

CASA of
Sonoma County

SRJC Bound
for CASAs

*** Draft ***

November, 2011

SRJC Bound for CASAs

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CASA of
Sonoma County
SRJC Bound

Introduction



This document was developed to assist CASAs and their current and emancipated “transitioning” foster youth with the various processes involved with preparing for, applying to, obtaining financial assistance for and attending classes at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC).

It was written for the primary use of the CASA and was based on actual experience with the process as a CASA/youth team. A related document for foster youth, *SRJC Bound for Students*, supplements this document. It has been customized and organized specifically for Sonoma County foster youth and Santa Rosa Junior College.

As CASAs we want all our foster youth to reach the highest level of education or training they are desirous and capable of while adequately meeting their needs for food, clothing and shelter.

CA Assembly Bill 490 dictates that “Foster youth must have access to the same academic resources, services, extracurricular and enrichment activities available to all students.” It is intended so that foster youth have a better chance to succeed in school.

The Casey Family Programs *Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care* study notes that “Study after study shows that, as a group, foster youth fare poorly as they attempt to negotiate the world of adulthood. Youth who age out are less likely than

their peers in the general population to achieve academic milestones, including high school graduation and postsecondary education that signal the foundations of self-sufficiency.” The study further notes that “older youth in foster care need early preparation to develop aspirations, learn and practice life skills, have “normal” formative experiences, and otherwise become ready for adult life.”

According to the CA Department of Social Services’ *Resource Directory A Guide for Current and Emancipated Foster Youth*, “Even if your grades were bad, you did not graduate from high school or you received your GED, you still can go to a community college and transfer to a university. Community Colleges provide financial aid and other support that makes it possible for foster youth and emancipated youth to attend college, almost free of charge. You can earn your Associate Degree or a certificate in less than two years of full time classes. Community college vocational training programs include nursing, computer programming, mechanics and electronics.”

Most of the information contained in this document was culled from:

- SRJC *The Catalog 2010/2011* (\$5 at SRJC Bookstore)
- SRJC *Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Schedule of Classes*
- SRJC website (www.santarosa.edu)
- SRJC brochures
- State of California website (www.CA.gov)
- Numerous other websites (especially for Financial Aid & Scholarships)
- *Resource Directory – A Guide for Current and Emancipated Foster Youth* provided by the CA Department of Social Services and the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman
- *CASA Guide to Independent Living for Transitional-Age and Emancipated Foster Youth*, Alameda County CASA Program
- Casey Family Programs literature
- TANF / CalWORKs / SonomaWORKs literature
- *Hopes & Hurdles – California Foster Youth and College Financial Aid* Institute for College Access&Success October 2009
- California Student Aid Commission

This document is a work-in-process. Suggestions for additions, deletions and changes are welcome. This is especially true for financial assistance opportunities. Please forward suggestions to Karen Bushnell at kbushnell@msn.com.

Preparation for SRJC

It is the theory of the CASA program that the emancipation process begins as early as 14-15 years of age when the minor is encouraged to look at their skills, interests and what they might want to be when they “grow up.” This learning experience will begin more assertively at 15½ to prepare the youth for 16 when the Independent Living Program (ILP) staff will contact them to enroll in the ILP classes offered at SRJC.

Other SRJC opportunities available to students without a high school degree include College Skills classes and the GED Lab. Details of these classes and additional information can be found below and in the Schedule of Classes catalog.

Conversations

Although this document addresses foster youth attending SRJC, foster youth should understand that college is not the only option for a post-secondary education and for many foster youth a vocational path or trade school may make more sense. Ongoing discussions between CASAs and youths are a good way to begin the process of determining what they want to be when they “grow up.”

Campus Tours

Campus tours are a good way to introduce foster youth to college life and are a fun, free activity.

Free campus tours are operated throughout the year, Monday-Friday, during Fall and Spring sessions and Monday-Thursday during the summer session.

Reservations are required and should be made at least one week in advance. To make a reservation, contact the Tour Coordinator at (707) 527-4424.

College Preparation

From About.com College Preparation by Alan Grove:

Middle School

Why Middle School Actually Does Matter For College Admissions

In general, you don't need to worry too much about college when you are in middle school. Nevertheless, although your middle school grades and activities won't appear on

your college application, you can use 7th and 8th grades to set yourself up to have the strongest record possible in high school.

If you find that your skills in an area such as math or science aren't what they should be, middle school is a wise time to seek out extra help and tutoring. If you can improve your academic strengths in middle school, you'll be positioned to earn better grades when it really begins to matter – in 9th grade.

Always keep in mind that your middle school record doesn't appear on your college application. You shouldn't stress about college in 7th or 8th grade. Use these years to explore new things and discover what subjects and activities really excite you.

9th Grade

9th Grade Matters for College Admissions. Here's How to Make the Most of It.

College seems a long way off in 9th grade, but you need to start thinking about it seriously now. Your 9th grade academic and extracurricular record will be part of your college application.

The primary advice for 9th grade can be boiled down to this: take demanding courses, keep your grades up, and be active outside the classroom.

Don't blow off your summer. Summer is a great opportunity to have meaningful experiences that will be rewarding for you and impressive on your college application. Travel, community service, volunteerism, sport or music camp, and employment are all good options.

10th Grade

Use Sophomore Year to Create a Winning College Admissions Strategy

Your college applications are still a couple years off when you start 10th grade, but you need to keep your long-term goals in mind. Work on keeping your grades up, taking challenging courses, and gaining depth in your extracurricular activities.

There's no formula for what defines a productive summer, but you should make sure you do something that leads to personal growth and valuable experiences. Whatever your passions and interests, try to plan your summer to tap into them.

11th Grade

Use Sophomore Year to Create a Winning College Admissions Strategy

In 11th grade, the college preparation process accelerates and you need to start paying careful attention to looming deadlines and application requirements. You should have a plan mapped out for achieving your broad educational goals.

11th grade is probably your most important year for earning high grades. If you had marginal grades in 9th or 10th grade, improvement in 11th grade shows a college that you've learned how to be a good student. A drop in your grades in 11th grade shows a move in the wrong direction, and it will raise red flags for the college admissions folks.

12th Grade

Keep Track of Important Dates and Deadlines in 12th Grade

Senior year is a busy and extremely important time in the college admissions process. This is your last chance to get the ACT and SAT scores you need. You'll need to get your college essay up to snuff, line up your letters or recommendation, and apply for financial aid. During the application process, you'll need to keep active in extracurricular activities and maintain high grades.

See SRJC Bound College Preparation Checklist for details.

SRJC Independent Living Program (ILP)

The Independent Living Program (ILP) has been part of SRJC since 1989. In partnership with Sonoma County Department of Human Services, ILP provides support and resources for youth ages 15-21 who are in foster placement or who are moving toward independent living. Classes, workshops, and events cover topics such as college enrollment, housing, budgeting, banking, conflict resolution, safe choices, and goal setting, help developing skills and resources needed to become self sufficient. Independent Living Program is state and federally funded, and all classes are free.

The Independent Living Skills classes meet once a week for 1½ hours for 25.5 hours of education per semester, and provide information and resources to help students help themselves. Topics include:

- Introduction to SRJC/Registration
- Educational/Vocational Goal Setting
- Income Tax Preparation
- Financial Aid
- Transportation
- Budgeting
- Jobs! What is available and what you can earn.
- Jobs! Part 2 Resume/Role Playing
- Jobs! Part 3 Interviewing
- Career Options
- Diet and Nutrition
- Housing/Options & Resources
- Job Link
- SRJC Resources

Among other things, the ILP program can help youth to:

- Get money through the Emancipated Youth Stipend to help with housing, food and expenses after emancipation

- Get funds for driver's training
- Find a steady job, with a good paycheck
- Get an apartment / Transition Housing
- Learn the skills to become self-sufficient
- Get money to finish school

The program consists of two courses. Therefore students can earn up to six units of college credits if they take both classes twice.

Part I for youth ages 15-17

Independent Living Planning, Beginning

CHLD 312 (Fall session) CHLD 313 (Spring session)

Introduction to Independent Living Skills with a focus on vocational goal setting, planning and financial literacy. Includes introduction to community and college resources such as financial aid, EOPS, CalWORKs, tutorial and placement testing services, counseling, health services, and housing information. Students will practice checkbook balancing, tax preparation and budgeting, and develop job search and interviewing skills.

Part II for emancipating youth ages 17-21

Independent Living Planning, Advanced

CHLD 314 (Fall session) CHLD 315 (Spring session)

Advanced Independent Living Skills focuses on vocational goal setting and financial literacy in more depth. Includes researching community and college resources such as financial aid, EOPS (Economic Opportunity Program Service), CalWORKs, tutorial and placement testing services, counseling, health and housing information services. Students will visit these resources in small groups and report back to the class. Students will practice checkbook balancing, prepare federal and state income tax forms, identify safe financial practices to avoid bad credit or identity theft, and practice job searches and interviewing skills.

Participating students will:

- Receive 3.3 high school credits per semester
- Receive 1.5 college credits per semester
- Earn incentive pay for each class attended
- Earn additional money for participation on other ILP events throughout the year

If both classes are taken twice (which is the allowable maximum), a student can earn 6 college credits and, if taken while in high school, 13.2 high school credits.

Additionally, ILP can help with housing, finances, plans for college, job hunting and more.

Special Events may include:

- "Independent City" (a mock life in a mock city)
- "Ropes course"
- "The Awards Banquet"
- Computer Whiz Day
- "Who Am I?" (Vocational assessment day)

SRJC College Skills classes

The College Skills/Tutorial Department offers classes and labs to improve basic academic and computational skills to prepare students for college-level work and to encourage success through course-related tutoring.

The College Skills Department offers students a variety of ways to improve their academic skills in a highly supportive and respectful environment. They can help improve study skills, as well as skills in math, reading, and writing, to succeed in college or on the job.

College Skills offers open-entry, open-exit Basic Skills Labs to help students brush up and improve reading, writing and/or math skills, as well as prepare for the GED test. Instruction is provided in a self-paced, supportive and stress-free learning environment.

Academic & Basic Skills

These courses allow the student to enroll throughout the semester and work at an individual pace.

There are three Academic Skills courses that are available, to be taken in sequential order, and one Basic Skills course:

Academic Skills

- Academic Skills I [CSKLS 731]
math computation, reading comprehension, sentence skills, and basic computer skills
- Academic Skills II [CSKLS 732]
pre-collegiate math, reading skills, paragraph writing, and basic word-processing
- Academic Skills III [CSKLS 733]
pre-algebra, academic reading, essay-writing skills, academic computer use, and test-taking preparation

Basic Skills

- Basic Skills [CSKLS 772]
math, reading, writing, basic technology skills, and test-taking preparation

General College Preparatory Skills

Primarily study skills:

- Skills Assessment
- Test-Taking Strategies
- Test-Taking Preparation (reading, writing, math)
- How to Take an Online Class
- Vocation English for Speakers of Other Languages

Reading and Writing Skills

Reading and Writing plus:

- Spelling & Vocabulary Development
- Grammar and Writing Review
- Essay Writing Workshop

Computational Skills

Math and Science.

Tutorial Center

The Tutorial Center provides tutors and materials free of charge for SRJC students needing assistance in their regular coursework. The people who work in the Tutorial Center are Senior Instructional Assistants who are experts in the subjects they tutor and who also enjoy helping others to succeed. Group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are provided.

The tutorial program offers tutoring in ASL, Astronomy, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Economics, English, ESL, Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Math, Philosophy, Physics and other requested subjects. Drop-in tutoring is available for Math, Chemistry and for Writing assignments.

Santa Rosa Campus
Doyle Library, Room 4251



Petaluma Campus
Doyle Hall



High School Degree Alternatives

Too many foster youth “transition” without a high school degree. There are two alternative proficiency programs: the GED and the CHSPE.

GED (General Education Development)

The American Council on Education recognizes successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) tests as equivalent to a high school diploma throughout the United States.

SRJC offers an extensive GED-preparation program in both English and Spanish.

GED tests provide adults (age 18 and older) who did not complete a formal high school program the opportunity to certify their attainment of high school-level academic knowledge and skills.

98% of colleges and universities that require a high school diploma accept the GED credential. 96% of companies accept applicants with a GED credential for jobs requiring a high school degree.

Requirements

- 18 years of age or older, or within 60 days of their 18th birthday
- within 60 days of their graduation date had they remained in school and followed the usual course of study
- 17 years of age and have been out of school for at least 60 consecutive school days
- a minimum of a ninth grade reading level
- ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide by hand

GED Labs

These labs offer free learning opportunities to brush-up on academic skills or to prepare for the GED test and other exams such as the Math Competency Exam, CAHSEE, CHSPE, and CBEST.

Each Academic Skills Lab site has instructors, computers, and materials to help with GED and placement test preparation and credit class assignments. There are no entry requirements, but students under 18 years of age who are currently attending high school must complete a concurrent enrollment form when they register.

GED preparation classes are provided by the College Skills Department and consist of:

- Basic Academic Skills class (CSKLS 731)
- GED Preparation classes

- GED computer labs

GED practice tests are available, as well as self-paced lab with individual instruction and concentration in language and math skills.

Day, evening, and Saturday classes are available throughout the year at:

Santa Rosa Campus	Petaluma Campus
Analy Village Bldg H, Room 601	Kathleen Doyle Hall, Room 252

See Assessment & Placement / GED Testing below for testing details.

CHSPE (CA High School Proficiency Examination)

This program was established by California law. The CHSPE consists of two sections: English-Language Arts and Mathematics. If youth pass both sections, the CA State Board of Education will award a Certificate of Proficiency, which by state law is equivalent to a high school diploma.

Eligibility to take the CHSPE:

- At least 16-year-old OR
- Have been enrolled in the 10th grade for one academic year or longer OR
- Will complete one academic year of enrollment in the 10th grade at the end of the semester during which the next regular admission will be conducted

To take the CHSPE, student must register at www.chspe.net/registration/form.

Registration instructions: www.chspe.net/form/CHSPE_Registration_Directions.pdf.

Frequently asked questions: www.chspe.net/about/faq.

Boys & Girls Club CollegeBound Program

If the foster youth lives in or near Sonoma, the CollegeBound program at the Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma Valley is a wonderful resource to prepare for SRJC as well as other colleges. It is meant for all high school students, regardless of academic record, and is available at no cost.

Program Benefits:

- One-on-one college and career advising covering topics such as:
 - College application process
 - Scholarships and financial aid

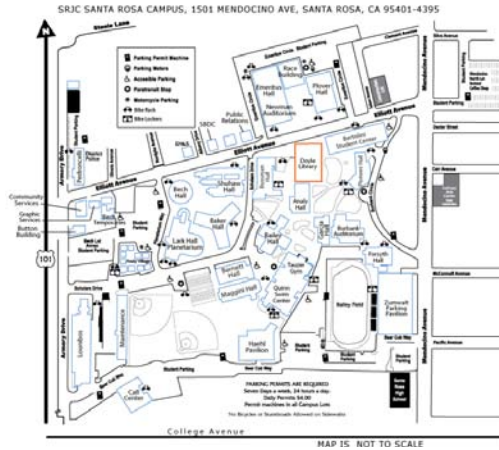
- SAT/ACT
 - Personal statement writing
 - Choosing a major
 - Senior project (required at Sonoma Valley High School)
-
- College Tours
 - Tutoring
 - Test Prep
 - Extracurricular Support

SRJC Facility & Benefits

Santa Rosa Junior College consists of a two campuses, in Santa Rosa and Petaluma, as well as dozens of other sites across Sonoma County including:

- Shone Farm near Forestville
- Culinary Arts Center in downtown Santa Rosa
- Public Safety Training Center in Windsor

Santa Rosa Campus
 1501 Mendocino Ave.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401
 (707) 527-4011
www.santarosa.edu



Petaluma Campus
 680 Sonoma Mountain Pkwy
 Petaluma, CA 95954
 (707) 778-3801
www.santarosa.edu/petaluma



The benefits of attending Santa Rosa Junior College are numerous and varied. According to Lisceth Cruz, a doctoral student in the School of Education at the University of California at Davis, SRJC is considered to be one of the five best junior colleges in the country.

Benefits of attending SRJC include:

- Introduction to the main fields of knowledge: the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences
- Receive the guidance and help of counselors, advisors, and faculty in planning a program to meet needs and challenge abilities
- Prepare for transfer to the upper division of a four-year college or university

- Take advantage of the one and two year career training programs offered in a wide variety of fields
- Obtain guidance in determining aptitudes and vocations
- Participate in training, education, and activities for self enrichment
- Benefit from the extensive and diverse backgrounds of faculty who have an interest in youths' success and will strive to help them gain knowledge, skills, and understanding that enable them to meet their objectives
- Upgrade youths position in career training fields through specific courses offered
- Take advantage of opportunities for student activities and leadership

Application & Admission

- Admission Requirements
- myCubby
- How to apply online
- Fees

See SRJC Bound for Students for details.

Testing Services

Assessment & GED Services Centers offer a variety of testing services. Call one of the test centers to make an appointment and for more detailed information.

Santa Rosa Campus
Plover Hall, Room 531
(707) 527-4661



Petaluma Campus
Jacobs Hall, Room 109
(707) 778-3908



Placement Tests

Placement tests are designed to assess current reading, writing, math, and chemistry skills and are required to enroll in an English, Math or Chemistry class. They determine eligibility to enroll in courses appropriately matched to skill level. Tests can be taken by appointment or drop-in as space allows. There are no grades assigned for tests.

Students can waive the English and Math tests if they scored as “ready” for CSU college level English and math through the EAP (STAR) testing at their high school. They will need to complete and submit a Prerequisite Equivalency/Challenge Form to do so.

Assessment is a central part of the college orientation program. All new college students are encouraged to take the placement tests before seeing a counselor. The results will be helpful in determining the appropriate level classes in many disciplines. Students planning to transfer to a university or four year college to earn a bachelor's degree will have to complete higher level English and math classes.

The following are needed to take the tests.

- SRJC Student I.D. number
- Application to SRJC
- Photo I.D.

The English Placement Test comprises a 45 minute writing sample and a 50 minute multiple choice questions test. There is a Reading Comprehension and a Sentence Structure and Grammar component.

The Math Placement Test is a computerized adaptive, multiple-choice questions test that will take approximately 1½ hours to complete. The four math subsets are Pre-Algebra, Algebra, College Algebra and Trigonometry. Youth will be asked to choose the test that best matches their current math skill level.

The Chemistry Placement Test is 45 minutes.

There will a 15 minute orientation before the tests begin.

It is recommended that youth arrive early as latecomers will not be admitted after the test begins and seating is limited. All testing materials will be provided. Check the Placement Testing Schedule for dates, times, room locations and scheduling options.

Test results are available in approximately two business days and can be accessed at www.santarosa.edu after clicking Student Portal and then Placement Test. It is recommended that youth meet with a counselor to review their test results.

The testing schedule is available at www.santarosa.edu/assessment/ or at the Assessment Services Office.

The English and Chemistry Study Guides are available at www.santarosa.edu/app/placement/Study-Guides.

The Math Study Guide is available at www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html.

GED (General Education Development) Test

Fees

The GED test registration fee is \$125, applies to anyone who is testing at SRJC for the first time and applies only to the current GED testing year. The retesting registration fee is \$20 per test subject. Cash, checks and money orders are accepted. Checks should be made payable to SRJC. Payments should be made at the Accounting Department in Bailey Hall. Failure to attend the scheduled testing session may result in a forfeit of the registration fee.

Fee reduction applications are available from the GED Office for current SRJC BOG recipients.

Reservations

All GED tests are reserved on a first come, first served basis. Testing sessions typically fill up about two months in advance of test dates.

To reserve a seat in the SRJC GED Examination, apply in person at either the Santa Rosa or Petaluma campus. When the application is submitted, youth will be required to provide:

- GED Exam Application
- A Valid Photo I.D.
- Fee receipt (see above)

Youth will receive a letter in the mail confirming the testing session.

SRJC's Application for the GED Examination can be found at:

www.santarosa.edu/app/placement/GED-Tests/pdf/GED-app-verification.pdf

Testing

Only those applicants who have successfully pre-registered will be admitted to a testing session.

SRJC's Official GED Testing Center is at Plover Hall, Room 531.

The GED Test battery consists of five tests (subjects) given over two days and completing the entire test battery takes just over 7 hours. Youth must attend both days to complete all tests.

1. Language Arts, Reading
2. Language Arts, Writing
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. Social Studies

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Time Limit</u>	<u>Day</u>
Science	80 minutes	1
Social Studies	70 minutes	1
Language Arts, Reading	65 minutes	1
Language Arts, Writing	120 minutes	2
Mathematics	90 minutes	2

SRJC provides all the testing materials needed. Examinees are not permitted to bring cell phones, pagers, hand-held electronic games, food items, textbooks (including dictionaries), notebooks, supplies, hats, or other nonessential items to their seats in the testing room.

If unable to make your scheduled testing session, please call the GED office at (707) 527-4802 at least two business days in advance of the test date to reschedule.

Test results scores will be mailed to the address listed on the application about three weeks following the last day of testing. The GED/Assessment Services Center cannot give out test results over the phone, nor can they give your test results to another individual or agency without written permission from youth on record.

Once the student passes the GED tests, they will receive their High School Equivalency Certificate from the California State GED Office in about one month.

Identification

Youth must bring a current valid form of photo identification on both days of the exam that includes name, birth date, a current photograph, and youth's signature on a single document. The name and signature listed on the GED application must match exactly the information shown on youth's ID. Youth will not be allowed to test without the required ID.

Acceptable ID:

- CA driver's license
- CA Department of Motor Vehicles ID card
- passport
- U.S. military ID card
- government ID card
- work visa
- green card
- tribal ID card

Unacceptable ID:

- school ID card
- check-cashing card
- birth certificate
- social security card
- temporary, expired, or damaged IDs

Retesting

Examinees may test up to three times per test subject per calendar year and according to available testing sessions.

If youth does not pass a test subject, they may retake that test subject up to two more times per calendar year of available testing sessions for an additional charge; however, an examinee may not test more than three times total per calendar year.

To schedule a retake test(s), call the GED/Assessment Services Center to inquire about available retesting dates, times, and locations. If youth does not schedule and pay for

the retest(s) for a date within the calendar year of available testing sessions, they will have to wait until the following year to do so.

Ability to Benefit (ABT) Test

Students who are interested in receiving financial aid must take the ATB/Wonderlic test if they do not have a high school diploma or GED. This is a federally approved examination that assesses whether students who are not high school graduates can benefit from the instruction provided at the college.

To make an appointment to take the test or for more information contact Assessment & GED Services at (707) 527-4661. On the day of the test youth will be required to show photo identification.

Two practice basic skills tests are available at the Assessment & GED Services Centers: Quantitative Skills (Form QS-A) and Verbal Skills (Form VS-A).

Orientation

- Introduction to College [COUN270] Class
- Online Orientation
- New Student Drop-In Orientations

See *SRJC Bound for Students* for details.

Counseling

Counselors are available by appointment and on a drop-in basis to students to assist them in attaining their educational, career training, and personal/life goals. They can help find the right level of classes and assist in designing an educational plan to help you meet educational goal.

See SRJC Bound for Students for details.

Registration

Registering can be very frustrating. With government cut-backs and the economic downturn more and more students are attending junior colleges. It is important to understand that it can be very difficult to get the classes the student needs or wants so they should register at the earliest possible time.

Priority registration allows students to register before Open Registration. It is primarily for students who are currently enrolled at SRJC but new student who have attended an orientation can qualify too.

Priority 1 students register first, then Priority 2 through 5, before Open Registration. New students can qualify for Priority 4 or Priority 5 registration:

Priority 4 – by completing Introduction to College (COUN 270) class

Priority 5 – by attending a Drop-In Orientation or completing the online orientation

See Orientation section above.

See SRJC Bound for Students for details.

Financial Assistance

The majority of young adults are not expected to apply for postsecondary financial aid by themselves – parents, relatives, and counselors usually help. Students from foster care are no different. They too need a trusted, knowledgeable adult to help, a mentor.

Students who try to go it alone could assume unnecessary loan debt, leave school early because of inadequate financial resources and stress, or not be able to go at all because they couldn't pull together enough money.

A dedicated mentor is not expected to be an expert financial aid counselor, but should be generally knowledgeable about financial aid and skilled at guiding a student. – From Casey family programs *It's My Life: Financial Aid Postsecondary Education and Training*.

The CASA is an ideal and advisable choice to play the role of mentor.

College or a postsecondary training program may seem beyond the financial reach of many youth in foster care who face emancipation from the foster care system with limited prospects for economic independence. However, with proper planning and support, students from foster care can combine financial aid awards from a number of sources to pay the full cost of attendance for most programs. It has been reported that half of all undergraduates who may have been eligible for federal money didn't receive any for one reason - they didn't apply.

The financial aid process is complex and confusing. Educating students from foster care about their financial aid opportunities is critical, as is timely planning and continuous guidance every step of the way.

Students from foster care will usually receive a financial aid package reflecting a range of sources. Some of their aid package will draw on resources available to the general population of postsecondary students and part will come from funds designated expressly for student who have been in foster care. Students might also be eligible for a variety of scholarships – scholarships for academic merit, athletic scholarships, or scholarships for student from a particular ethnic background. – From Casey family programs *It's My Life: Financial Aid Postsecondary Education and Training*.

Types of financial aid:

Grants are money you don't have to pay back and are typically based on financial need.

Scholarships are also free money for college and are based on your area of study or on merit, such as good grades, special talents or community service.

Work-study or student employment programs let you earn money for college in a job on or off campus.

Loans are borrowed money that you must repay with interest. If you do need to borrow, there are federal loans that offer low interest rates and other benefits.

Loan programs were deliberately excluded from this document because transitioning foster youth face enough financial challenges without the burden of student loans.

SRJC offers one of the largest financial aid and scholarship packages in the nation to help pay for college. Scholarships are available to full- and part- time students who establish a good academic record and demonstrate a commitment to a career. These scholarships recognize outstanding students for academic achievement, financial need, academic field of study, community service, campus activities, and outside interests.

Please note that students are not required to provide parent financial information if they:

- were in foster care at any time since they turned 13
- were a ward of the court
- are an emancipated minor

Sources:

- Resource Directory A Guide for Current and Emancipated Foster Youth
- Independence for Foster Youth (WA State)
www.independence.wa.gov
- About College
www.aboutcollege.com
- U.S. Department of Education - Student Aid on the Web
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>
- CA Student Aid Commission
www.calgrants.org/index.cfm
www.calgrants.org/index.cfm?navId=22
www.calgrants.org/index.cfm?navId=21

See SRJC Bound Financial Aid Checklist for details.

Financial Aid & Grants

Foster youth are considered “independent students.” Therefore they are eligible for maximum federal and state grants.

The Financial Aid Office at SRJC offers a variety of programs to assist students with meeting the costs of higher education. Some awards consist of two or three types of aid put together as a financial aid package. You must complete and file a FAFSA to apply for any of these programs. Margaret Mann, in the Financial Aid office, is a tremendous resource. She considers foster youth a pet project. She will help applicants complete the FAFSA application (see below).

Please note that students who do not have a high school diploma or GED and are interested in receiving financial aid must take and pass both sections (Quantitative Skills and Verbal Skills) of the ATB/Wonderlic test. See Testing Services / Ability to Benefit (ABT) section above.

Remember to meet all the priority deadlines to ensure that students receive as much financial support as possible.

Federal Aid

Federal student aid comes from the U.S. Department of Education. It is money that helps pay for educational expenses at a postsecondary school. Federal student aid covers expenses such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid also can help pay for a computer and for dependent care.

Requirements

The student must:

- demonstrate financial need,
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen,
- have a valid Social Security number,
- register with the Selective Service if required,
- maintain satisfactory academic progress, and
- show you're qualified to attend postsecondary education by:
 - having a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) certificate;
 - passing an approved Ability to Benefit test (ATB) if student doesn't have a diploma or GED;
 - completing six credit hours or equivalent course work toward a degree or certificate; or
 - meeting other federally approved standards the state of California

publishes

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

www.fafsa.ed.gov/

You apply for most financial aid by completing the Free Application for Student Aid, or FAFSA. It's the universal application the federal government, states and colleges use to determine how much financial aid you qualify to receive.

Instructions for students:

You must complete and submit a FAFSA to apply for federal student aid and to apply for most state and college aid.

It is best to apply online though the paper application is available in the Financial Aid Office and many other Student Services offices. It is faster and easier than using paper.

For FAFSA on the Web, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

For paper FAFSA, go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/pubs.

You can apply beginning January 1st (through June 30th) and should apply early.

Complete the online application at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please make sure you have completed the paper FAFSA using the required tax and asset information before you begin completing the online version. This will make filing the FAFSA easier for you.

In the fall, be sure to log on to www.fafsa.ed.gov or at www.pin.ed.gov to get a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Your PIN allows you to electronically sign when you submit your FAFSA.

If you sign the FAFSA online with a PIN and your e-mail address on the FAFSA, you will receive a response from the U. S. Department of Education very quickly. Typically, this response is sent within 72 hours to your e-mail via bulk e-mail. It is advisable to review e-mails sent to junk, bulk, and spam files 72 hours after submitting the FAFSA. Once a FAFSA confirmation is received via e-mail, mark the U. S. Department of Education as a contact. This will ensure all future correspondence from the Department of Education is received.

Approximately two to four weeks from the date you mailed your signature page of the FAFSA on the Web, or four to six weeks after you mail in your paper FAFSA, you will receive your Federal Student Aid Report (SAR). Soon after, you will also receive a letter from SRJC requesting that you complete and submit certain documents in order to complete your file and determine if you are eligible for a financial aid award. In order to ensure timely processing, complete and return these documents promptly.

The student may file a FAFSA anytime during the year for all kinds of financial aid. However, the most important application deadline is March 2nd.

FAFSA Forecaster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

You can get an estimate of eligibility for federal student aid instantly, even before your senior year, and shorten the time it takes to complete the FAFSA by using the FAFSA Forecaster tool.

Federal Pell Grant

www.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html

www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PellGrants.jsp?tab=funding

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduates to promote access to postsecondary education. They usually go to independent students with incomes under \$15,000 and every eligible student receives a grant. They are to help pay for tuition and other college expenses. Grant amounts of up to \$5550 (for the 2011-12 award year) per year are dependent on: the cost of attendance; the student's enrollment status (full-time or part-time); and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less.

This grant provides federal money for non-tuition and tuition paying students. A Pell Grant does not have to be repaid. The federal government determines who is eligible and how much each student is eligible to receive. Pell Grants are considered a foundation of federal financial aid, to which aid from other federal and nonfederal sources might be added.

The student may receive up to two consecutive Pell Grant awards during a single award year to accelerate a program toward their degree. They must be enrolled at least half-time and in a program that leads to an associate or bachelor's degree or certificate.

After filing a FAFSA, the student receives a Student Aid Report (SAR), or the institution receives an *Institutional Student Information Record* (ISIR), which notifies the student if he or she is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant and provides the student's EFC.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

www.ed.gov/programs/fseog/index

This federal program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Priority is given to those students with "exceptional need" and those who are also Federal Pell Grant recipients.

This federal program was designed to assist students with exceptional need by supplementing other financial aid sources. It provides between \$100 and \$4000 a year, depending on when the application is submitted. Limited funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis. Funds granted depend on availability at school.

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/AcademicGrants.jsp

2011 Status: This grant program does not have funding after the 2010-2011 school year.

This grant is for Pell eligible students enrolled at least half-time in the 1st or 2nd year of a study program or in a certificate program of at least one year. Students must meet

very specific criteria, in addition to Pell eligibility, including first time in college and completing certain "rigorous programs of academic study" in high school. The financial aid office can help determine if the student qualifies.

This award can be received for a maximum of two years. First year awards are up to \$750. Second year awards are up to \$1300 if cumulative GPA at least 3.0 at end of first year.

Federal Work Study (FWS)

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fws/index.html>

Federal Work Study is a program that provides jobs to students who demonstrate financial need. Financial need is determined using a standard formula established by Congress. Eligible students are placed into work study jobs at college sites. Award amounts range from \$1500 to \$2500 per term, including summer. Half time enrollment is required. Employment is provided so that students can earn money while gaining work experience for employment after graduation. Work hours are flexible.

State (CA) Aid

www.calgrants.org

www.casc.ca.gov

A number of grants are available from the state of California.

The mission of the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is to make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.

Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver

www.cccapply.org/BOG_Waiver/

The Board of Governors of the California Community College system offers a fee waiver program for low-income residents of California that are attending a community college. The BOG fee waiver will waive all per unit enrollment fees for an eligible student. It will also waive any parking permit fees in excess of \$20 per term.

Applications and information are available in the Financial Aid Office, as well as other Student Services offices. Assistance for the purchase of books and supplies must be applied for separately.

Santa Rosa Junior College offers online BOG Fee Waiver applications through CCCApply. When the student uses these online applications, the data entered in CCCApply will be transferred automatically, making the application much easier and faster.

Applications and information are available in the Financial Aid Office, as well as other Student Services offices. The application form is also available at

www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/financial_aid_office/bog-fee-waiver/pdf/2010_11_bog_fw_app_english.pdf

To qualify for a BOG fee waiver, the student needs to:

- Be classified as a resident of California, according to the SRJC Admissions Office
- Meet income criteria by:
 - Providing proof that they are receiving monthly cash assistance from TANF/ CalWORKs, SSI/SSP or General Assistance OR
 - Meet income criteria by: Establishing that their 2009 income was within set income standards for a 2010-2011 BOG; OR Completing a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at SRJC and have remaining "financial need"

Cal Grants

www.calgrants.org/

www.csac.ca.gov

The vast majority of financial aid available through the Cal Grant program is available automatically to youth who have recently graduated from high school (within a year of high school completion), meet GPA requirements, and apply by March 2nd.

Cal Grants are administered by the California Student Aid Commission and offers are subject to state budget constraints.

There are two forms and two steps to apply for Cal Grants.

1. Submit your FAFSA as soon as possible on or after **January 1**, and no later than the deadline of **March 2**.
2. Submit your verified Cal Grant GPA to the California Student Aid Commission by **March 2**.

If you miss the March 2 deadline, you have a second deadline of September 2. However, Cal Grant awards for those who apply by September 2 are limited, so apply by March 2 if you can.

You have three chances to apply:

1. As a high school senior
2. Within one year after graduating from high school or receiving your GED
3. As a CA Community College transfer student, as long as you are under the age of 28

If you're a high school senior, graduate from a CA high school, meet the eligibility requirements and apply by March 2, you're guaranteed to receive a Cal Grant.

You can get quick answers to questions about the Cal Grant application using WebGrants for students at www.webgrants4students.org.

Instructions for students:

If you are a California graduating high school senior or recent graduate, or just got your GED, and meet academic, financial and eligibility requirements and submit two forms by the Cal Grant deadline then you may qualify for a Cal Grant for college or career or technical school.

You must apply by March 2 to maximize your opportunity to receive an award. If you miss the March 2 Cal Grant deadline AND you plan to SRJC in the fall, you have until September 2 to apply. However, the number of Cal Grant awards is limited.

To be eligible for a Cal Grant you must:

- Submit the FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA by the deadline
- Be a California resident when you graduated from high school
- Have a Social Security number
- Attend a qualifying California college (SRJC qualifies)
- Not have a bachelor's or professional degree
- Have financial need based on your college costs
- Have assets below the established ceilings
- Meet any minimum GPA requirements
- Be in a program leading to an undergraduate degree or certificate
- Be enrolled at least half time
- Have registered with U.S. Selective Service (most males)
- Not owe a refund on a state or federal grant, or be in default on a student loan

To apply for a Cal Grant you must first apply for FAFSA. The second step is to file a verified GPA with the CA Student Aid Commission.

To see current eligibility requirements, visit www.calgrants.org/index.cfm?navId=12.

Cal Grants are up to \$9,700 of free money annually for college!

Students applying for a Cal Grant must graduate from high school with at least a 2.0 GPA. The student will need a social security number or alien registration number, if applicable, to complete the financial aid forms. They will need two forms: the FAFSA and GPA Verification.

Please note: Cal Grant A information is not included because it is for students attending a California State University or the University of California.

Cal Grant B

Cal Grant B is for undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds and pays a stipend to assist with college costs. It provides a \$1551 per academic year living allowance and tuition and fee assistance for low-income students. Awards for most first-year students are limited to an allowance for books and living expenses. When renewed or awarded beyond the freshman year, the award also helps pay for tuition and

fees. The awards for tuition and fees are the same as those for Cal Grant A. For Cal Grant B, your coursework must be for at least one academic year.

There are two types of Cal Grant B awards: Entitlement and Competitive.

Cal Grant B Entitlement Award

- Students who meet all the Cal Grant eligibility requirements, and have at least a 2.0 GPA and apply by March 2 of the year they graduate from high school or the following year are guaranteed a Cal Grant B.
- The Cal Grant B Entitlement award provides up to \$1,551 for books and living expenses for students in their first year of college.
- For the second and subsequent years, the award also provides for tuition and fees at the California State University and the University of California, as well as tuition support at participating independent colleges and universities and career colleges.

Cal Grant B Competitive Awards

- Students who are not eligible for a Cal Grant B Entitlement award may compete for a Cal Grant B Competitive award.
- Cal Grant Competitive awards are the same as a Cal Grant Entitlement awards, except that they are not guaranteed.
- Each year, 22,500 Cal Grant Competitive awards are available. Of these, 11,250 are for students who do not qualify for a Cal Grant Entitlement award, but who otherwise meet the Cal Grant requirements and apply by March 2. The remaining 11,250 awards are set aside for eligible California Community College students who meet the September 2 deadline.

Cal Grant C

For Vocational/Technical/Occupational Students

Cal Grant C awards assist with tuition and training costs for occupational, technical, and vocational programs for up to two years. The award includes up to \$576 for books, tools and equipment. Funding is available for up to two years, depending on the length of the program. To qualify, the student must enroll in an occupational, technical, or vocational program that is at least four months. Even though a GPA is not required to apply for a Cal Grant C, students are still encouraged to submit it because it can only help the student's chances of receiving an award.

In order to determine an applicant's eligibility for a Cal Grant C, additional information must be provided on the Cal Grant C Supplement form. Supplements are scored based on work experience, educational history and vocational aptitude.

Only students who are potentially eligible for the award will receive an e-mail or letter notification and access to complete the online Cal Grant C Supplement in WebGrants for Students. They will have 30 days from the date of notification to complete this form. If unable to complete the Cal Grant C Supplement online, a paper copy of the form is available at www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=80. The paper Supplement must be completed and submitted to the California Student Aid Commission by the deadline.

Cal Grant C award offers will be made by the end of June.

Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS)

www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/eops/

This state-funded program provides financial aid (grants and stipends that do not need to be paid back) to full-time students who are both educationally and economically disadvantaged to achieve their academic goals at SRJC. The program is designed to make the college experience accessible and rewarding to those facing language, social, and economic challenges.

Services Offered:

- Book vouchers to purchase textbooks at the SRJC Bookstore
- Priority to register early (before Priority I) for classes
- Academic, personal, and vocational counseling
- Child care at the SRJC Children's Center
- CARE grants for single heads-of-household on TANF/SonomaWORKs
- Bilingual assistance in Spanish
- Assistance with college forms
- Counseling

Requirements:

- Be a resident of CA
- Be a full-time student (12 units or more each semester)
- Have completed less than 70 degree applicable units
- Qualify for Board of Governor's Waiver (BOGW) – Type A1, A2, A3 or B
- Meet one of the following criteria:
 - SRJC placement level is below English 100 or Math 150A (300 level classes)
 - not a high school graduate and have not completed a GED or passed a High School Proficiency Examinations
 - High school transcript shows that GPA was 2.49 or lower
 - Transcript showing that student was previously enrolled in remedial education
 - Other disadvantaged factors determined by the State Chancellor's Office

To apply go to or call the EOPS office:

Santa Rosa
EOPS Office
Bertolini Student Center, Room
707-527-4383

Petaluma
Counseling & Support Services Office
4722 Jacobs Hall, Room 110
707-778-3914

To apply for EOPS student will need:

- EOPS application
- BOGW application
- English or ESL and Math Placement Test scores
- High School Transcripts

Grants for Foster Youth

CA Chafee Grant

www.chafee.csac.ca.gov

The CA Chafee Grant Program gives up to \$5,000 annually of free money to foster youth and former foster youth to use for college courses or vocational school training. It can also be used to help pay for child care, transportation and rent while attending school.

To qualify, student must be a current or former foster youth and not have reached their 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year. The court must have established dependency between the ages of 16 and 19. The CA Department of Social Services will verify foster youth eligibility status. Student must be enrolled at least half-time, pursuing a one to four year course of study and maintain “satisfactory academic progress” earning no less than a 2.0 GPA two semesters in a row or passing marks in a technical/vocational program.

The final award amount will be determined based on enrollment status.

To complete the Chafee grant application requirements, in addition to verification of qualifying foster youth status, the following forms must be submitted:

- Chafee Grant Application
- FAFSA (see above)
- Chafee Need Analysis Report

Student’s completed applications are sorted by application date, and awards are offered based on the following priority selection criteria:

1. Paid renewal students who have not reached their 23rd birthday as of July 1st the award year.
2. New and non-paid renewals student who will be 22 years old as of July 1st of the award year.
3. New and non-paid renewal students who have dependents.
4. New and non-paid renewal students who have an unmet need of \$5,000 or more.
5. New and non-paid renewal students who have an unmet need of less than \$5,0000.

Further information and the online application are available on the website. Students must also complete the FAFSA.

You can get quick answers to questions about the CA Chafee Grant application using WebGrants for students at www.webgrants4students.org.

CA StudentAid WebGrants 4 Students

<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/logon.asp>

The California Student Aid Commission has created WebGrants Students4 (WGS). The goal is to provide you with the resources, information and tools needed to assist you with the college financial aid process. WGS will allow you to manage your Cal Grant and/or Chafee account(s) online by letting you view updates, make school changes, make address changes, make corrections, and post leave of absence requests. It is important for you to understand that your WGS account does not replace your School or FAFSA accounts. Each account must be monitored and managed independently.

Financial Aid Tips (from Alameda County *CASA Guide to Independent Living for Transitional-Age and Emancipated Foster Youth*):

- Apply for FAFSA first. This is the gateway for all other financial aid, grants and many scholarships.
- File electronically. It saves postage and it's quicker. File for both your FAFSA and Chafee grant applications electronically.
- Obtain a PIN number at www.pin.ed.gov.
- Gather documentation to prove you were a foster child. A statement from the courts or a letter from your child welfare worker on County letterhead will be sufficient.
- Ask for assistance. ILSP offers financial aid workshops and will help foster youth complete the application if needed.
- Complete the GPA Verification Form. You can access the form from [www.csac.ca.gov/pubs/forms/grnt_frm/march2_11-12_gpaform\(fillable\).pdf](http://www.csac.ca.gov/pubs/forms/grnt_frm/march2_11-12_gpaform(fillable).pdf).
- Turn in Board of Governors Waiver to the Financial Aid Office. These waivers are available at the Financial Aid Office and waive all or almost all of your tuition.
- Check the "Ward of the Court" box. It is imperative that you list your status as "independent" and check the box for foster youth, orphan or ward of the court.
- Write N/A (non-applicable) for the parental income information in the financial aid section.
- Answer all questions.
- Be honest.
- Proofread your application.
- Note any deadlines.
- Submit your application early.

Scholarships

Paying for college might seem an insurmountable challenge. Fortunately, there are a number of scholarships available to help underwrite the education of young people who are or have been in the American foster care system. - From College Scholarships.org website

About Scholarships

From Latino Scholarship Dollars website:

What Are Scholarships?

Scholarships are free money that is available to off-set the cost of school. Students have to apply for scholarships, which are awarded on a case-by-case basis, often based on merit. If a student receives a scholarship, it does not have to be paid back.

What Do You Need to Have to Qualify for a Scholarship?

Every scholarship has varying requirements – including its own application, which you will need to get and complete – but it is a good idea to pull together a folder of the following information (or as much of it as you can), as almost all scholarships will ask for some combination of these things:

- One or two essays
- Letter(s) of reference
- Writing sample
- Resume
- Transcripts
- Copy of Student Aid Report (SAR- see below)
- Parent and Student Tax Returns and W-2 Forms
- GPA Certification Form
- Enrollment Verification Form
- Copy of Financial Aid Award Letter

Beware of Scholarship Scams

Be wary of scholarship applications that require an “application fee.” Also proceed with caution with scholarship matching services that guarantee results and sales pitches that describe themselves as financial aid workshops or seminars.

Do You Need to Be a Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident to Qualify for a Scholarship?

Some scholarships require proof of citizenship in order to qualify for a scholarship, but others do not. Lists of both types of scholarships are in [the Latino Scholarship Dollars] directory.

Where Can You Get More Printed Information About Paying for College?

Call the federal government for a free guide, in English or in Spanish, to student financial aid: 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). This guide is an excellent comprehensive “how to” resource.

Are You Entering College Next Year? Complete the FAFSA as Soon as Possible

If you do nothing else, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), immediately after January 1 of your senior year. It is a form that most schools use to determine financial aid, and money is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. After you submit your FAFSA, you will be sent a Student Aid Report (SAR), which tells how much money your family is expected to contribute to your college education for one year. This helps schools and scholarship organizations know how much money you will need in financial aid.

From fastweb.com website by Kathryn Knight

Service clubs, companies, and charities give out about \$2 billion in private scholarships each year. Roughly 1 million students receive these monies—meaning 1 out of 13 students wins a scholarship. The average of these scholarships is \$2,000. So are you ready to start looking?

Athletic Scholarships. Granted, this is only going to apply to a select few, but athletic scholarships don't require a whole lot of brains. Rather, the importance lies in physical talent and drive.

Artistic Scholarships. There are plenty of art-specific scholarships available for students who do the research. Additionally, artists can use their skills to apply for non-artistic scholarships. Oftentimes, judges are looking for creatively convincing applications for “average joe” scholarships—think film, dance, song lyrics, paintings, etc.

Minority Scholarships. These scholarships are typically reserved for students from financially unprivileged backgrounds and ethnicities. Though these scholarships are not necessarily based on grades, they do require community service or athleticism—anything that sets you apart from the crowd.

Employee Scholarships. If you think your summer job is just a way to finance your love for video games or fashion, you're wrong. Many employers, whether yours or your parents, offer scholarships to students just because of the relationship that exists between the two.

Wacky Scholarships. There are scholarships out there that are wacky enough for any high school student. Think Duck Calling and Duct Tape Prom Dresses. It just requires a little legwork in finding these scholarships. And by legwork, we mean typing “wacky scholarships” into a search engine. Was that too hard? There is no reason that any student should pay full tuition for college. It just takes time and work to find ways to pay up. Remember, updating your FastWeb profile increases your chances of being matched with some of the types of scholarships mentioned above. So get on it!

SRJC Scholarships

SRJC Foundation & Endowed Scholarship Funds

www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/SRJC-foundation-scholarships/

The Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation is a nonprofit auxiliary organization under the direction of a Board of Directors formed to receive and administer gifts and funds from private sources. The Foundation promotes, fosters, and implements the programs of the College and assists with the maintenance of the Sonoma County Junior College District as one of the best two-year colleges in the nation.

The SRJC Foundation receives donations from individuals, community groups, and organizations to provide over 700 scholarships for full-time students who will continue their education at SRJC or will transfer from SRJC to a four-year institution. These scholarships are competitive and are awarded to students based on scholastic achievement, financial need, academic field of study, community service, campus activities, and essay responses.

The student may apply for these SRJC Foundation scholarships by completing a Continuing or Transferring Scholarship application. By completing one application, they will be applying for many different scholarships. (Applications are available each January with a March 1 deadline.) A complete list of scholarships available through this program is published in the *Santa Rosa Junior College Catalog*.

SRJC Foundation Scholarship applications for 2012-13 will be available in January 2012.

SRJC Business & Community Outside Scholarship Funds

www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/business-and-community-scholarships/
www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/application-forms/

There are over 350 private Business and Community scholarships available to students who are willing to commit some time to research.

Applications for these scholarships are available throughout the school year in the Scholarship Office. Criteria, award amounts, and deadlines vary with each scholarship.

For a current listing of scholarships being advertised, please visit the SRJC Scholarship Office, refer to "Scholarship News" in the *Bear Facts* or view the online bulletin board at <http://busapp02.santarosa.edu/SRScholarship/ScholarshipAwards.aspx>.

SRJC Doyle Scholarship Funds

www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/the-doyle-trust/

Status for 2011-12 school year is unknown.

The Frank P. Doyle and Polly O'Meara Doyle Trust generates distributions for scholarships to assist students attending SRJC.

These Scholarships are offered by Exchange Bank to qualified local high school graduates who are attending SRJC full-time. Funds for these scholarships have been provided by generous donations from organizations, businesses and members of the community.

Bridging the Doyle Scholarship applications and qualifying criteria are available on the Santa Rosa campus at the SRJC Scholarship Office in Plover Hall, on the Petaluma campus in the Financial Aid Office, Jacobs Hall, Room 116, or online at www.santarosa.edu/app/paying-for-college/scholarship-office/application-forms.

Scholarships for Foster Youth

Foster Care to Success

<http://fc2success.org>

Foster Care to Success helps former foster children become successful adults. In most states, foster children leave the social services system when they turn 18. In the eyes of the court they're adults, but few 18 year olds are emotionally, mentally or financially able to support themselves. Without someone to guide them, too many end up homeless, unemployed, incarcerated or pregnant. But it doesn't have to be that way.

FCS is the largest and oldest national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to promoting success through higher education for foster youth. We award about \$15 million private scholarships and government grants to more than 3,500 students each year."

The 2012-13 application will open January 1, 2012.

All FCS scholarships are awarded based on a combination of merit and need, and funding levels are determined based on cost of attendance and other resources. Scholarship recipients as well as non-recipients will be notified via email in June 2011. Notification will be sent to the email provided in the application.

Applicants must:

- have been in public or private foster care for a minimum of 12 consecutive months at the time of their 18th birthday; OR have been adopted or placed into legal guardianship from foster care after their 16th birthday; OR they must have been orphaned for at least one year at the time of their 18th birthday.
- have been accepted into or expect to be accepted into an accredited, Pell-eligible college or other post-secondary school.
- be under the age of 25 on March 31 of the year in which they first apply.
- have been in foster care or orphaned while living in the United States. U.S. citizenship is not required.

Foster Care to Success offers two scholarships for foster youth:

Casey Family Scholars Program/Scholarship

Since 2000, Foster Care to Success has administered nearly \$1M in scholarship funding annually for Seattle-based Casey Family Programs. Close to 500 Casey Family Scholars have graduated and entered the workforce or gone on to postgraduate studies since 2001.

Sponsored Scholarship Program

Funded entirely by private contributions, the Sponsored Scholarship Program provides money for former foster youth to attend universities, colleges or specialized training programs.

Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation Scholarship Program

www.vomchildrensfoundation.org/index.php/site/page/programs

2011 marks the fifth year of the Foundation's Scholarship Program. Since its inception the Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation has awarded 44 scholarships for a total of \$148,000. Last June 2010, 18 scholarships totaling \$59,000 were awarded to former foster youth in Sonoma County. Scholarships typically range between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The fund is administered by the Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to assisting current and form foster youth in achieving their goals and potential.

The needs of former foster youth making the transition to independence have been well documented. This program takes an important first step in helping some motivated former foster youth take advantage of higher education.

Initially the scholarship fund will provide scholarships to students who are former foster youth of Sonoma County. Currently, scholarships will be in the sum of \$1,500.00 for each successful applicant. The application process is competitive and is limited to former foster youth who have participated in ILP Services (Independent Living Skills Program) in Sonoma County. Successful applicants may receive a second scholarship in year two of their education if they continue to meet the criteria established for new applicants. Under no circumstances will an applicant be funded for more than two years.

The Department of Human Services through the Independent Living Skills Program (ILP) will provide information to youth about the scholarship application through their weekly classes. The ILP Coordinators will also make contact with youth who they believe would benefit from the scholarship program and provide application support for youth as needed.

After the Selection Committee reviews scholarship applications they will contact those candidates that meet the qualifications for an interview.

In 2011, scholarship applications were due on April 29th and interviews took place on May 16th.

For additional information, contact Meg Easter-Dawson at 707-565-8383 or measter@schsd.org

The Burton Scholars Backpack to Success Program

www.johnburtonfoundation.org/Projects.html#1

Currently, the John Burton foundation for children without homes sponsors eight projects to reduce participation in California's foster care system and improve the quality of resources and support for those children and youth currently and formerly in foster care including the Burton Scholar's Backpack to Success Program and the CA College Pathways Program.

The John Burton Foundation created the Burton Scholars Backpack to Success Program in 2007 to directly assist former foster youth attending higher education. The program exists in support of the work of the CA College Pathways Program. Often times, students entering the college world for the first time find themselves needing emergency supplies or last minute items to start the school semester. For many foster youth, however, they do not have the financial means to purchase them. The Backpack Program helps to fill this gap by providing gift cards at the beginning of the new semester for student to purchase life necessities and school supplies as well as other items that other scholarships and grants do not cover.

In 2009, through the generous assistance from VISA, the Backpack Program has expanded to include an opportunity for former foster youth to enter an essay contest to win laptop computers to assist with their school assignments.

Information on the essay contest and the application can be found at www.johnburtonfoundation.org/2011%20Laptop%20Essay%20Competition%20Guidelines%20&%20Entry%20Form.pdf

The application to request a gift card can be found at www.johnburtonfoundation.org/2011%20Gift%20Card%20Program%20Verification%20Form.pdf

Other Financial Assistance

CalWORKs for TANF recipients

www.santarosa.edu/calworks

www.sonomaworks.org

The CalWORKs Program at SRJC offers a variety of services and financial resources that can help cover the educational and living costs of eligible TANF recipients while attending SRJC. The SRJC CalWORKs program can assist parents who receive TANF with the cost of attending school (enrollment, course fees, books and supplies, transportation costs, child care, etc.).

TANF stands for “Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.” This federal cash aid program (welfare) is available to very low-income parents who have a child under the age of 18 in the home, and who meet stringent income and need requirements.

TANF is a federal-state cash assistance program. At the federal level it is called TANF; at the state level, it’s called CalWORKs; and in Sonoma County, it’s called SonomaWORKs.

To apply for SonomaWORKs, you will need to go to the office located at 2227 Capricorn Way in Santa Rosa. The application process will take from 2-4 hours.

If you receive TANF, you will be required to participate in California’s welfare-to-work program. Other counties may use other names, but all have the same basic program requirements. Most adults in TANF families are required to sign and participate in a Welfare-to-Work Plan. This plan outlines mandatory activities that help adults in the family secure employment. Some adults may be "exempt" from participation for a variety of reasons. There is a lifetime limit of 48 months for adults to receive TANF.

Enrolling in classes at SRJC to gain skills leading to future employment may be a part of the Welfare-to-Work Plan. You can ask the SRJC CalWORKs staff for information about California’s welfare-to-work program requirements.

The SRJC CalWORKs staff can answer questions about TANF and provide you with information on how to apply for this county-operated program. It is very important that you contact the CalWORKs staff **before** you apply for welfare. Students who are enrolled in school prior to going on welfare have some additional rights and more time to finish their college programs. These students are called “SIPs”. “SIP” stands for “self-initiated program” participant and refers to students who had started the enrollment process for college prior to applying for welfare. SIPs are guaranteed education as their welfare-to-work activity as long as they meet the standards set by the county for satisfactory progress. SIPs have the full 60-month federal time limit to complete their education.

Eligibility:

- SonomaWORKs participants
- Marin CalWORKs participants
- Former TANF recipients who have left cash aid within the past year and are working at least 20 hours per week
- Cal-Learn teens, ages 18 and older who are pursuing their GED

Services to eligible students may include:

- Funding for books, school supplies, course fees, parking transportation, and child care costs

- Supported job search
- Paid on-the-job training opportunities
- Assistance with navigating college and county services
- Advocacy and support from staff that are familiar with welfare rules
- Help with planning a schedule that will meet the work participation hours required by the County

College Scholarships.org

www.collegescholarships.org

Our Goal

We created this site to serve people who are interested in college funding. What makes us unique is that we list a broad array of funding opportunities without asking for information from you. There are no long forms to fill out in order to access our resources. For example, you can find any of the following without filling out forms with your personal information.

- scholarships for Native Americans
- nursing scholarship programs
- California grants and scholarships
- loan opportunities

We give you a list of available funding sources, and let you quickly move on to the application process.

Why We Created This Site: The Rising Cost of College

Just a few decades ago a high school education was valid enough to sustain most Americans through their lifecycle. No executive positions, but decent jobs with minimal skill requirements could be had. Today, the climate of education and the work place has changed drastically. Not only do most decent jobs require a college education, but more and more are demanding advance degrees.

As these economic demands have increased, so have college and university tuition costs. In fact, college tuitions have well outpaced increases in middle class America's incomes, leaving many without the necessary money required to pay for a college education.

Nearly everyone is eligible, we've discovered, for some sort of scholarship, grant, or other financial assistance. Armed with the information we have collected here, we are confident you will find more untapped reserves than you might have imagined.

This site offers many options including the ability to browse By Minority (Asian; Black; Hispanic; Interracial; LGBT; Native American; White Male; and Women) and By Student Type which includes Foster Children.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation

www.nationalmerit.org/index.php

National Merit Scholarship Program

www.nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php

The **National Merit® Scholarship Program** is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ([PSAT/NMSQT®](#))—a test which serves as an initial screen of more than 1.5 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

National Achievement Scholarship Program

www.nationalmerit.org/nasp.php

The **National Achievement® Scholarship Program** is an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students. Black students may enter both the National Achievement Program and the National Merit® Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ([PSAT/NMSQT®](#)) and meeting other published requirements for participation. The two annual programs are conducted concurrently but operated and funded separately. A student's standing is determined independently in each program. Black American students can qualify for recognition and be honored as Scholars in both the National Merit Program and the National Achievement Program, but can receive only one monetary award from NMSC.

Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS)

www.gmsp.org

Funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GMS was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in all discipline areas and a graduate education for those students pursuing studies in mathematics, science, engineering, education, public health or library science. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for thousands of outstanding students with significant financial need to reach their fullest potential.

The Gates Millennium Scholars program is available to graduating high school seniors. It provides substantial scholarship awards to exceptional high school seniors for study at the college of their choice. Eligible applicants must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, demonstrated leadership skills, and significant financial need.

Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF)

www.hsf.net

HSF is the nation's largest provider of college financial aid for Latino students.

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund believes that the country prospers when all Americans have access to the opportunities a college education can afford. As the nation's leading Hispanic higher education fund, HSF works to address the barriers that keep many Latinos from earning a college degree.

In addition to scholarship opportunities for deserving Latino students, we offer a broad range of outreach and educational programming to help students and their families navigate through the rigors of college life.

The "**Generation 1st Degree**" initiative aims to strengthen the nation's future by ensuring that every Latino household in the U.S. will have at least one college graduate. Reaching this goal will have an enduring impact on the college outlook of Latino families nationwide, strengthening the American economy for generations to come. Our partners include state and national leaders in education, executives from foundations, corporations and non-profits, as well as parents and students, with a shared commitment of making a college education a viable choice for all Latinos nationwide. [Read more about Generation 1st Degree.](#)

This fund currently offers 15 scholarships. To view the specific requirements and deadlines for each scholarship program click on a specific scholarship from this website page: www.hsf.net/innercontent.aspx?id=426.

With the exception of the Gates Millennium Scholars program, all applications must be submitted using the HSF online application system. Please note that you can only apply to scholarship programs that are open.

Not sure if you meet the eligibility requirements? Once you begin filling out your online application (apply.hsf.net/applications/), the system will automatically tell you which scholarship programs you qualify for

La Tortilla Factory Scholarship

www.nfpainc.org/content/?page=YOUTHSCOLARSHIP

www.sonomacf.org

Annual awards for undergraduate students enrolled full-time at a postsecondary institution. Students must have financial need and demonstrate academic achievement, community service, and employment experience. Preference given to children of La Tortilla Factory employees and Latino students graduating from Sonoma County High Schools. Number of awards and award amount may vary. A personal statement must be included with application packet.

Useful Financial Aid Websites

California State Aid

www.csac.ca.gov

CA Student Aid Commission

www.ca.gov/education

Scholarship Directories

www.fastweb.com

www.collegenet.com/mach25

www.collegeboard.com/pay

www.scholarships.com

www.gmsp.org

College Planning and Exploration

www.california.colleges.edu

www.collegenavigator.gov

www.finaid.org

The *SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid* is an award-winning site that has one of the most comprehensive annotated collections of information about student financial aid on the Internet, including a financial aid calculator for determining costs.

www.college.gov

www.students.gov

Other

www.icanaffordcollege.com

(Community Colleges)

www.ca.gov/Education/CollegesUniv/FinancialAid.html

(State of CA financial aid)

www.studentaid.ed.gov

The *Student Guide for High School Seniors/College Students* describes every federal program and how to apply. It's updated each award year, and is available in English and Spanish. Go to. Enter Student Guide in the search box.

www.f2f.ca.gov/res/ScholarshMinorityImmigrantFosterYouthOct07.pdf

Family to Family California

No vetting was done for these so some may no longer be valid.

www.unitedfriends.org/resources/links-resources/foster-youth-scholarships

www.nfpainc.org/content/?page=YOUTHSCOLARSHIP

www.scholarshiphelp.org

51 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

[One non-CA scholarship excluded]

These websites have not been researched and may be obsolete.

1. Bell Labs Fellowships for under-represented minorities
www.bell-labs.com
2. Student Inventors Scholarship
www.invent.org/collegiate
3. Student Video Scholarship
www.christophers.org/vidcon2k.html
4. Coca-Cola Two-Year College Scholarship
www.coca-colascholars.org/programs.html
5. Holocaust Remembrance Scholarship
<http://holocaust.hklaw.com/>
6. Ayn Rand Essay Scholarships
www.aynrand.org/contests/
7. Brand Essay Competition,
www.instituteforbrandleadership.org/IBLEssayContest-2002Rules.htm
8. Gates Millennium Scholarships
www.gmsp.org/nominationmaterials/read.dbm?ID=1
9. Xerox Scholarship for Students
www.xeroxstudentcareers.com/why-xerox/scholarship.aspx
10. Sports Scholarships and Internship
www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html
11. National Assoc. of Black Journalists Scholarships (NABJ)
www.nabj.org/html/studentsvcs.html
12. Saul T. Wilson Scholarships (Veterinary)
www.aphis.usda.gov/mb/mrphr/jobs/stw.htm
13. Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund
www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/sk_v6.cfm
14. Financial Aid: The Smart Students Guide to Financial Aid scholarships
www.finaid.org
15. Presidential Freedom Scholarships
www.nationalservice.org/scholarships
16. Microsoft Scholarship Program
www.microsoft.com/college/scholarships/minority.asp
17. Wired Scholar Free Scholarship Search
www.wiredscholar.com/pag/scholarship_search/pay_scholarship_se
18. Hope Scholarships & Lifetime Credits
www.ed.gov/inits/hope
19. William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship for Minority Students
www.apsanet.org/PS/grants/aspen3.cfm
20. Multiple List of Minority Scholarships

- www.gehon.ir.miami.edu/financialassistance/Scholarship/black.html
21. Guaranteed Scholarships
www.guaranteed-scholarships.com
 22. BOEING scholarships
www.boeing.com/companyoffices/educationrelations/scholarships
 23. Easley National Scholarship Program
www.naas.org/senior.htm
 24. Maryland Artists Scholarships
www.maef.org
 25. Historically Black College & University Scholarships
www.iesabroad.org/info/hbcu.htm
 26. Actuarial Scholarships for Minority Students
www.beanactuary.org/minority/scholarships.htm
 27. International Students Scholarships & Aid Help
www.iefaf.org
 28. College Board Scholarship Search
www.cbweb10p.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/fundfind01.html
 29. Burger King Scholarship Program
www.bkscholars.csfa.org
 30. Siemens Westinghouse Competition
www.siemens-foundation.org
 31. GE and LuLac Scholarship Funds
www.lulac.org/Programs/Scholar.html
 32. CollegeNet's Scholarship Database
www.mach25.collegenet.com/cgi-bin/M25/index
 33. Union Sponsored Scholarships and Aid
www.afcio.org/scholarships/scholar.htm
 34. Federal Scholarships & Aid Gateways 25 Scholarships
 35. Excel
www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm
 36. Scholarship & Financial Aid Help
www.blackexcel.org/fin-sch.htm
 37. Scholarship Links (Ed Finance Group)
www.efg.net/link_scholarship.htm
 38. FAFSA On The Web
www.fafsa.ed.gov
 39. Aid & Resources For Re-Entry Students
www.back2college.com
 40. Scholarships and Fellowships
www.osc.cuny.edu/sep/links.html
 41. Scholarships for Study in Paralegal Studies
www.paralegals.org/Choice/2000west.htm
 42. HBCU Packard Sit Abroad Scholarship
www.sit.edu/studyabroad/packard_nomination.html
 43. Scholarship and Fellowship Opportunities
www.ccmi.uchicago.edu/schl1.html
 44. INROADS internships
www.inroads.org
 45. ACT-SO "Olympics of the Mind" Scholarships
www.naacp.org/work/actso/act-so.shtml
 46. Black Alliance for Educational Options Scholarships
www.baeo.org/options/privatelyfinanced.jsp
 47. ScienceNet Scholarship Listing
www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarships.htm
 48. Graduate Fellowships For Minorities Nationwide

- www.cuinfo.cornell.edu/Student/GRFN/list.phtml?category=MINORITIES
49. Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford
www.rhodesscholar.org/info.html
50. The Roothbert Scholarship Fund
www.roothbertfund.com

SRJC Programs of Study

Students can earn an Associate Degree or a Certificate in less than two years of full time classes. Community college vocational training programs include nursing, computer programming, mechanics and electronics.

Associate Degree (AA/AS) Programs

The Associate in Arts and Associate in Science Degrees can be earned at Santa Rosa Junior College. Requirements for graduation with an Associate Degree are prescribed by the California Community College System and the Board of Trustees of Santa Rosa Junior College.

It is the student's responsibility to file a Petition to Graduate by the deadline date during the semester in which he/she plans to complete the requirements. Official transcripts from all colleges previously attended should be submitted as part of the graduation evaluation process. Applicants are notified by mail of their eligibility for the degree.

Associate Degree Requirements:

A student must fulfill all of the following requirements in order to receive an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degree:

- A General Education Pattern
Students may choose one of three options for meeting the General Education requirements toward earning an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Sciences Degree at Santa Rosa Junior College:
 - Option A: Complete the 23 units of the Associate Degree General Education course requirements and the math competency requirement.
 - OR**
 - Option B: Complete the California State University (CSU) General Education course requirements (eligibility for full certification of 39 units). **OR**
 - Option C: Complete the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) (eligibility for full certification).
- A Major
To receive an Associate Degree a student must complete a major course of study of at least 18 college units from the SRJC list of approved majors. A major provides coherence, focus, depth, sequencing, and synthesis of learning. A course may be used to satisfy both a General Education requirement and a major requirement (Title 5, 55806). Within the major, a course may not be used more than one time to meet a major requirement.
- A Minimum Number of Degree Units
A student must complete a minimum of 60 units in courses numbered 1-299. (Courses numbered 300-899 are designed to meet a variety of student needs and

are not applicable toward Associate Degree requirements. Students should plan their course of study carefully with the assistance of a college counselor.)

- A Minimum Number of Units Taken in Residence
A student must be enrolled during the semester in which the degree is granted. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Santa Rosa Junior College.
- A Minimum Standard of Scholarship
A student must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 ("C") or better in all Santa Rosa Junior College and transferred course work submitted toward the Degree. For all students admitted for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, a grade of "C" or better, or "P" if the course is taken on a pass/no pass basis, is required for each course applied toward the major.

Certificate Programs

SRJC offers a broad array of occupational certificate programs that provide a course of study preparing students directly for employment or self-employment upon completion of the program. Most certificate programs are developed through the collaboration of SRJC faculty and industry leaders and employers who sit on Advisory Committees for the occupational disciplines. There are two types of certificates recognized by the College: Certificates of Achievement and Skills Certificates.

Santa Rosa Junior College is committed to maintaining the academic rigor and relevance of its occupational curriculum. Each occupational program has an employer advisory committee to provide occupational outlook information and give input to the curriculum, ensuring that students are learning the skills needed by industry. Whether the student is exploring career choices following high school, considering a major career move, or seeking new skills for advancement, a wide variety of training options are available through these certificate programs.

Certificate Categories

- Agriculture
- Applied Technology
- Art
- Dance
- Theatre Arts
- Business Administration
- Child Development
- Earth & Space Science
- Counseling
- Computer Studies
- Consumer & Family Studies
- Culinary Arts
- Health Sciences
- Industrial & Trade Technology
- Public Safety

Certificates of Achievement

Certificates of Achievement are programs of study consisting of 18 units or more that provide extensive preparation in the designated field. They are intended to certify that

students who have successfully completed the program are prepared to enter the careers associated with their chosen certificate. They usually take at least one to two years to complete. In addition to local approval, these programs must also be endorsed by the Bay Area Occupational Planning Committee and receive approval from the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

Skills Certificates

SRJC also offers many programs resulting in the award of Skills Certificates. These certificates are under 18 units, and, while the local development and approval process is rigorous, they do not require approval by the state Chancellor's Office. These certificates are designed to provide the student with a brief but intense course of study in a particular area, so that he or she may develop specific skills or prepare for an entry-level position in the field. Successful completion of these programs also may certify that students are prepared with a particular set of skills, such as the job entry skills leading to a full Certificate of Achievement program, or skills to upgrade or advance in an existing career. These programs often provide advancement on a "career ladder," and are therefore of shorter duration and narrower in scope than the Certificate of Achievement programs to which they may lead.

Resources

CA College Pathways

CA College Pathways



Sadly, statistics indicate that only 50% of foster youth graduate from high school and that an even lower percentage (2-3%) further their education in pursuing a college degree. There are many reasons why only a small group of former foster youth can continue their education but funding and a stable housing environment are major factors that are considered when a foster youth ages out of the foster care system.

That is why the Foundation has entered into a partnership with the CSU Office of the Chancellor to create an initiative to increase the number of foster youth in California who enter higher education. Currently, this program is primarily funded by the Stuart Foundation and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

The goal of the California College Pathways is to not only increase the number of foster youth in California who enter higher education but to also achieve an academic outcome by expanding access to campus support programs, such as the Guardian Scholars Program, the Renaissance Scholars Program and other successful approaches to supporting former foster youth on campus.

To achieve this goal, California College Pathways pursues four strategies:

- **Information-Sharing** This includes collecting and disseminating information about available campus support programs in California and nationally, together with information about the latest research, legislation and policy developments.
- **Technical Assistance & Training** This includes providing hands-on technical assistance and training for both developing and established campus support programs through the development of publications and regional trainings.
- **Policy Analysis & Development** This includes analyzing the barriers that prevent foster youth from entering higher education and developing practical, politically feasible policy solutions to remove those barriers.
- **Coalition Building & Advocacy** This includes building a well-organized coalition of students, campus administrators, nonprofit professionals and public officials to advocate for policy changes that will promote academic achievement among former foster youth.

The Community College Pathways Program at SRJC aims to:

1. Increase the academic performance of former foster youth in community college

- courses leading to certificate completion, graduation and/or transfer.
2. Provide a case management team, supporting student success and helping access and utilize all available college resources.
 3. Provide enhanced counseling and academic assessment services to former foster youth.
 4. Works with students to create individualized educational and career pathway plans.

The program office is located in Maggini Hall, Room 2822.

The program coordinator is Maurice Travis.

To make an appointment, call 321-3151.

For more information on the California College Pathways project, please visit their website at www.cacollegepathways.org

V.O.I.C.E.S.

www.voicesyouthcenter.org/news/voices-carry-new-center-opens-santa-rosa

(707) 579-4327

VOICES, located at 335 College Avenue in Santa Rosa, is an invaluable resource for both current and former foster youth.

The center is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 6:00pm.



Program Overview

To serve transition-aged youth in Sonoma County emancipating from systems of care, V.O.I.C.E.S. provides internal programs and co-located services with a team of partner agencies. V.O.I.C.E.S. has received a wealth of interest from agencies wishing to collaborate and co-locate within the program, and began with ten initial partners. Additionally, since opening in April 2008, V.O.I.C.E.S. has developed four main internal programs to meet the needs of our youth.

Internal Programs

Jolt (Job Opportunities Leadership Team)

Jolt is a pilot V.O.I.C.E.S. program built through a partnership with Social Advocates for Youth, True to Life Children's Services and the Sonoma County Independent Living Program to address the critical need for employment of youth members who are most at risk of homelessness.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

SNAP is V.O.I.C.E.S.' youth-friendly take on assisting young people through the process of obtaining food stamp benefits. Through information, outreach, development of new youth-friendly materials and step-by-step assistance through the entire application process and beyond, V.O.I.C.E.S and SNAP are increasing youth's access to much needed food and nutrition.

YESS (Youth Empowerment Strategies for success)

YESS is V.O.I.C.E.S.' mentoring program providing peer support, in-person connection and outreach to youth attending the Independent Living Program classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. Peer mentors assist youth's development in education, employment, housing, financial and wellness skills, with the goal of bridging youth into the wide assortment of other V.O.I.C.E.S' services.

Co-Located Services

Housing Services

True to Life Children's Services (TLC) partners with Sonoma County to provide housing services through THP+ contracts.

Employment and Education Services

Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) operates a youth employment center and provides transitional and emergency housing.

Sonoma County Adult & Youth Development promotes youth employment for V.O.I.C.E.S. youth members in the Sonoma area.

West County Community Services provides job coaching for V.O.I.C.E.S. youth members.

Youth Build helps youth gain skills and education in order to access and develop careers.

Health and Wellness Services

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support groups and advocacy for young people experiencing mental illness.

Petaluma People provides targeted case management for V.O.I.C.E.S. youth members.

Independent Living Program – ILP

The Independent Living Program assists young people who are leaving foster care to live independently. ILP coordinators with Sonoma County provide training and coaching to help youth members develop the skills needed for independence.

Other Partners and Services

New Ways to Work engages youth in policy and advocacy with government officials. The Junior League has been invaluable in supporting V.O.I.C.E.S. Sonoma. They provide over 30 volunteers per month to support all aspects of programming.

Social Advocates for Youth (SAY)

www.socialadvocatesforyouth.org

All SAY programs are based on Positive Youth Development (PYD). Developed by the Search Institute, a national leader in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, PYD believes that in order to be successful, every youth needs opportunities, positive encouragement and guidance from adults – especially during adolescence. The

counselors and clinicians skillfully challenge youth to engage in activities and relationships that encourage them to discover and develop their unique talents, strengths, and abilities.

Opportunities Now

G.E.D. preparation, education assistance, and job/life skills training are provided for qualified youth ages 14-21. Services include tutoring, leadership opportunities, job readiness skills workshops, counseling, referral services, and adult mentoring.

Youth Employment Center

Workshops are given on job-readiness skills for youth seeking employment in Sonoma County. Topics include resume writing, job interviewing skills, job etiquette, proper grooming and work ethic.

SAY also offers anger management help, counseling, a Summer Youth Leadership program, and a Youth Diversion Program.

Casey Family Programs

www.casey.org

With a variety of programs focused on the child-welfare system, Casey Family Programs is a treasure trove of facts and guides.

Two downloadable guides are available at

www.casey.org/resources/publications/ItsMyLife/Education.htm

- *It's My Life* Postsecondary Education and Training: A Guide for Transition Services from Casey Family Programs
- *It's My Life* Financial Aid: Postsecondary Education and Training

Community Action Partnership Vocational YouthBuild

www.capsonoma.org/vocational_overview.cfm

YouthBuild Santa Rosa is an education, job skills training, and leadership development program for youth ages 16-24 who do not have a high school diploma. With our partner, John Muir Charter School, we are able to assist youth to earn a high school diploma.

There are 5 components to the YouthBuild Santa Rosa program: Education; Job Skills Training; Leadership Development; Case Management; and Alumni and Transitional Services. We are working to add a 6th component - Mentoring. It is the interplay and the support that these components provide the youth that are essential for their success.

All youth will graduate not only with their high school diploma, but also with at least 1 unit of transferrable university credit from the Santa Rosa Junior College. If a youth is interested in taking any class at the SRJC, the program is supportive of those efforts, assisting with form completion, registration, fee payment, and purchasing textbooks, as well as working with the youth on issues such as speaking to an instructor or making and attending an advisor appointment.

We are a clean and sober program and work with the youth to help them be successful in their sobriety. We have an in-house 12 step meeting weekly, and once a month attend an off-site NA meeting. We do random drug tests, and youth must be "clean" to go to the job site. Because of grant requirements, 50% of program time must be in the classroom working on education, 40% on job skills training; if youth are dirty and cannot go to the job site for an extended period of time, the youth will not be able to participate in the program.

The YouthBuild Green Training Center is located at 2230 Lomas Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, the old Lewis School.

Foster Care to Success

<http://fc2success.org/>

Foster Care to Success helps former foster children become successful adults. In most states, foster children leave the social services system when they turn 18. In the eyes of the court they're adults, but few 18 year olds are emotionally, mentally or financially able to support themselves. Without someone to guide them, too many end up homeless, unemployed, incarcerated or pregnant. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of volunteers and donors, Foster Care to Success is changing the odds for former foster youth every day through:

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS FCS is the largest and oldest national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to promoting success through higher education for foster youth. We award about \$15 million private scholarships and government grants to more than 3,500 students each year.

MENTORING AND MORAL SUPPORT Our skilled staff and national network of trained volunteers provide one-on-one support to help students adapt, stay on track, overcome obstacles, and graduate.

INTERNSHIPS Every summer, FCS brings students to Washington DC to work with legislators, nongovernmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and major corporations and facilitates internships for students in other cities across the country.

ADVOCACY FCS advocates for legislation benefitting the 25,000 young people who age out of foster care each year, and provides opportunities for businesses and civic organizations to support foster youth in communities across the country.

The first day of college is a major milestone in anyone's life, but the day you graduate is even bigger. For a young person who grew up in foster care, both the first and last day of college require huge leaps of faith.

Foster Care to Success provides its students with the largest comprehensive support and enrichment network in the country specifically designed to address their needs as college students without family support. A skilled staff and trained volunteers help young people successfully progress towards graduation and prepare for the transition from college student to young professional. This program of one-on-one, family-like,

consistent guidance has been strategically designed to help them develop into mature young adults.

Office of Foster Care Ombudsman

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/

The Office of Foster Care Ombudsman can give you information about services available to emancipated youth such as how to get stipends, financial aid for colleges, and housing.

The Office of Foster Care Ombudsman can provide you with information about what services are available to foster youth in your county such as transitional housing programs, employment programs, scholarships, or independent living programs.

College Survival and Study Skills

www.clemson.edu/collegeskills/intro.html

FosterClub

www.fosterclub.com

Transition Toolkit

Designed to help you and your team of adult supporters take inventory of your current assets, identify your resources, and map out a plan for the challenges after foster care.

AB 540 Students and the California Dream Act or 2011

If a student is undocumented or underdocumented, has attended at least three years of high school in California and graduated from a California high school or received its equivalent, they may qualify for in-state tuition rates at California's public colleges and may also be considered for an institutional, privately funded scholarship. To learn more, contact the SRJC admissions office.