starting at age 14, get a credit report every year from 3 major reporting agencies and have help fixing any issues



Records



You have the right to see and get a free copy of the following until you are 26:

- medical records
- child welfare records
- juvenile court records
- educational records

Next meeting

- Set next two meeting dates (format will be in person)
- Lunch will be provided
 - April 20, 12:00-1:30
 - May 25, 12:00-1:30
- Next meeting will include:
 - Review of FYSCP plan and what that means for this group

Closing Activity

What is one new piece of information you are taking away from today's meeting?

Contact information:

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