

Children & Family Services

Moving the agency in a positive direction with regards to helping families become stronger so they can care for their children, helping family be able to care for children when their parents cannot, and to create and maintain a workforce committed to excellence.



**2015/2016
PROGRAM REPORT
FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES' COMMITTEE**

October 2016

The Forward Movement of Children & Family Services

Service Delivery to strengthen families in the community

- Prioritizing Staffing
- Ombudsman specific for CFS & Adult Protective Services Work
- Caregiver Liaison
- Safety Organized Practice (SOP)
- Children's Leadership Team (CLT)
- The Court Unit Workgroup
- The County Culture Workgroup
- Intensive Family Services (IFS)
- Structured Decision Making (SDM)
- Resource Family Approval (RFA)
- Approve Relative Caregiver Funding Option (ARCFO)
- Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)



What is ILSP?

- Programming to support foster youth age 16 to 21 years old to become self-sufficient through skill building, supportive services and positive youth development.
- Funding and services expanded to State and Federal government via the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act in 1999.
- Assembly Bill 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act allows young adults to be provided transitional support to age 21 to ensure the necessary skills to survive on their own.



The Independent Living Skills Program

“Our vision is to move every youth from stagnation to motivation, from limitations to possibilities; from dependency to self-sufficiency; from the past to the FUTURE.”

Who are the Foster Youth Served by ILSP?

- Children who have been removed from their family's custody due to neglect and abuse.
- Children who have not reunified with their family nor have they found a permanent home (i.e. adoption)
- Children who may have grown up in foster care or just entered as adolescents.
- Youth who have a Placement Order through the Juvenile Probation Department at the age of 16.



What is the Need?

Children who emancipate from the foster care system face higher rates of:



- Unemployment
- Lower Educational Attainment
- Incarceration
- Dependence on public assistance
- Substance abuse
- Early parenting
- Homelessness
- Increased Health and Mental Health problems
- Other high-risk behaviors





About The Program

- Staff consists of an ILSP Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and 5 Program Specialists
- Serves all foster youth from Contra Costa County, including youth from other counties placed in Contra Costa County
- ILSP Youth Center opened in 2001
- Collaborative Partners include:
 - CCC Office of Education
 - The Assistance League of Diablo Valley
 - CCC Community College District
 - The Orinda Woman's Club
 - Wellness City Challenge
 - Foster A Dream
 - Job Corps – Treasure Island
 - The Secret Elves
 - Suzy Todd Photography
 - Friends of ILSP Organization
 - The Los Medanos Community Healthcare District
 - Honorable Judge Lois Haight Foster Youth Foundation
 - CCC Workforce Development Board Youth Council – WIOA
 - Volunteer Emergency Services Team In Action (VESTIA)

Programming and Services

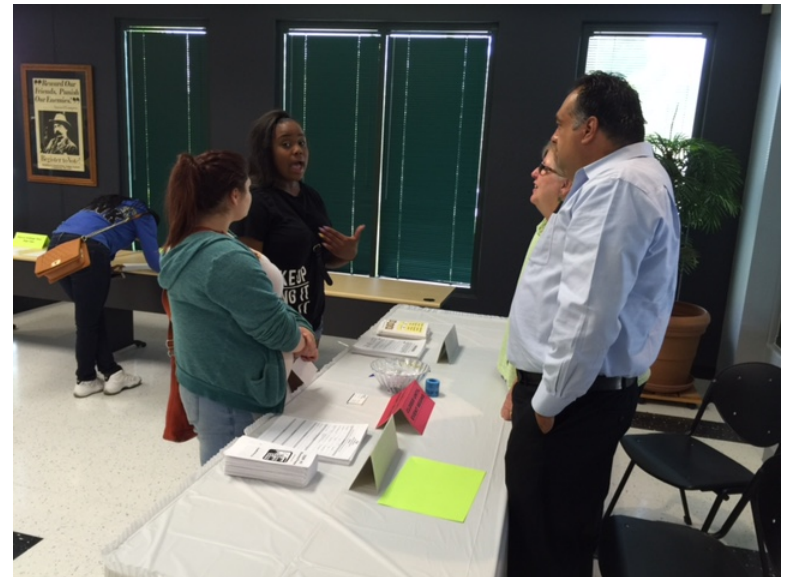
- ILSP spotlights four core areas called “The Four Pillars” when providing hands-on, experiential learning experiences for participants. The Four Pillars consist of Education, Employment, Housing and Well-Being. Workshops are offered in all three regions of the county (East, Central & West) to increase participation.
- Aftercare program for emancipated youth/AB12 youth
- Leadership Development through California Youth Connection (CYC)



2015/2016 Summary

- This past fiscal year, 610 current and former foster youth were served both individually and in group settings (i.e. workshops, classes, etc.)
- 153 of these youth were Non-Minor Dependents
- THP+ has the capacity for 12 emancipated youth and THPP has the capacity for 24 in care youth
- THP+FC is expanding as new providers are becoming certified to offer housing services to our Non Minor Dependent Population. We currently work with six licensed agencies.
- 100 ILSP youth graduated High School in 2016
- 9 graduated college

A Glimpse of ILSP...



Annual Fall Retreat Event



Summer Network Event - WaterWorld





Sierra College Tour



Cooking and Nutrition Workshops



California Youth Connection/ILSP
Summer
Leadership & Policy
Conference



Life Skills Workshops



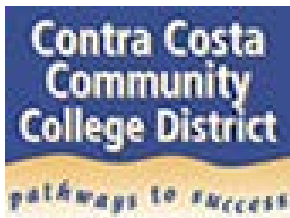
White Water Rafting South Fork American River



Money Management Workshop



College Luncheon Event





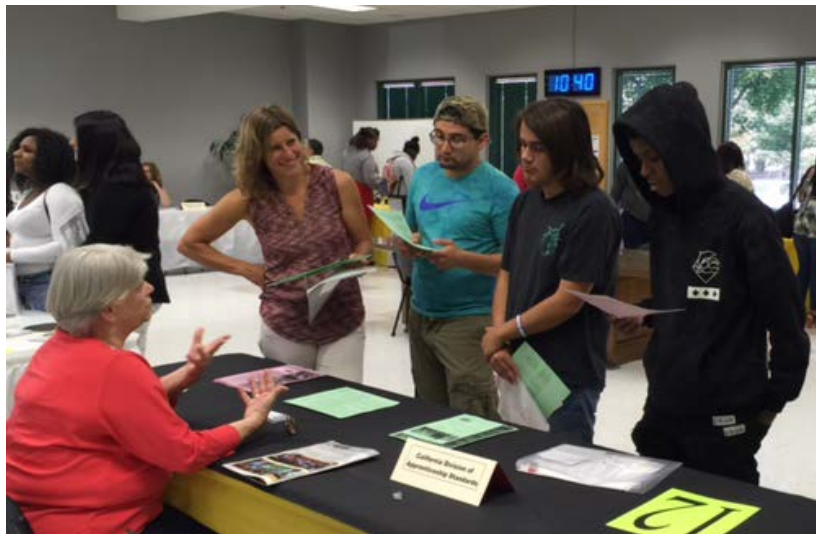
Los Medanos
Community
Healthcare
District's Summer
Intern Program

HOLIDAY NETWORK EVENT



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ILSP Senior Kick Off Event





Sea Kayak Trip Sausalito to Angel Island



Yosemite Lakes Overnight Camping Trip



Summary



- **In the current economic climate, ILSP plays an even greater role in the lives of foster youth.**
- **For some emancipated youth, ILSP is the only support they have in times of crisis.**
- **For youth opting to remain in foster care under AB12, ILSP will continue to provide support, direct services and resources.**
- **ILSP addresses the social and well-being aspects of foster youth.**