

L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative Foster Youth College Advancement Project

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

JUNE 5TH, 2017

John Burton Advocates for Youth

John Burton Advocates for Youth is a statewide non-profit organization based in San Francisco, working to improve the quality of life for California's foster, former foster, and homeless youth.

John Burton Advocates for Youth works in three areas: education, housing and health.



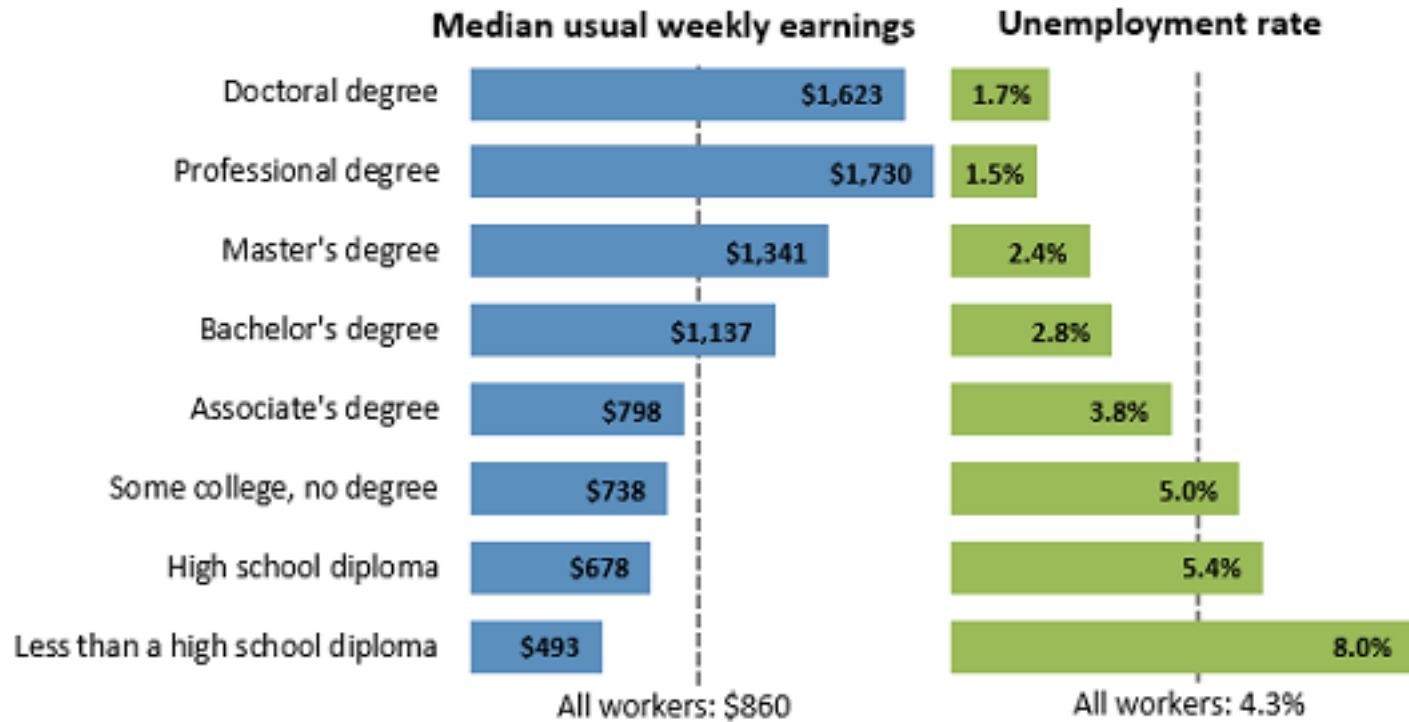
JOHN
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OYC Foster Youth College Advancement Project



Why this matters? EDUCATION PAYS

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015



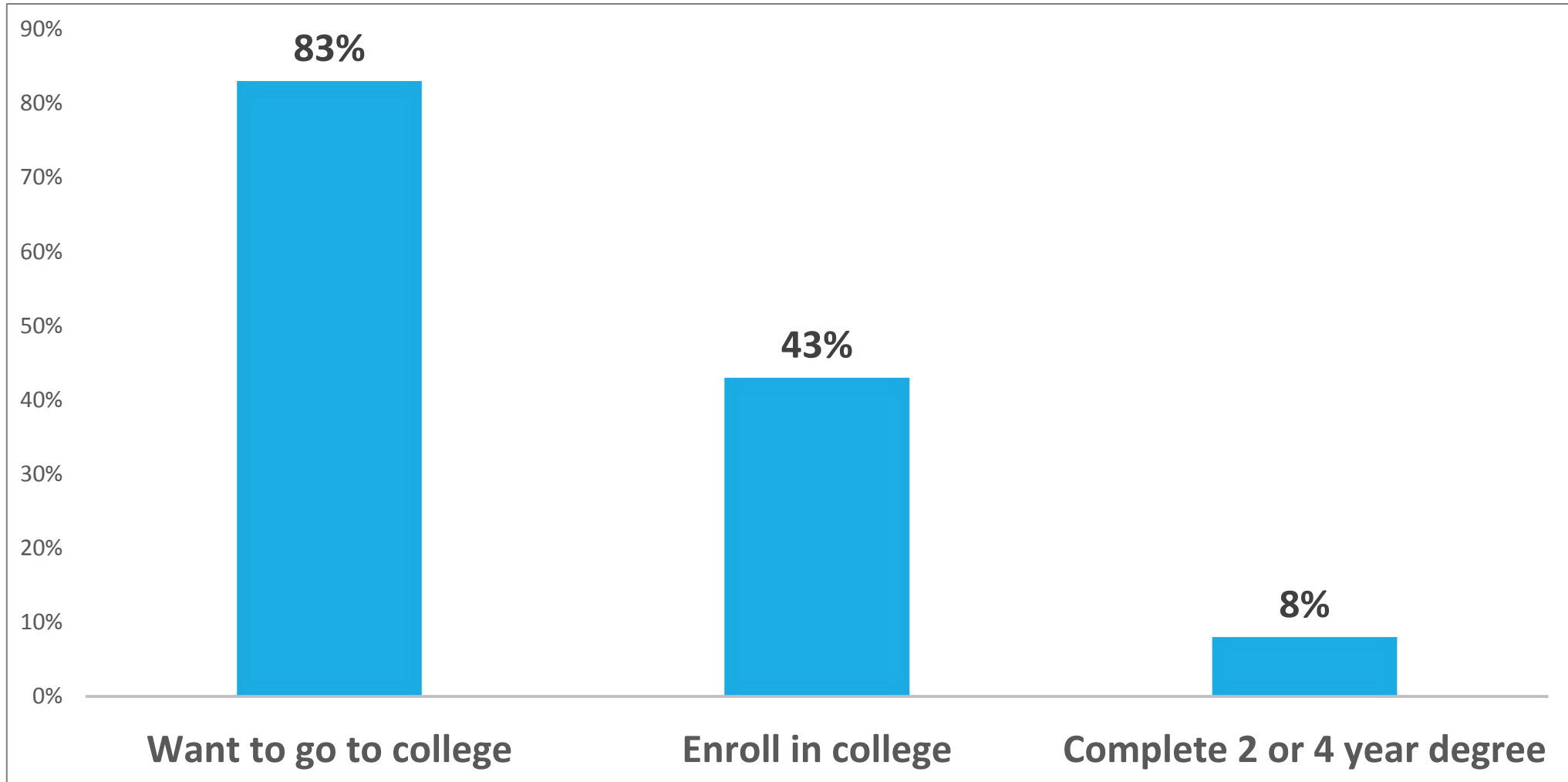
Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Non-Monetary Benefits of Higher Education

- Lower incarceration rates
- Improved health outcomes
- Higher levels of civic participation, including volunteer work and voting
- A greater likelihood of one's children attending college
- Greater career satisfaction

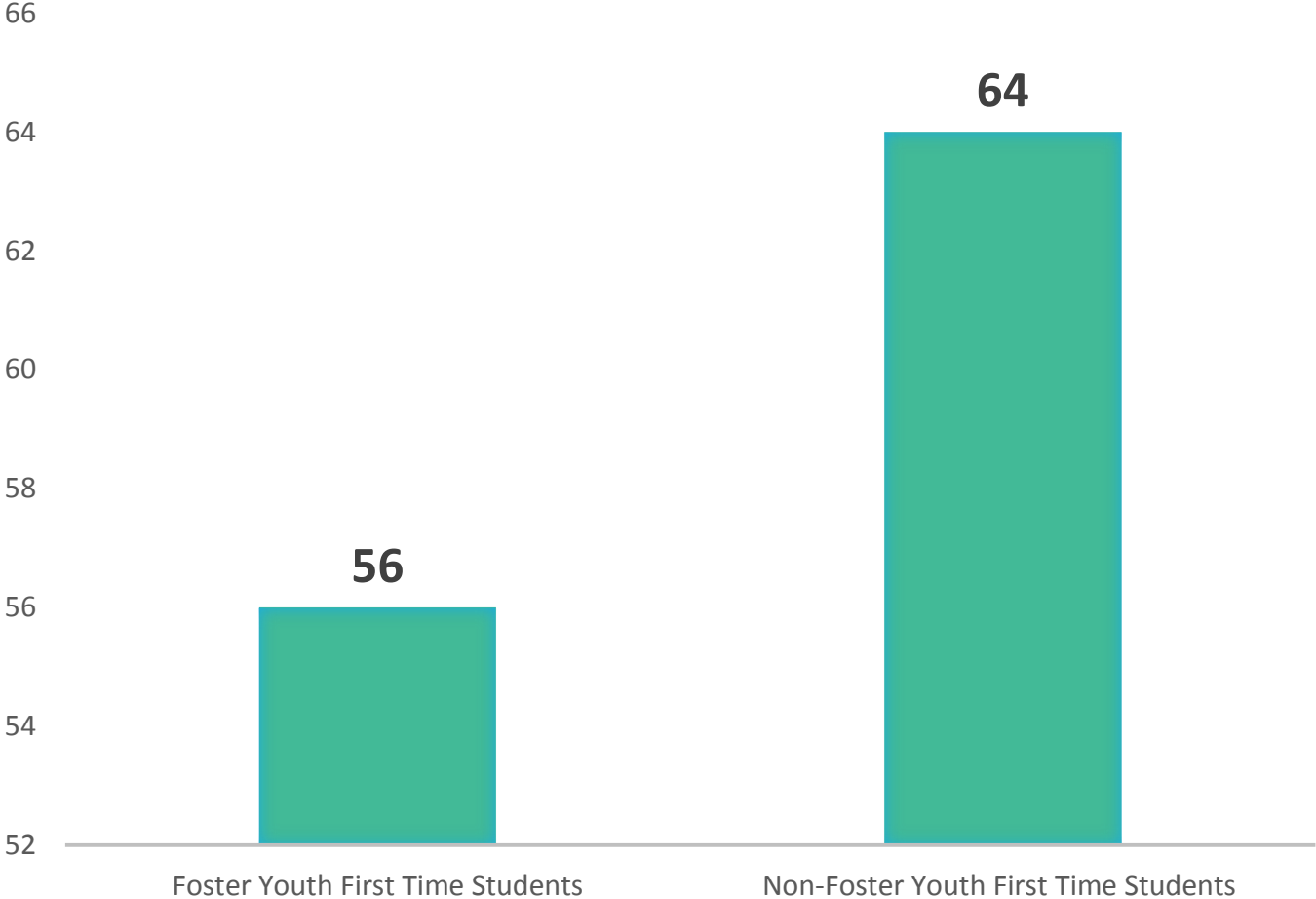


Foster Youth- College Aspirations vs College Attainment



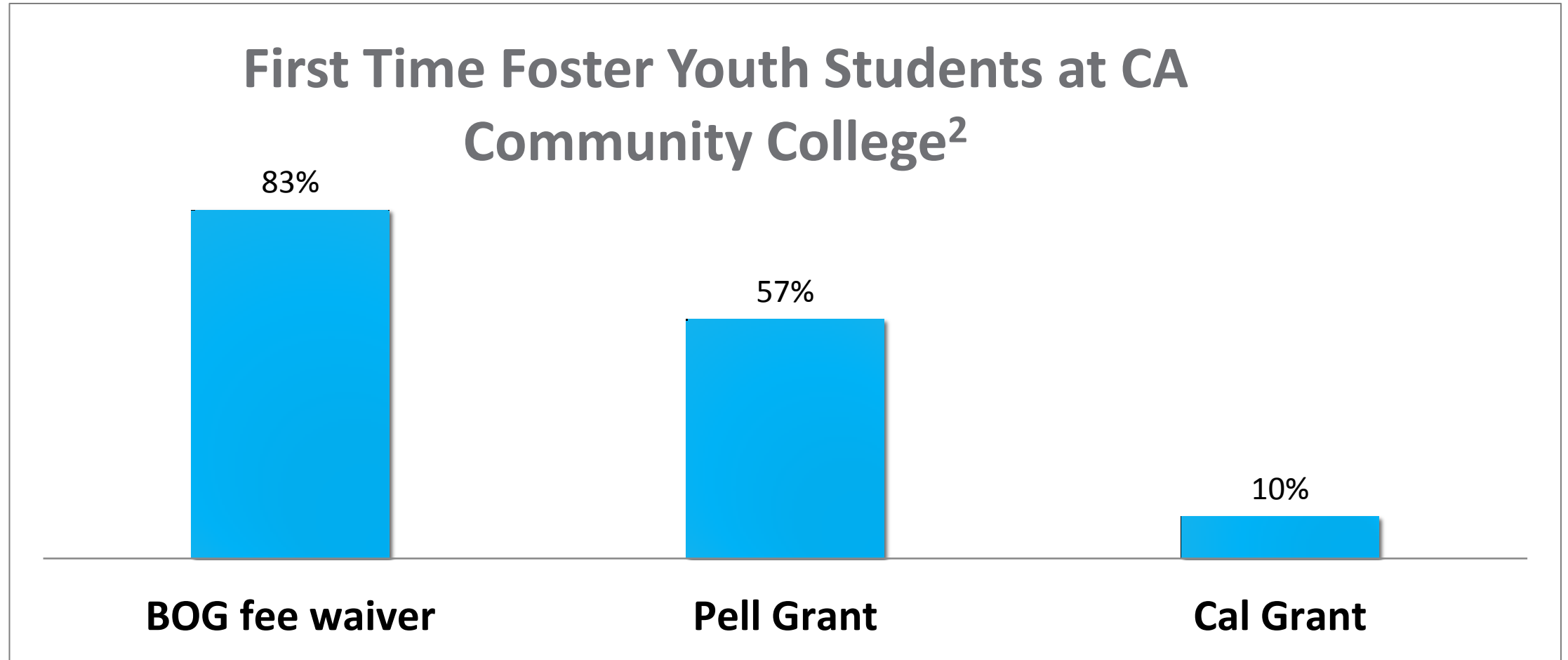
Direct College Enrollment

FIRST TIME STUDENTS ENROLLED
WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF HIGH SCHOOL



Foster youth who delay enrollment in community college for one year or more are 40% less likely to persist

Financial aid helps, but are they accessing it?



Postsecondary Education = Self-Sufficiency & Well-Being

There are six goals for L. A. County Department of Children and Family Services:

- Improved Child Safety
- Decreased Timelines to Permanence
- Reduced Reliance on Out-of-Home Care
- ○ **Self-Sufficiency**
- ○ **Increased Child and Family Well-Being**
- Enhanced Organizational Excellence



Los Angeles County
**Department of
Children and Family Services**

Paradigm Shift

Safety Net
Providers



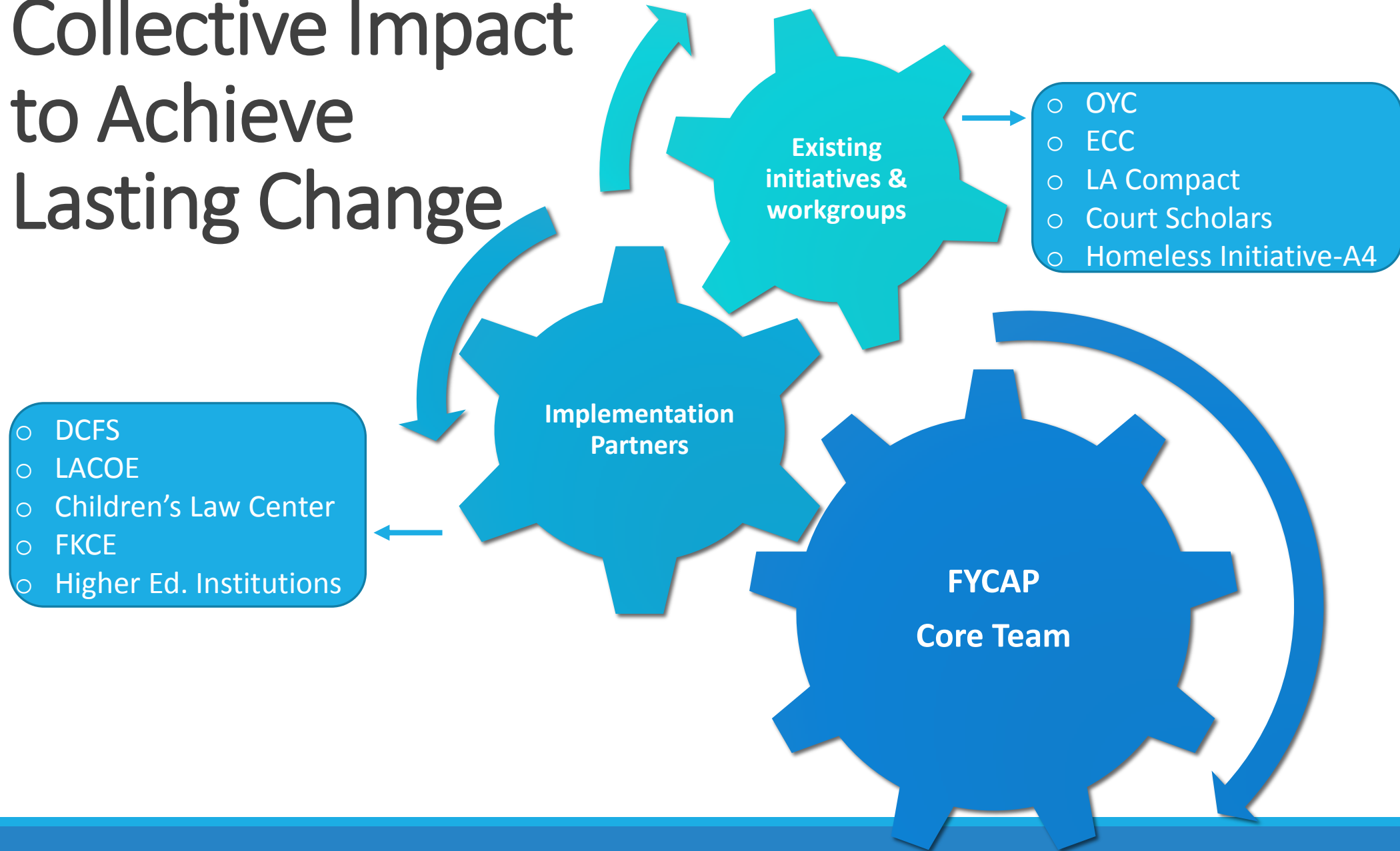
Well-Being
Providers

**Education isn't
the cherry on
top,**

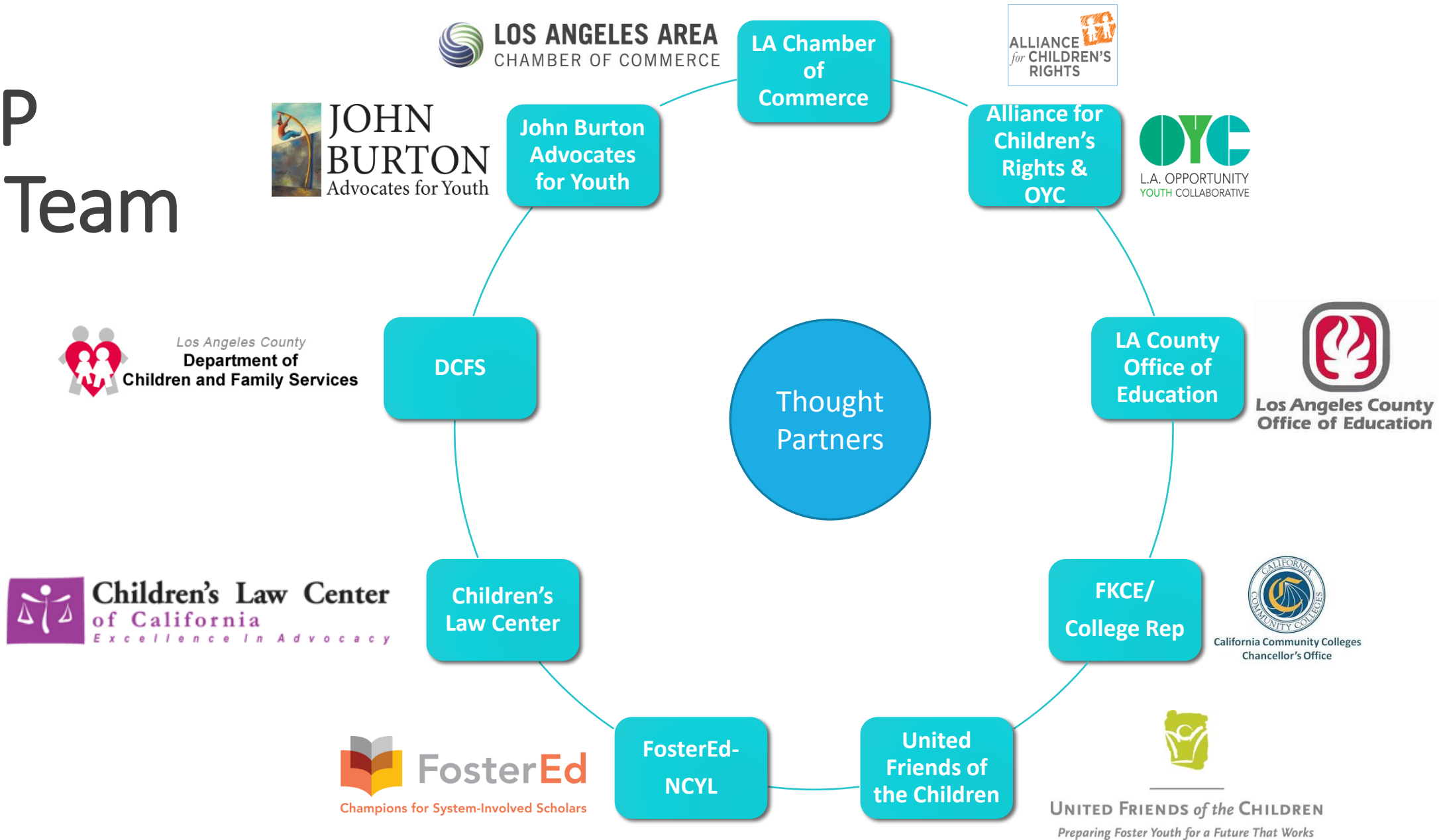


**it's the whole
sundae.**

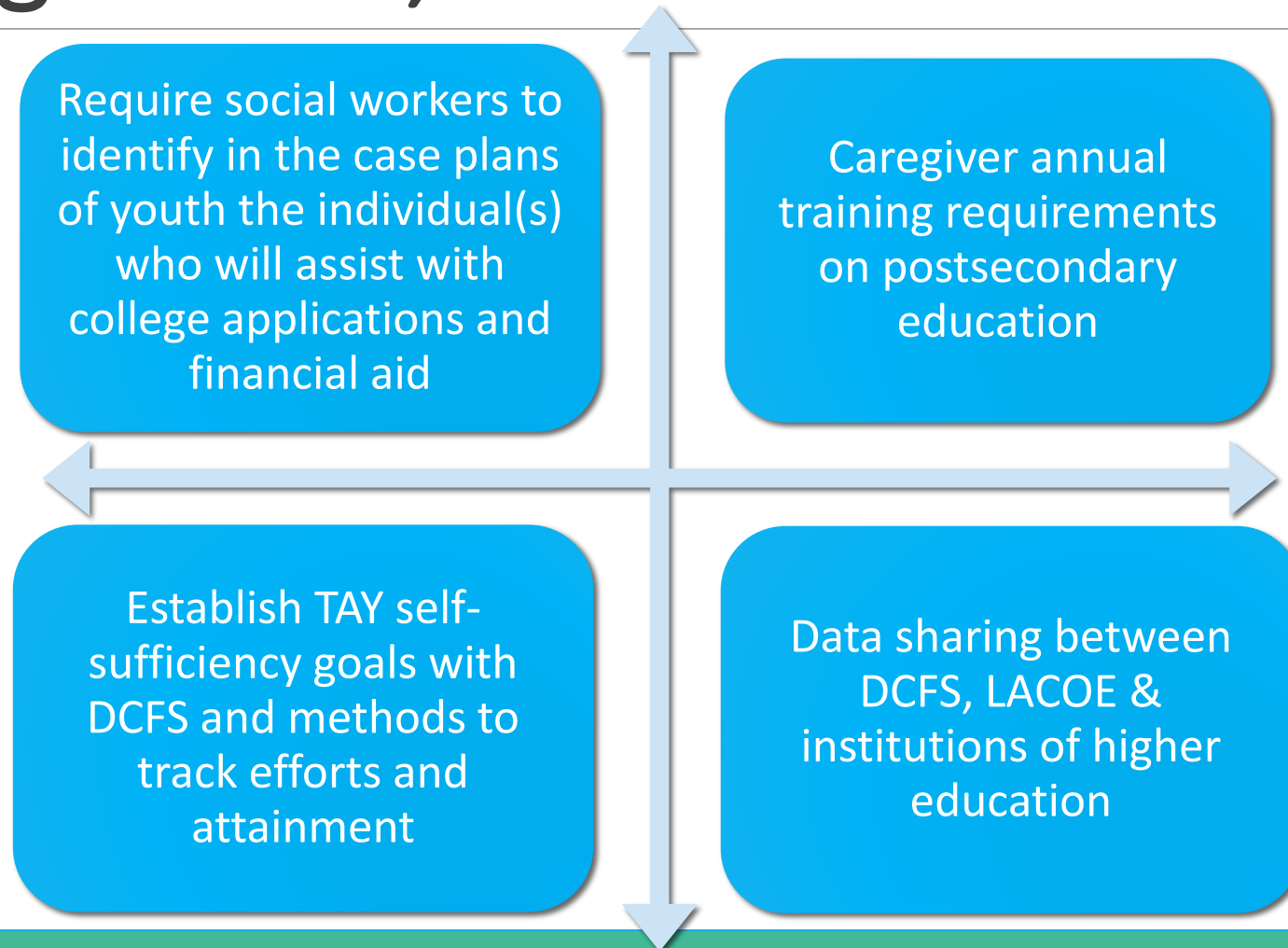
Collective Impact to Achieve Lasting Change



FYCAP Core Team



Strategies exist, such as:



~ Cultural shift within child welfare ~

Work In-Progress

- Coordinate service delivery between DCFS & LACOE through Antelope Valley Pilot Project
- Develop curriculum for caregivers in partnership with FKCE
- Provide technical assistance to CBO's contracted by DCFS to provide Relative Support Services
- Identify three priority areas through Court Scholars
- Implement FAFSA completion at Edelman Children's Court

How can the Commission for Children & Families help?

- County-wide culture change requires collaboration at all-levels
- Make this initiative a priority on your agenda
- Participate in FYCAP workgroups
- Provide on-going feedback on strategy development and implementation
- Provide guidance on policy changes, such as data-sharing
- Encourage on-going participation from county partners



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Thank You

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L.A. OPPORTUNITY YOUTH COLLABORATIVE FOSTER YOUTH COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

An initiative within the L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative, the Foster Youth College Advancement Project seeks to increase foster youth postsecondary attainment in order to help youth transition to sustainable careers and achieve self-sufficiency. FYCAP focuses on six strategies:

- 1. INCREASE DIRECT COLLEGE ENROLLMENT:** Increase the number of foster youth who enter postsecondary education from high school in Los Angeles County.
- 2. IMPROVE FINANCIAL AID ACCESS:** Improve the rates of FAFSA completion and successful attainment of financial aid, in particular federal Pell grants and state Cal Grants.
- 3. REDUCE REMEDIATION:** Promote awareness of college and university remediation assessment policies and evidence-based remediation models in order to help foster youth avoid the additional costs and prolonged time to completion associated with traditional remediation models.
- 4. PREPARE YOUTH FOR CAREERS:** Increase college-enrolled foster youth's access to work-readiness training, summer jobs, internships, job shadow opportunities, part- or full-time employment, and career training within high-wage and high-growth industries.
- 5. LINK COLLEGE STUDENTS TO SUPPORT:** Support the development of a cohesive and consistent network of foster youth college-based support programs throughout Los Angeles and assist programs to link students to available external resources.
- 6. IMPROVE CROSS-SECTOR COORDINATION:** Enhance and streamline cross-sector collaboration and coordination in Los Angeles County to support college access and success for foster youth.

Why this matters

- ***Only 57% of foster youth in Los Angeles who attend community college receive a Pell grant despite close to 90% meeting the financial eligibility.***
- ***Just 40 percent of California Community College students placed in remedial coursework go on to complete a degree, certificate, or transfer within six years, compared to 70 percent of those who begin in college-level coursework.***
- ***Foster youth are 50% less likely than other students to stay enrolled in college.***
- ***Career paths for those without a post-secondary credential are extremely limited. Individuals with a college degree or certificate have more career options, earn more money, have increased job stability and on average have a better quality of life than those without.***

For more information, contact Jessica Petrass, FYCAP Project Manager, at
Jessica@jbaforyouth.org or 213.368.6010 ext. 178



OYC FYCAP Recommendations for DCFS

Overview: The Foster Youth College Advancement Project (FYCAP) seeks to increase postsecondary educational attainment for foster youth in LA County. Postsecondary education includes, but is not limited to, vocational training, an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree. Since September 2017, a core team of key stakeholders and community partners, including but not limited to, DCFS, LACOE, Children's Law Center, United Friends of the Children, have convened monthly to create a set of recommendations for strategies to fulfill the goals of the project. This committee has created the following recommendations that intersect with the work of DCFS for your consideration and feedback. These recommendations are designed to increase the number of foster youth who enter postsecondary education directly from high school and to increase the number of foster youth receiving financial aid.

- 1. Resource Family Annual Training** - Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) requires that RFA approved homes complete a minimum of 8 hours of training annually. It is recommended that caregivers with youth who are 13 or older in their home be required to participate in at least 2 hours of training regarding college readiness to support the successful transition of foster youth into higher education pathways. Training could include information regarding college options, including career and technical education pathways, creating a college-going culture in the home, accessing financial aid and other supports available to foster youth in college, and navigating the matriculation process. John Burton Advocates for Youth is available to assist with the creation of a training curriculum.
- 2. Foster Family Agencies and Core Services** - Due to CCR, FFA's must make Core Services available that include both education support and transition to adult services. It is recommended that a plan be created to operationalize the implementation of these core services to ensure the utilization of best practices, relevant materials and appropriate training. John Burton Advocates for Youth is available to provide technical assistance and support in the development of this plan.
- 3. Support Financial Aid Completion** - A 2015 study of foster youth attending community college found that just 50 percent received the federal Pell Grant, even though almost all foster youth students qualify. To increase financial aid access, it is recommended that DCFS implement a policy which mandates that social workers identify in the case plan of any youth 16 or older, the individual who will assist with applications for postsecondary education and financial aid. This recommendation is also included in Senate Bill 12 (Beall), which if passed, would require every child welfare agency to implement a similar requirement. John Burton Advocates for Youth is available to assist DCFS to identify community resources that could be leveraged to support social workers with this task.
- 4. Data Sharing** - Develop a mechanism that allows the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles County Office of Education and the California public systems of higher education (California Community College, California State University and University of California) to share data in order to identify current and former foster youth who are enrolled in college for the purposes of individualized outreach to ensure that foster youth are aware of all services for which they are eligible and aggregate tracking of outcome indicators in order to gauge effectiveness of interventions.