

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

22  
23

# TRANSITION AGE YOUTH ANNUAL REPORT



SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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# FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

We are pleased to present the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Annual Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 report to the Children, Seniors, and Families Committee (CSFC). The report recognizes the work accomplished by the County of Santa Clara (County), Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) supporting youth from dependency to self-sufficiency by providing a spectrum of services tailored to achieve independence. Approximately 557 TAY and young adults ages 16 through 25 years received services during FY 2022-2023.

FY 2022-2023 marked the end of the novel coronavirus pandemic restrictions and enabled TAY to receive in-person services, participate in Hub events, and to reconnect with their peers and staff. The Hub youth center continues to offer a hybrid service delivery model incorporating in-person and virtual services. Since offering this model of service delivery, TAY Hub workshop participation rates have increased 9.5% (1395) from last FY (1273). As most youth opt to receive services virtually using various social media platforms, this eliminated the need for transportation, and expedited access to services. In-person events were held at the Hub, such as the Hub's 11th Anniversary celebration, which was held September 30, 2022, with over 60 TAY participants and staff in attendance. The celebration offered a space for TAY to come together and celebrate their connection to the Hub and share what it means to them as the Hub plans to re-locate to the new site on Parkmoor Avenue.

DFCS remains committed to addressing the impacts of the novel coronavirus by ensuring TAY receive on-site mental health services at the Hub. On July 1, 2023, the Hub launched The Crisis Management Response program to serve the immediate mental health needs of current and former TAY. The program arose out of the necessity to address the presenting needs of TAY in real time.

The need for technology amongst TAY was highlighted through the pandemic and equipping every youth with a laptop and smart phone continues to remain a high priority. The partnership with iFoster enables DFCS to meet the technological needs of TAY. To date, 605 laptops and 417 cell phones have been issued to TAY.

Initiatives aimed at increasing earnings for youth remained steadfast, such as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax preparation service, which refunded TAY a total of \$222,574, a 14% increase from last fiscal year. The Emancipated Youth Stipend remained available for TAY to support their financial needs and aid in their transition to self-sufficiency, which is made available to TAY ages 18-20 in the amount of \$1,500 to support their housing, educational, and personal needs. Additionally, the Intern & Earn year-round 1.0 and 2.0 internships continued to augment earnings and increased their hourly rate to \$18.50 from \$17.50. The program enhances employability while providing intensive case management services. Lastly, the annual Foster Youth Graduation held on June 23, 2023, recognized foster youth for 48 high-school diplomas or General Education Development Certificates, three Vocational Program Certificates, five Associate's Degrees, and six Bachelor's Degrees.



## PROGRESS ON 2022-2023 GOALS AND NEXT STEPS:

### EMPLOYMENT

DFCS worked in partnership with Social Services Agency's (SSA) Department of Employment and Benefits Services (DEBS) and Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) to launch a six-month internship opportunity for TAY ages 18-24 who have exited foster care. The Intern & Earn 2.0 internship operates year-round serving up to 15 young adults per cohort. This year marks the start of the fourth cohort,



which began August 1, 2022, and concluded on January 27, 2023, followed by the fifth cohort from January 3, 2023, to June 30, 2023. The fourth and fifth cohort internships were in-person and on-site. The goal of the internships is to promote gainful employment while fostering educational pathways to success and self-sufficiency for foster youth.

### THE NEW HUB ON PARKMOOR

The Hub is a youth-led and organized community center dedicated to supporting current and former foster youth, ages 15 to 25, by providing a safe, welcoming environment where foster youth feel a sense of belonging, and empowerment, and are offered a variety of services by their peers and other caring community agencies.

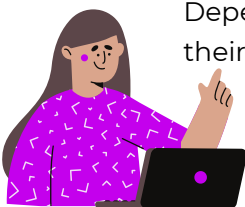
DFCS continues its collaboration with the County's Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) and Facilities and Fleet Department, the site developer Allied Housing (now Abode Housing Developer), and HKIT Architects to finalize programmatic plans for the new Hub to be located at 1510-1540 Parkmoor Avenue in San Jose. Bi-monthly reports are provided to CSFC to update on the progress of this development. The Hub membership participated in a series of workshops exclusively dedicated to youth. The goal of the workshops is to receive input pertaining to the Hub exterior and interior design including amenities and housing. The 17,000 square foot Hub significantly expands areas: an improved, more functional layout; plentiful outdoor areas for youth activities; and an inspiring design informed by and responsive to youth participation and focus groups. This location will also include a demonstration kitchen, a Do It Yourself (DIY) art space, computer workspaces, and ample area for socializing. Existing services, such as on-site education and employment, well-being, shower, laundry, Hubmart and the Independent Living Program, will continue to be offered at the new location. The Parkmoor Hub site is within walking distance of public transportation. Completion of this project is expected in 2025.



### EDUCATION

DFCS continues to partner with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP). The program is fully staffed with six SCCOE education managers to provide educational services to children and foster youth with open dependency cases.

The program serves children ages 0-5, and those in K-12 education, including Non-minor Dependents (NMD). The staff are co-located at DFCS and have made strides integrating their role within the structure of DFCS. The education managers participate in Child and Family Team Meetings, conduct education assessments, partner with social workers and submit education court summaries. The support and interventions provided by the program have increased school stability of foster youth. The





## PROGRESS ON 2022-2023 GOALS AND NEXT STEPS CONTINUED EDUCATION CONT.

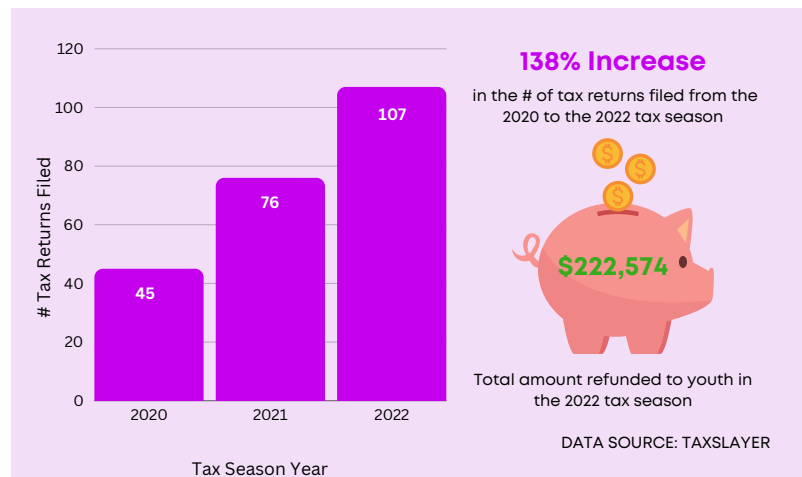
Education Managers advocate with the school districts, to minimize school disruption, regardless of placement changes.

### VOLUNTARY INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

DFCS continues its collaboration with John Burton Advocates for Youth, Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, the Bill Wilson Center (BWC), a certified VITA provider, and volunteers from the community to support TAY youth with filing taxes and claiming cash back

credits. The BWC is on the 3rd year of establishing the Hub as a year-round VITA site to ensure current and former foster youth file their annual income taxes. The 2022 tax year was also the first year current and former foster youth ages 18-25 were able to claim the refundable Foster Youth Income Tax Credit of up to \$1,083. Figure 1 shows the increase in tax returns over the last three years. In FY 2022-2023 a total of 107 tax returns were completed for a total of \$222,574 refunded to 90 youth, with some youth completing tax returns for

FIGURE 1- VITA TAX RETURNS COMPLETED  
TAX SEASONS 2020-2022



multiple years. The CA tax season has also been extended until November 16th, 2023. The Hub remains open to support youth in filing their taxes during this time

## DATA

The data used in this report are from the following programs and software tools:

#### THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES/CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CWS/CMS)

A statewide software system that is comprised of child welfare cases.

#### EFFORTS-TO-OUTCOMES (ETO) DATA COLLECTION TOOL

A data collection tool that enables California counties to track “gap” data not otherwise collected in CWS/CMS.

#### TAXSLAYER

A data collection tool that enables VITA tax sites to keep track of the number of tax returns completed and total refunded amounts.

#### OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Employment Connection Application



# TAY AND YOUNG ADULTS

For FY 2022-2023, there were 403 TAY between the ages of 16-21 with open child welfare cases in Santa Clara County. Dependency cases within this age range are slightly higher than last fiscal year reported at 349. These youth were provided a continuum of services through a multitude of programs delivered through County, non-profit, and private agencies. These services afford TAY access to information and support to help them make optimal decisions on their pathway toward self-sufficiency. TAY are

identified in three categories: youth 16 and 17 years old who are minor dependents of the juvenile dependency court; young adults ages 18 through 21 years who, voluntarily participate as non-minor dependents (NMD); and young adults ages 18 through 24 years who are no longer dependents of the juvenile dependency court. Youth in each category are eligible for specific services and must meet specific criteria (Figure 2).

Figure 2 - Categories of Services for TAY by Age

Age	16-17	18 through 20	18 through 24
Juvenile Dependency Court Status	Court Dependent	Court Non-minor Dependent	Not a Court Dependent
Case Manager	DFCS Social Worker	DFCS Social Worker	The Hub & Co-located agencies' staff (no DFCS Social Worker)
Criteria for Receiving Services	Resides in court-ordered out-of-home placement	Meets specific education and/or employment criteria	Former court dependent
Eligibility for Services			
Independent Living Program (ILP)	YES	YES	YES (Up to age 21)
Housing	Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)	Transitional Housing Plus Non-Minor Dependent (THPNMD)	Transitional Housing Program Plus After Care (THP+AC) Rapid Rehousing Program Housing Choice Vouchers
Employment	Career Development Unit (CDU) Employment Counselor Intern & Earn Program	CDU Employment Counselor Intern & Earn Program 1.0 TAY AmeriCorps Student Internship County Employment FY	CDU Employment Counselor Intern & Earn Program 1.0, 2.0 TAY AmeriCorps Student Internship County Employment FY
Education	-Ed Manager Program -School Transportation -Tutoring	-Ed Manager Program -NMD Scholarship -Free Application Federal Student Aid/ Education Training Vouchers (FAFSA/ETV)	-Opportunity Youth Academy (OYA) -YES Scholarship Fund -FAFSA/ETV Vouchers
Health	-Medi-Cal -ILP Wellness Team	-Medi-Cal -ILP Wellness Team	-Medi-Cal -Extended Medi-Cal



# TAY DEMOGRAPHICS

As in the total child welfare population in Santa Clara County, Figure 3 highlights that African Ancestry (10%) and Latinx youth (69%) are disproportionally represented in the TAY population ages 16 through 21 years old. According to the Child Welfare Indicator's Project, African Ancestry make up 2.2% of the total population in Santa Clara County followed by Latinx at 34%.

Of TAY aged 16-21, 50.9% were reported to identify as female, 43.7% as male, 1.7% as gender queer/gender non-binary, 1.7% as transgender male, 1.2% as transgender female, and .7% were reported to be questioning their gender identity. Figure 4 below represents gender of TAY youth, ages 16-21.

FIGURE 3- ETHNICITY OF TAY AGES: 16-21

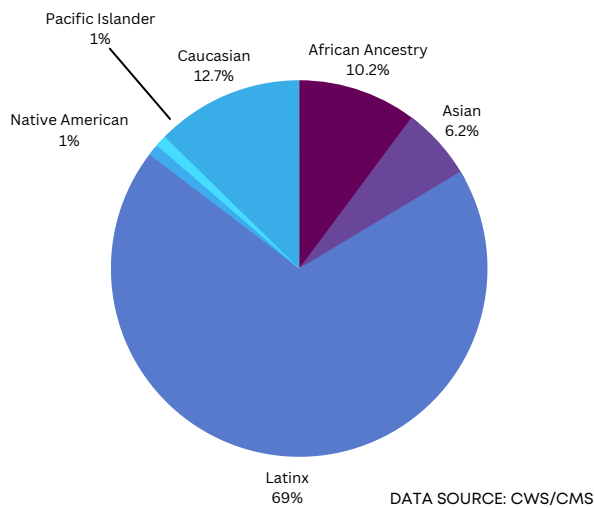
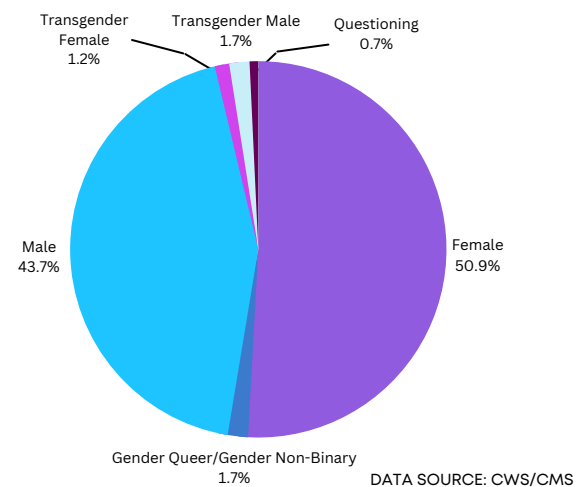


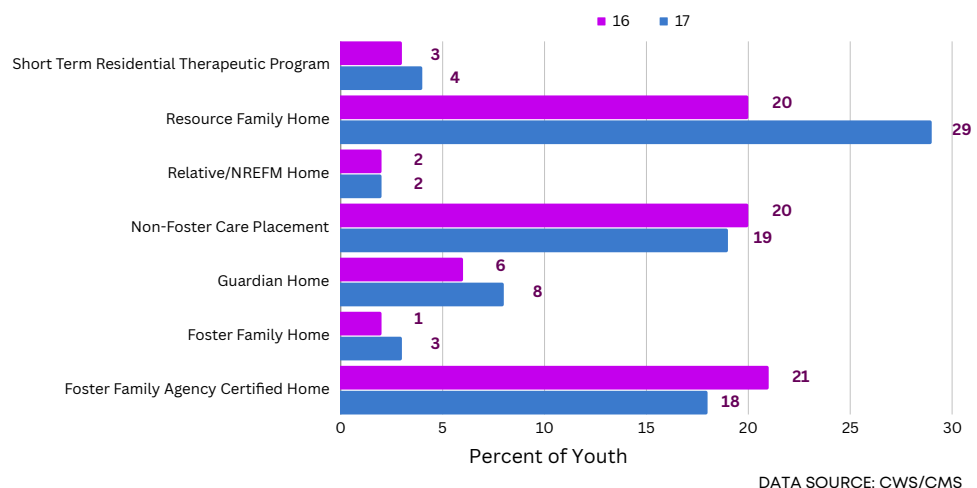
FIGURE 4 - TAY GENDER



Placement types available to TAY include relative/kin/guardian homes, Resource Family Approval (RFA) homes, adoptive homes, Foster Family Agency certified homes, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP), Transitional Housing Placement Programs (THPP), Transitional Housing Program + Non Minor Dependents (THP+NMD) and Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILP).

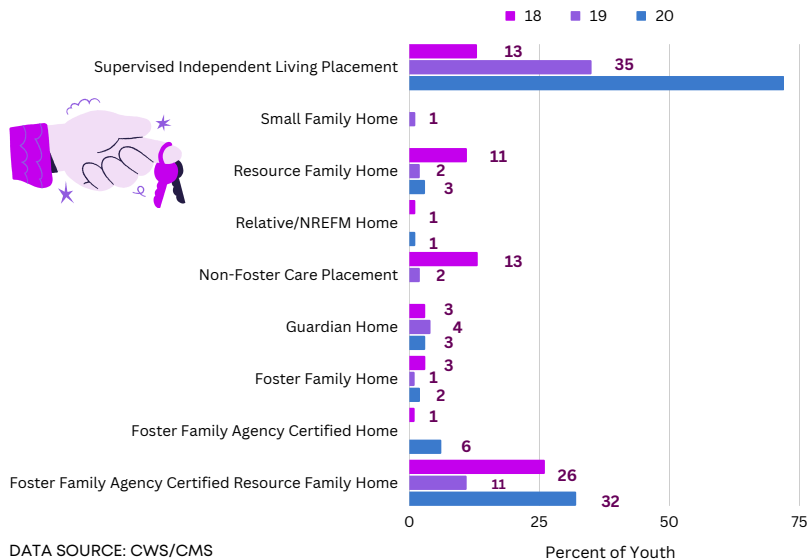
Figure 5 highlights the predominant placement type for 16-year-olds was Foster Family Agency Certified Resource Home at 28%, followed by RFA homes and Non- Foster Care Placements (hospitalization, incarcerations, or Transitional Shelter Care Facility) at 27%.

FIGURE 5 - PLACEMENT TYPES BY AGES: 16-17



The predominate placement for 17-year-olds was an RFA home at 35% followed by 23% at a Non-Foster Care Placement and 22% at a Foster Family Agency Certified Resource Family Home. Data from previous years indicate that the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) has had an intended impact on placement types.

**FIGURE 6- PLACEMENT TYPES BY AGES: 18-20**



For youth adults ages 18-20 participating in Extended Foster Care (EFC), or otherwise known as NMDs, the predominant placement type was SILPs, which offer highly independent living experiences while the NMD receives foster care payments and supportive services. The NMD's assigned social worker must approve SILP placements with the support of a housing navigator located at the Hub who helps identify housing for youth. (Figure 6)

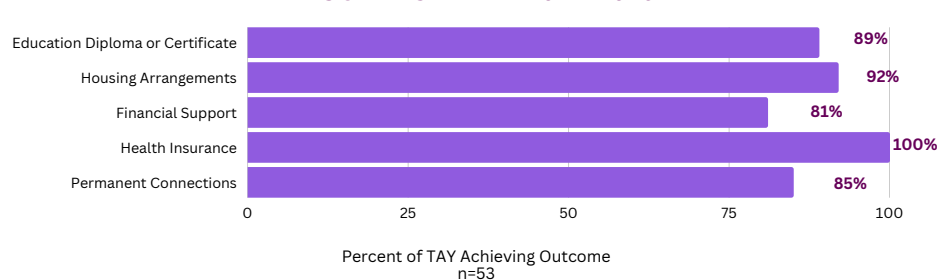
# OUTCOMES

## For Youth Exiting Extended Foster Care at Age 21 in FY 2022-2023

DFCS administers a survey to each NMD before they exit EFC. This survey helps determine youth outcomes and informs County programing needs in the areas of education, housing, financial support, health, and permanency. During FY 2022-2023, 53 youth exited the EFC program as a result of turning 21 years old, the maximum age for EFC services. Percentages of TAY achieving outcome goals are shown in Figure 7. The high percentages of outcome achievements suggests that engagement in EFC services contributes to young adults' preparation for successful independent living.



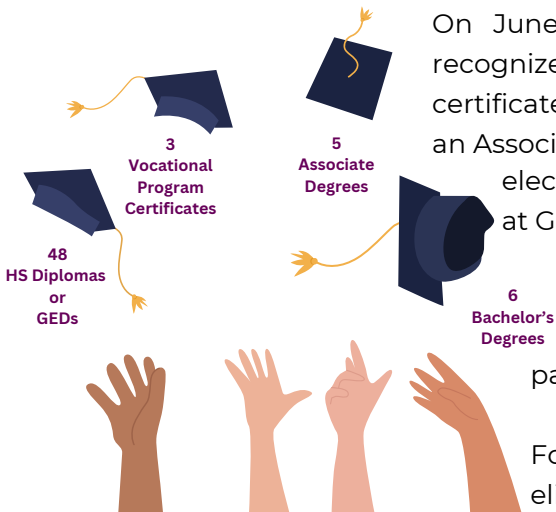
**FIGURE 7 - OUTCOMES FOR TAY EXITING EXTENDED FOSTER CARE FY 2022-2023**





## EDUCATION

Of the 53 young adults who exited EFC during FY 2022-2023, 47 (89%) received a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) certificate, and 6 (11%) are pursuing high school. Eight (15%) were enrolled in a two-year community college, three (6%) were enrolled in a four-year university, one (2%) received a college degree and two (4%) participated in a vocational program. Of the 53 who exited care, six (11%) dropped out of high school and were referred to Opportunity Youth Academy (OYA) to continue to pursue their high school diploma. Education services offered at the Hub include referrals to OYA, a high school re-entry program. In June 2023, 9 youth received their high school diploma from OYA.



On June 23rd, 2023, 48 current and former foster youth were recognized for graduating from high school, or obtaining a GED certificate; three earned a Vocational Program Certificate; five received an Associate degree, and; six received a Bachelor's Degree. Graduates elected to celebrate their academic success by spending the day at Great America Parkway with their friends. DFCS, The Bill Wilson Center (BWC), Child Advocates of Silicon Valley (CASA), SCCOE, Pivotal and Great America hosted the event and graduates received a special gift bag from community partners.

Foster youth pursuing post-secondary educational studies are eligible for financial aid by completing the Free Application

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, which provides access to student grants and federal aid. In addition, the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program offers financial assistance to youth who have aged out of foster care to attend an accredited college, university, vocational or technical college. The maximum ETV award is \$5,000 per academic year.

Currently, DFCS has a partnership with SCCOE to provide academic scholarships to NMDs participating in EFC. Foster youth enrolled in a community college may receive up to \$2,500 annually and \$5,000 for enrollment in a four-year university. SCCOE provided a total of 22 scholarships this past fiscal year.



## HOUSING

With regard to housing, 49 (92%) of TAY who exited EFC secured housing and four (7%) had no housing arrangements at the time of exit. Youth who declare no housing arrangements when they exit foster care work closely with a DFCS housing analyst to explore housing options in collaboration



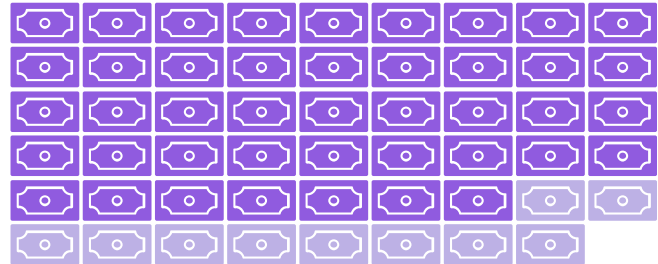
with the Santa Clara County Housing Authority (SCCHA) and OSH. Youth are connected to housing services, such as the Foster Youth Independence (FYI) Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) or Rapid re-housing.

## HOUSING CONT.

Of those who secured housing, 23 youth (43%) were living in transitional housing, a program that provides payments to providers to cover housing costs and living expenses for the young adult at rates between \$3,789-\$4,619 per month. Seventeen (32%) were renting their own housing or sharing rent with others. Seven (13%) were living rent-free. Two (4%) were living in a college dormitory.

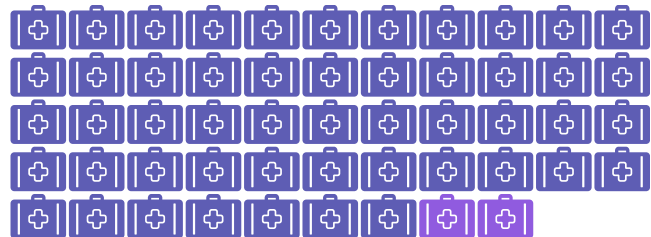
## FINCANCIAL SUPPORT/RESOURCES

Of the 53 TAY who exited EFC during FY 2022-2023, 43 (81%) had some means of income and 10 (18%) reported no means of financial support. Of those that had some means of income, 20 (38%) were employed full-time and 20 (38%) were employed part-time. Two (4%) were receiving Social Security Income (SSI), Twelve (23%) received Cal-Fresh, One (2%) received General Assistance, 32 (60%) reported having a checking account, and 16 (30%) had a savings account.



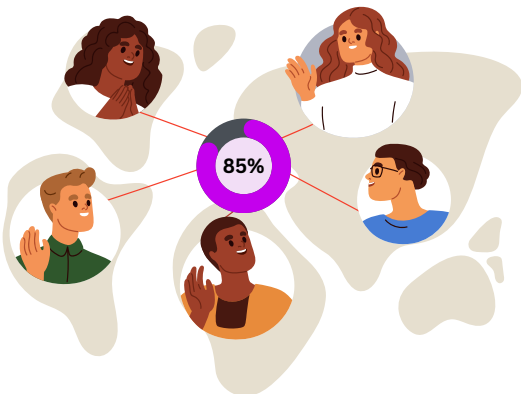
## HEALTH INSURANCE

Young adults who were in foster care at age 18 or older are eligible for Medi-Cal healthcare coverage (California's version of the federal Medicaid program) under the Former Foster Youth (FFY) program at no cost to the individual. If a youth was in foster care in California after January 1, 2014, they were automatically enrolled in Medi-Cal coverage under the FFY Program. Fifty-one (96%) young adults who exited EFC in FY 2022-2023 reported having MediCal healthcare coverage. Two (4%) young adults reported having health coverage other than Medi-Cal.



## PERMANENT CONNECTIONS

Eighty-five percent of the young adults exiting from EFC reported having a permanent family connection, such as birth parents, an adoptive family, a non-relative extended family member, or a legal guardian. Connection and support during the transition to adulthood is very important; therefore, young adults who report not having a permanent connection are referred to DFCS' Family Finding Unit or the Youth Acceptance Project (if LGBTQ) to ensure a connection with family or significant adult is made prior to exiting foster care.



# TAY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

There are a variety of services offered to TAY throughout the County that address areas of education, independent living, housing, and employment. Four of the services that provide major impact in supporting TAY are the Independent Living Program (ILP), the Career Development Unit (CDU), Transitional Housing and the Education Manager Program. DFCS also provides an array of community contracted services to ensure youth are supported and fulfill their full potential.



## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP)

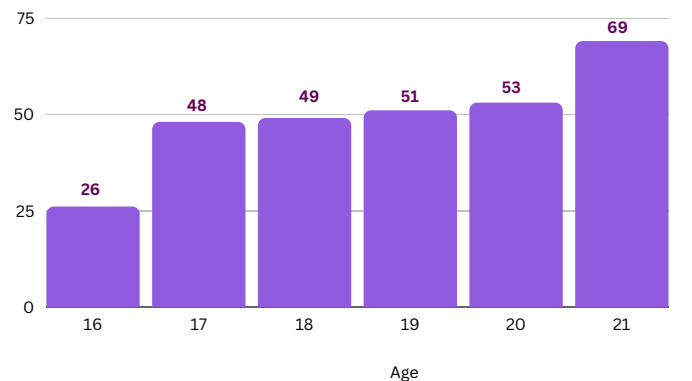
ILP provides eligible youth and young adults with access to services and referrals to help them gain skills for success in adulthood. ILP was authorized by the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169) to provide case management and peer-to-peer engagement for youth ages 16 through 21 years. ILP services include help navigating financial support through the Emancipated Youth Stipend for education, housing, health, well-being, and child care. ILP provides a peer advocate to support youth in Child and Family Team and 90-Day Transition meetings. ILP links youth to mental health, tax filing, Cal-Fresh, transportation, leadership opportunities, and medical services. Services also include assistance with daily living skills including budgeting, bank accounts, meal planning, and LGBTQ support.

## ILP CONT.

In FY 2022-2023, the County issued a request for proposal to elect an ILP vendor. The Bill Wilson Center (BWC) was elected to provide ILP case management services for TAY in Santa Clara County. BWC ILP case managers are located at DFCS's HUB, a community center for foster youth. During FY 2022-2023, 283 (70%) out of approximately 403 eligible foster youth received ILP services. ILP services are available to youth, ages 16-21, who live in Santa Clara County, including youth whose dependencies originate from another county. Figure 8 shows 16-22

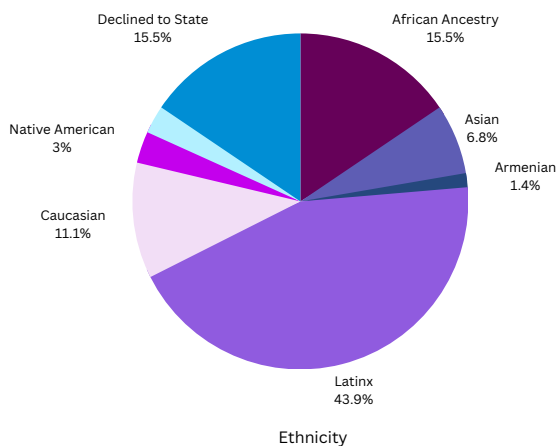
year-old participants eligible for ILP services. Latinx youth made up the largest percentage (51%) of the of ILP participants. Figure 9 shows the ethnicity of youth utilizing ILP.

FIGURE 8 - ILP PARTICIPATION BY AGE: 16-22



DATA SOURCE: ETO

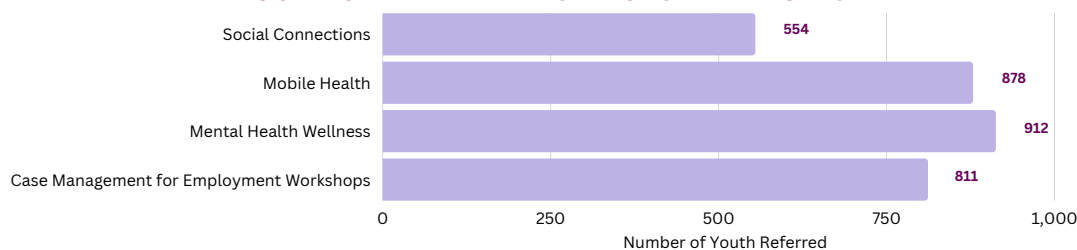
FIGURE 9 - ILP PARTICIPANT BY ETHNICITY



DATA SOURCE: ETO

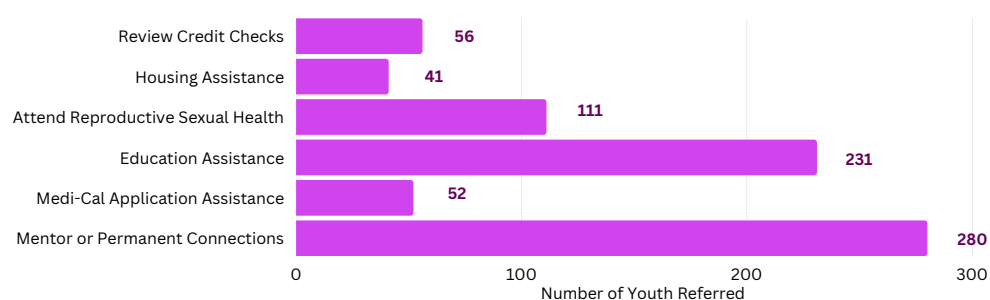
Of the 283 ILP youth served, mental health (912) was the most requested type of referral followed by mobile health (878) and employment (811) (Figure 10). Multiple referrals are often made when youth disengaged and return to services. The most used service was having a mentor or a permanent connection (280) followed by assistance with education services (231), reproductive sexual health (111) and review credit checks (56) (Figure 11).

FIGURE 10- ILP REFERRALS BY CASE MANAGERS



DATA SOURCE: ETO

FIGURE 11- TAY USING ILP PROGRAM AND SERVICES



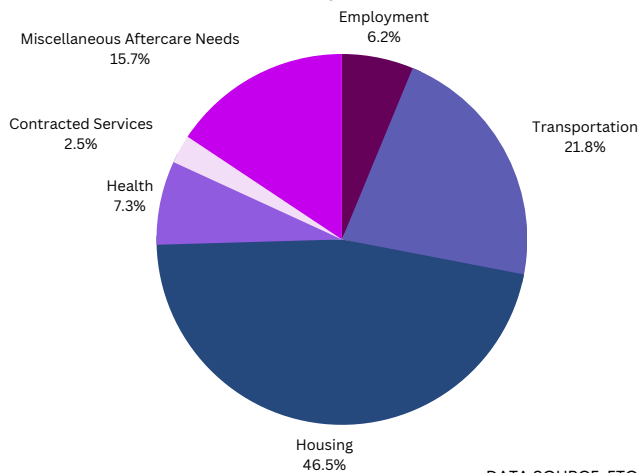
DATA SOURCE: ETO



## EMANCIPATED YOUTH STIPEND

All NMDs in Santa Clara County are able to access the Emancipated Youth Stipend (EYS). With support from their ILP case manager and social worker they are able to apply for EYS to meet critical needs, such as transportation, employment, education, contracted services, health care, parenting, housing, and miscellaneous aftercare needs. EYS is distributed on a first come, first served basis with a maximum of \$1,500 per youth stipend. DFCS has a budget of \$50k per fiscal year to cover incentives for youth placed out of county and EYS requests. For FY 2022-2023, a total of 182 requests were processed, supporting 71 unduplicated youth. The average EYS request amount was approximately \$273. Figure 12 shows the different EYS categories supported, employment (\$3,092; 6.2%), transportation (\$10,807; 21.8%), housing (\$23,071; 46.5%), health (\$3,625; 7.3%), contracted services (\$1,240; 2.5%), and miscellaneous aftercare needs (\$7,763; 15.7%).

FIGURE 12 - EYS REQUEST CATEGORIES



## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Permanent supportive housing provides stability for TAY and effects other areas of their lives. A range of housing programs are available for TAY in partnership with community agencies: Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP), Transitional Housing Plus Non-Minor Dependent (THPNMD), and Transitional Housing Program Plus After Care (THP+AC). Figures 13 and 15 list the criteria and types of housing within each housing model program.

The glossary in this report also details further descriptions of the housing options. TAY who participate in these housing programs concurrently receive case management and hands-on life skills in a stable and safe environment.

For FY 2022-2023, there were three transitional housing providers in Santa Clara County: BWC, St. Andrew's Residential Programs for Youth

(S.T.A.R. Programs), and First Place for Youth. The number of program participants in Figure 13 is based on information from these three agencies. S.T.A.R and BWC provide THPP services. Services for THPNMD and THP+AC are provided by BWC and First Place for Youth. This past fiscal year, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) awarded the County a 3-year grant in the amount of \$705,600 annually to its THP+AC program. The THP grant added 12 additional slots to serve parenting youth and families and will provide a monthly supplemental allowance in the

FIGURE 13 - TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

	THPP	THPNMD	THP+AC
Participants Served	27	91	199
Age Participation in Years	16-17	18-21	18-25
Monthly Allocation per participant	\$4,819	\$3,209	\$3,789 Single \$4,619 Parent

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CONT.

amount of \$164 to each participant. The supplemental allowance will support participants with imminent needs such as fees for school, transportation, employment, food and other supports. Also, in FY 2022-2023, THP+AC was expanded to serve participants up to the age of 25 and provide housing services for 36 months instead of 24 months. THP+AC providers also receive an increased rate subsidy leveraged by HCD to afford adequate housing for participants. Participants received an increased housing rate from \$2,400 to \$3,789 while parenting TAY received \$2,800 to \$4,619.

FIGURE 14- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM CRITERIA AND RATES

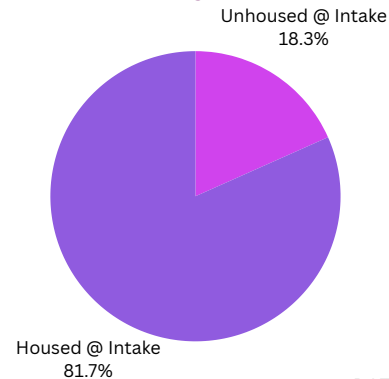
	Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)	Transitional Housing Placement-Non Minor Dependent (THPNMD)	Transitional Housing Placement -Aftercare (THP+AC)
Age	16 and 17	18 - 20	18 - 25
Juvenile Court Status	Court Dependent	Court Dependent	Not a Court Dependent
Case Manager	THPP Case Manager	THP+NMD Case Manager	THP+AC Case Manager
Criteria for Receiving Services	Pursuing Transitional Independent Living Plan Goals	In an Education Program or Employed or documented Disability prevents participation	Former court dependent no longer in foster care
State Licensed Facility?	YES	YES	YES
Host Family Model?	NO	YES	YES
Single Site Model?	YES	YES	YES
Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)?	NO	YES (up to 21 years old participating in EFC)	NO
Scattered Site Housing Model?	NO	YES	YES
Types of SILPs	Apartment, rented room, home of parent or guardian, Job Corp, dormitory, tribal approved home		
Types of Host Family Model	Approved relative, current or former foster family, or adult mentor		
Types of Single Site Model	A home or complex owned by the provider with some type of staff or monitor		
Types of Scattered Site Housing	An apartment or room in the community		



## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT - AFTERCARE

During FY 2022-2023, 60 former foster youth were newly enrolled in THP+AC. Figure 14 showcases now eleven of those youth entered the program unhoused at intake. Seven youth (63%) were able to obtain housing within the FY. However, there were two youth who self-exited (18%) and two youth (18%) who enrolled in the program in May and June 2023 and were being supported in their housing search. A total of 199 youth were served by the program, with 139 youth engaged in their 2nd or 3rd year of the program. Of those enrolled, 138 (69%) were single participants and 61 (31%) were parenting participants. The THP+AC program continues to make efforts to serve and support youth experiencing homelessness at program intake.

FIGURE 15 - HOUSING STATUS AT THP+AC INTAKE



DATA SOURCE: ETO

## HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS FOR FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE

In FY 2019-2020, DFCS, together with OSH and SCCHA, applied for Tennant Protection Vouchers, currently known as the Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) for Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative. The initiative is based on Home Together, a Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, which provides housing funds for targeted populations such as foster youth ages 18-24. Twenty-five vouchers were made available to foster youth who exited foster care, or youth ages 16-17 who were in an out-of-home placement. Each voucher provides 36 months of subsidized housing and case management services.



For FY 2022-2023, 25 young adults were housed and received housing services through the Bill Wilson Center. Youth eligible for a voucher were identified through the County's coordinated assessment system, which required a completed Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision

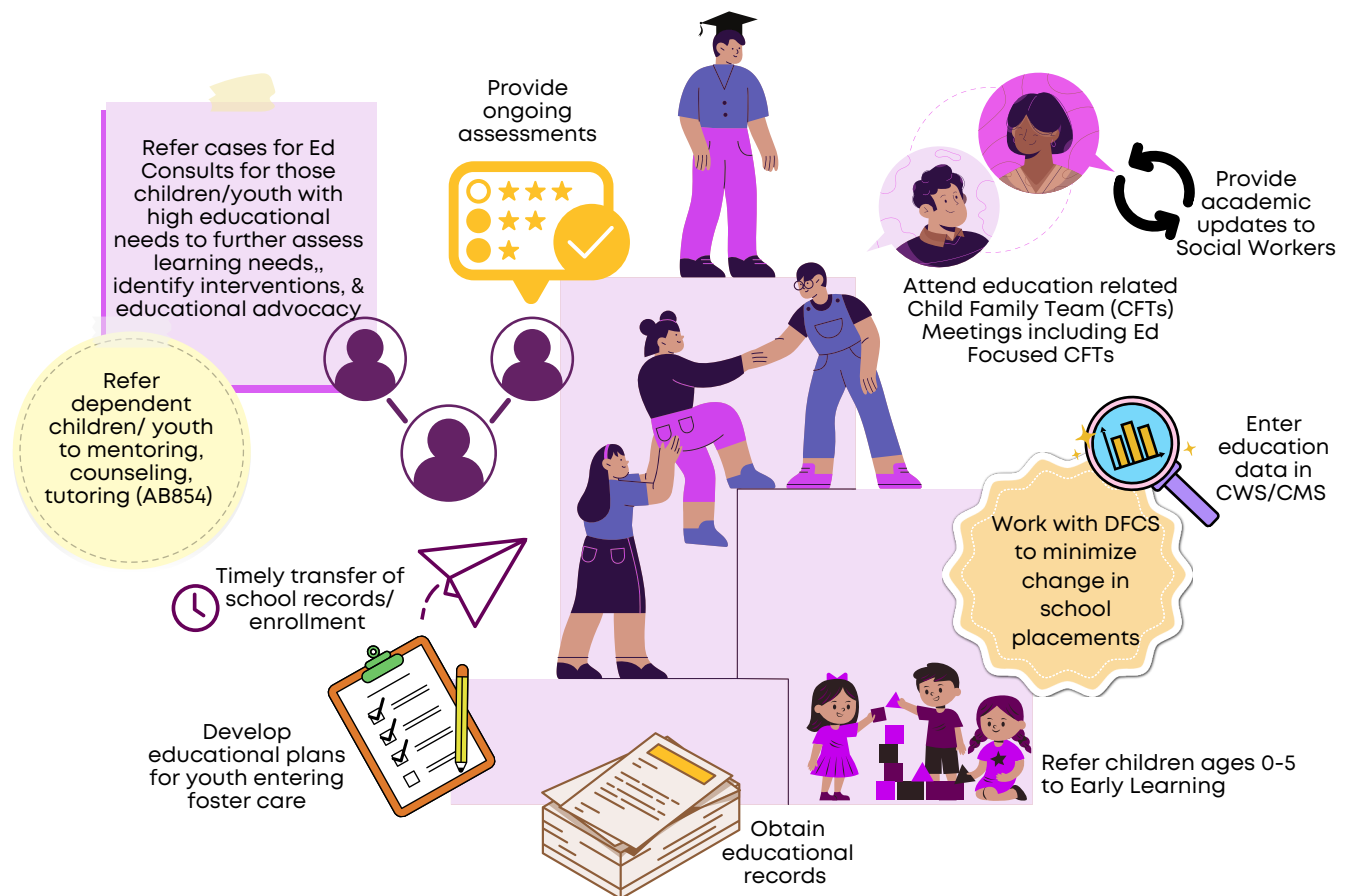
Assistance Prescreen Tool (VI-SPDAT), a tool that determines risks and prioritization when providing assistance to homeless and at-risk of homelessness persons. After completion of the tool, foster youth are entered into a community queue, a section in the Homeless Management Data Information System (HMIS), which automatically refers the youth to DFCS and OSH for eligibility and services.

In FY 2022-2023, DFCS, SCCHA, and OSH applied for FYI Competitive vouchers for foster youth under the 2022 FYI Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) awarded by the Department of Housing Urban Development, and received 53 housing vouchers for foster youth. Foster youth deemed eligible for the housing voucher are referred directly to the Hub housing navigator and Bill Wilson Center for housing services. This past fiscal year, DFCS, SCCHA and OSH received technical assistance from the John Burton Advocates for youth to develop best practices for utilization of the housing vouchers. Priority for housing vouchers are issued to foster youth in need of housing exiting foster care within 90 days, including young adults exiting transitional housing at the age of 24.

## EDUCATION

DFCS is in its 4th year of partnership with SCCOE in accordance with All County Letter 16- 91, which outlines information to child welfare departments regarding the opportunity to partner with county offices of education to draw down federal Title IV-E funding to increase educational case management services for foster youth.

Case management services are provided to children and youth K-12 involved in the juvenile dependency court, including both family reunification and maintenance. Cases are assigned to an SCCOE education manager who will follow the academic progress of children throughout their duration in the dependency system. The education managers focus on monitoring academics, behavior and special education in addition to the following:



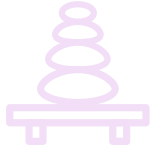
The six SCCOE education managers are co-located at DFCS and work closely with the Educational Services Unit (EdSu) to ensure all youth are being served, collaborate with the assigned social worker, and support the education rights holder with any educational needs. EdSu continues to contract with Legal Advocates for Children and Youth for an educational consult to provide educational advocacy and with Morrissey-Compton Educational Center, Inc. to provide diagnostic analysis of special education plans for children and youth.

In this partnership with SCCOE, DFCS is utilizing Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) to report on outcomes and outputs for educational services provided. The contract for ETO launched in Early February 2022. Figure 16 outlines the partnership's goals relating to the school of origin maintenance and referrals to services:



## EDUCATION CONT.

FIGURE 16 - EDUCATION OUTCOME GOALS



### Stability

- Increase the proportion of students who remain in their school of origin at 2-months after their 300 Petition Date.
- Increase the proportion of students who receive referrals to services within 30 days of an intake Tier Assessment that indicates a referral is needed.



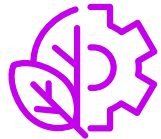
### Growth

- Increase the proportion of students who engage in referred services within 3 months of the referral date.
- Increase the percentage of students displaying adaptive engagement patterns in the short-term measured by the Educational Tier Assessment Engagement Subscore.
- Increase the percentage of students displaying adaptive behavioral patterns in the short-term measured by the Educational Tier Assessment Behavioral Subscore.



### Sustainability

- Increase the percentage of students displaying adaptive academic performance patterns in the long-term measured by the Tier Assessment Academic Subscore.
- Increase the proportion of on-time high school graduation and FAFSA completion.
- Increase the enrollment in a 2- or 4-year college or vocation program within 6 months of graduating high school.
- Increase the proportion of HS diplomas or certificates for NMD's prior to exiting at 21.



### Maintenance

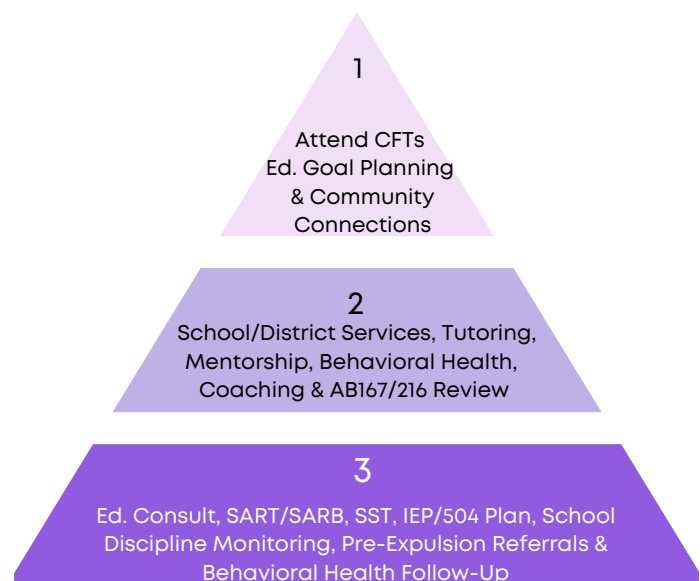
- Increase the percentage of students displaying adaptive academic performance patterns in the long-term measured by the Tier Assessment Academic Subscore

The education managers were able to serve a total of 450 unduplicated children and youth with the completion of an Education Tier Assessment. The assessment is a multi-dimensional tool that compiles information around the student's school mobility, academics, engagement, and behavior. The compilation of the assessment categorizes the student's needs into a tier level which assists in determining the level of interventions the student can receive. Figure 17 details the different tier levels and some of the interventions education managers provide; however, this is not all inclusive.

Upon reviewing the longitudinal data of 285 unduplicated children and youth, where the education managers completed a minimum of two tier assessments, the educational Tier 3 needs decreased by 15%, Tier 2 needs decreased by 15%, and Tier 1 needs increased by 17%. Figure 18 showcases the progress made in stepping down the tier level support needed by children and youth.

The education managers have also begun providing social workers with an Education Court Summary, providing vital educational data to present to the Court. Information detailed in the Education Court Summary includes but is not limited to school name, grades, latest tier assessment level,

FIGURE 17- TIER LEVEL INTERVENTIONS

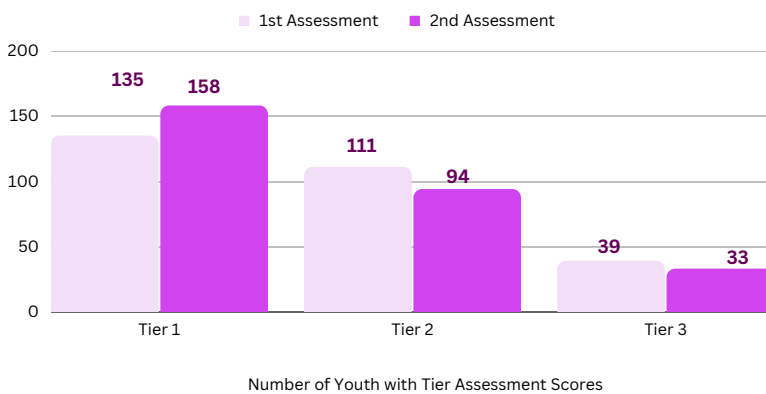


## EDUCATION CONT.

special education information, and interventions. In FY 2022-2023, a total of 587 Education Court Summaries were provided to social workers regarding 412 unduplicated children and youth.

DFCS participated in Senate Bill 12 (SB12) learning community with John Burton Advocates for Youth to develop best practices. Per SB-12, social workers and probation officers are required to identify a postsecondary support person to assist youth ages 16 or older with their college applications, including career and technical education, and financial aid applications. It also requires the social worker to identify a postsecondary education support person in the youth's court-ordered case plan in CWS/CMS unless the youth states that postsecondary education will not be pursued. At any time thereafter, if the youth chooses to attend postsecondary education or the identified person can no longer support the youth, the social worker must update the court ordered case plan.

FIGURE 18- TIER ASSESSMENT COMPARISON



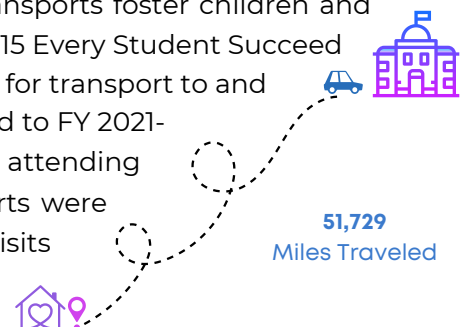
DATA SOURCE: ETO

Postsecondary education may not be the path for all foster youth; however, the social worker or someone in the foster youth's circle of support should discuss the benefits of higher education with them. The All County Information Notice 1-71-18, encourages social workers to utilize CFT meetings as the best practice to provide an opportunity for foster youth to explore the possibilities of postsecondary education or career and technical education as a goal after

high school. A CFT can also be used to track progress towards the youth's short-term and long-term education goals, identifying the resources, supports, and services needed for success. In August of 2021, DFCS launched the education focused CFT for foster youth in 8th grade up to postsecondary education. The education focused CFT helps youth envision postsecondary or technical education as achievable, explore career and degree interests, learn how to finance college, and become aware of all campus support programs. During FY 2022-2023, there were 25 education focused CFTs held. DFCS is working to integrate education focused CFTs on all cases.

## HOP SKIP DRIVE PROGRAM

DFCS continues to contract with HopSkipDrive, a service that transports foster children and youth to and from their school of origin, in compliance with the 2015 Every Student Succeed Act. In FY 2022-2023, 99 referrals were submitted to HopSkipDrive for transport to and from school. The volume of transports slightly increased compared to FY 2021-2022 as children and youth returned to school after a period of not attending school in-person due to the pandemic. A total of 2,968 transports were completed for children and foster youth. Transports also include visits with family members and extra-curricular activities.



## EMPLOYMENT

Obtaining meaningful employment or an internship helps foster youth develop employability for independence. Typical pathways of employment include work readiness programs, summer or year-round work internships, high school graduations, post-secondary education and trainings, and/or work experience that leads to progressively higher paying positions.



Foster youth are afforded a menu of employment options as they complete their secondary and post-secondary education. Youth concurrently enrolled in an education program will seek an internship offered by the Intern & Earn (I&E) program 1.0 or the County Student Internship program to enhance their aspirational goals aligned with their prospective careers. Other youth may select an opportunity to

reach gainful employment and participate in the Employment Services Unclassified Program (ESUP), County Employment for Foster Youth (CEFy), formerly known as the Emancipated Foster Youth program (EFY), which offers a permanent entry-level County position. Older foster youth interested in obtaining long-term employment often elect to participate in the I&E Program 2.0, which offers a six-month internship program in conjunction with extensive case management to fine tune soft skills. Figure 21 details the different outreach methods used by CDU to increase youth enrollment and engagement.

During FY 2022-2023, 158 TAY were employed in part-time or full-time jobs. CDU provides job preparation workshops, resume writing services, internship opportunities, and entry-level employment leads. In FY 2022-2023, approximately 654 referrals were made to CDU. The CDU may receive a number of referrals from social workers and case managers; therefore, some of the referrals may be submitted for the same youth.

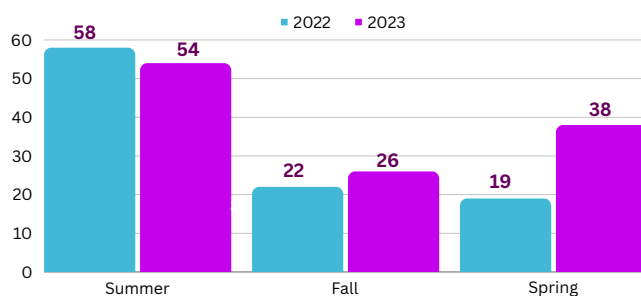
The CDU offers employment readiness workshops designed to provide a foundation for young adults preparing to enter the workforce. Participants who complete a seventeen-series program receive a certificate of completion and financial Incentive. In FY 2022-2023, 146 workshops were held and 504 participants attended.



### INTERN & EARN 1.0

The County's Intern & Earn Program 1.0 is a partnership with DFCS, DEBS, and ORE to provide an eight-week long summer internship program for youth who receive CalWorks or CalFresh benefits, or are foster

FIGURE 19 - COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, INTERN & EARN PROGRAM 1.0



Data Source: ORE



**4%**  
Increase in  
Overall  
Participation  
Rate

2022: 99 Youth  
2023: 118 Youth



## INTERN & EARN 1.0

youth. Youth ages 16-24 are eligible for 30 hours per week at \$18.50 per hour. The program provides year-round internships at local non-profit agencies, private businesses, and County departments. Workshops are offered year-round on topics including completing applications, interview techniques, resume development, financial education, social media etiquette, and exploring opportunities for post-secondary education. DFCS and DEBS also host hiring events and employer recruitments, many featuring youth-friendly employers.

In FY 2022-23, 118 youth were provided paid internships at 97 different worksites through the Intern & Earn Program 1.0. Foster youth participation rates per cohorts is shown in figure 19, with an overall 77% (118) participation rate. Expected participation rates tend to be high; however, some youth opt out to focus on self and educational goals.

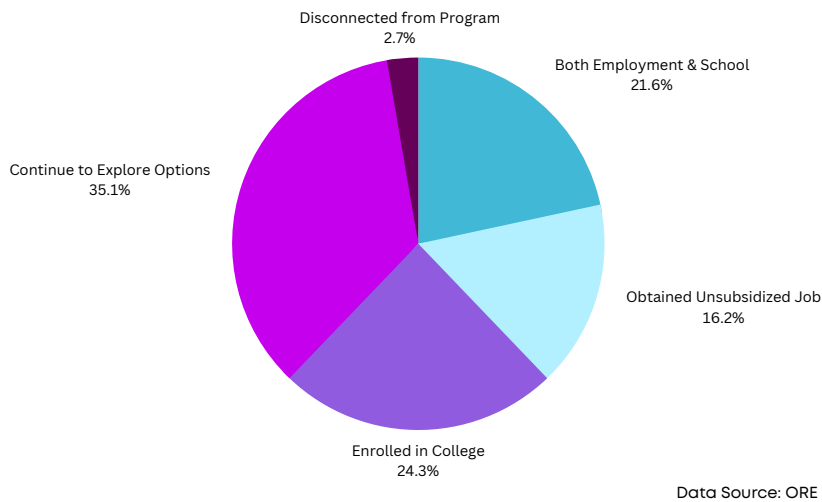


## INTERN & EARN 2.0

The Intern & Earn Program 2.0 is also a collaboration between DFCS, DEBS, and ORE, to provide former-foster youth, ages 18-24 the opportunity to participate in a six-month internship.

The first month of the program is dedicated to training to improve job readiness, develop soft skills, and explore career interests. Following training, interns are placed at non-profit organizations, private businesses and County departments that match their career interests. Program participants earn \$18.50 an hour for a 30 hour workweek. The target population

**FIGURE 20 - INTERN & EARN 2.0 PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES:  
FY 2022-2023**



served by the Intern & Earn Program 2.0 are youth who are not working or enrolled in post-secondary education.

The program typically serves a total of 30 foster youth each year. This past year, the program accommodated 37 foster youth to participate in the Intern & Earn Program, 2.0 with 13 different worksites, dedicated organizations, private businesses and County departments that match the

youths' career interests. This is a 20 % increase from last FY when there were 30 youth enrolled.

Over 62% of the interns reported that they obtained permanent employment and/or enrolled in college within 90 days following program conclusion. Program outcomes data can be found in figure 20.



## COUNTY EMPLOYMENT FOR FOSTER YOUTH (CEFY)

The County Employment for Foster Youth program (formerly Emancipated Foster Youth Employment program) is one of the programs under the umbrella of the Employment Services





## CEFY CONT.

Unclassified program. CEFY provides eligible foster-youth candidates with opportunities for permanent County employment. Applicants are supported through the process from completing the application to accepting a job offer. Former foster youth ages 18 to 24, can apply for up-to 42 different entry-level jobs through a modified hiring process and are placed in one of the unclassified positions. Applicants must meet the County employment standards to be eligible and pass the qualifying exam. To date, CDU has placed 45 foster youth in CEFY positions throughout the County.

During FY 2022-2023, twelve applications were submitted and approved to be on the CEFY eligible hiring list. From this list, four foster youth were hired into classified positions into ORE, DEBS, and OSH. The other youth remain on the eligible hire list and are in the process of interviewing. The following youth success story has resulted from participating in the CEFY program.

FIGURE 21 - INTERN & EARN (I&E) EMPLOYMENT OUTREACH METHODS



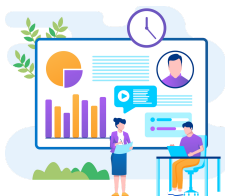
### Client Recruitment and Outreach

- Work closely with Non-Minor Dependent Units, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate from Child Advocates of Silicon Valley), ILP Program, Transition Housing Program Housing Programs (Bill Wilson & First Place for Youth) to identify youth who have not participated in I&E through a direct referral process
- Accepting applications year round
- Emailing recruitment flyer to eligible youth individually ahead of upcoming cohort, for youth there are email addresses for, including prior participants who have shown interest but did not follow through
- Offer quarterly virtual and in-person information/recruitment session for youth and service providers and social workers
- Strengthening partnership with Foster Youth Services Initiative (FYSI)
- Every youth receiving Hub services, should receive I&E pamphlet/flyer In-Person recruitment event at the Hub on the spot



### Marketing

- Post 300 recruitment flyers at San Jose Community colleges: DeAnza, San Jose City College, Evergreen Valley College, West Valley College, Gavilan College, San Jose State University, Foothill College, and Mission College. Designate one employment counselor to two colleges for direct contact
- Post 300 recruitment flyers at various high schools (i.e. ESUHSD, Mt. Pleasant Union SD, Gilroy USD, & SJUSD) where the majority of foster care youth attend school
- Email recruitment flyer to DFCS units serving TAY
- Post youth-friendly recruitment flyer on CDU website, with sign-up link and contact phone number for questions
- Attach recruitment flyer in Hub monthly e-newsletter (EPS)
- CDU referral form and sign-up link readily available to Child and Family Team facilitators
- Create sign-up link in CDU website



### Increase Intern & Earn Visibility and Awareness

- Road show information presentations to DFCS Unit Meetings (including Emergency Response, Dependency Investigations, and Safety & Wellbeing units), CASAs, ILP staff, CFTs, Dually Involved Youth (DIY) unit, the Hub, The Kinship, Adoptive, Foster Parent Association of San Jose (KAFPA) and Santa Clara County Transitional Housing Providers

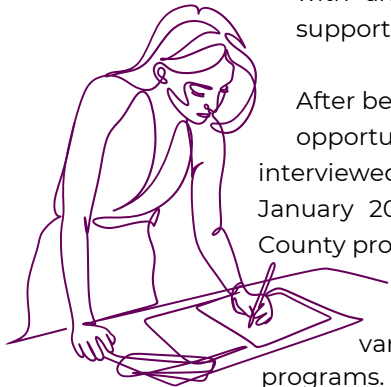


## FOSTER YOUTH SUCCESS STORY “T”

T is a great example of how the CDU offers programs and services that lead our foster youth to sustainable career paths.

T participated in I&E 1.0 in June of 2020. She was placed at the County’s Division of Equity and Social Justice - Office of Women’s Policy (OWP). She supported the division’s management analysts as well as the Girl’s Advisory Team (GAT). Initially, T found the fast-paced nature of OWP and supporting the MA’s a bit challenging. However, with perseverance, encouragement and hard work she successfully completed her 1.0 internship.

Due to her impressive work ethic over the summer her supervisor, agreed to keep her on another six months in the 2.0 I&E Fall 2020 Cohort. During this time, T continued to challenge herself and build her skills by taking on projects that pushed her to work outside her comfort zone. At the end of the six months, T was offered an extra-help job as a management aide where she continued to support the Division of Equity and Social Justice in 2022. She continued to develop employment skills as she multi-tasked interfacing with the Financial Management Services (FMS), managing and coordinated projects and continuing to support GAT. Due to her continued strong work ethic and professional reputation, when her management aid position ended she was offered another extra-help job as an office specialist III at the Vietnamese American Service Center (VASC). Here she was able to interact with and support client’s accessing the center as well as provide office support.



After being on the waiting list, T finally got a chance at a CEFY interview for an opportunity where she could bring passion to a civil servant career. The OSH interviewed T from CEFY list and offered her a job as a management aide in January 2023. T became a classified employee and began her nine-month County probation in June of 2023. T is working on supporting a multi-million dollar project at OSH that focuses on housing the disadvantaged youth population– a big passion of hers. T also participated in various I&E trainings where she expressed her thanks for these programs. She shared that growing up in Santa Clara County and then moving to Santa Cruz for five years to attend school was a bit of a culture shock, and when coupled with the pandemic, resulting in isolation, caused her to experience uncertainties in her life including what next steps to take. T shared that the I&E programs gave her a sense of community, support, guidance and opportunity, which paved the path to the CEFY Program to secure a permanent classified position with the County. This job has meant the world to T. It has given her financial stability. T has enjoyed her County employment journey so far and is extremely excited for the career growth potential in her future.

## SAFETY, PERMANENCY AND WELLBEING

DFCS seeks to ensure that TAY who have experienced maltreatment achieve safety, permanency, and well-being. Our system of care includes local agencies who partner with families and communities to address the multiple needs of TAY involved in child welfare. Key to a TAY’s success is participation in Child and Family Team Meetings which includes a youth identified support system to ensure that services focus on safety while in care, securing appropriate services to promote TAY well-being, collaborations to facilitate a secure permanent living arrangement, and to ensure a connection with family or significant adult is made prior to exiting foster care.

## CALIFORNIA'S GUARANTEED INCOME PILOT PROGRAM

The FY 2021-2022 budget for the State of California allocated \$35 million over five years to fund pilot programs that serve California residents who are at least 21 years of age or who are pregnant individuals. To participate in the pilot programs, individuals must have aged out of EFC at the age of 21. Although the County's proposal was not selected for the pilot, SSA and the Office of the County Executive's (CEO) will continue to offer the Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) to 50 former foster youth ages 24. Each GBI participant will receive \$1,200 a month starting August 1, 2023. Now in its second cohort, DFCS will continue to collaborate on this project by supporting CEO with recruitment efforts and verifying eligibility of participants.



## CHAFEE CASH CARD PAYMENTS

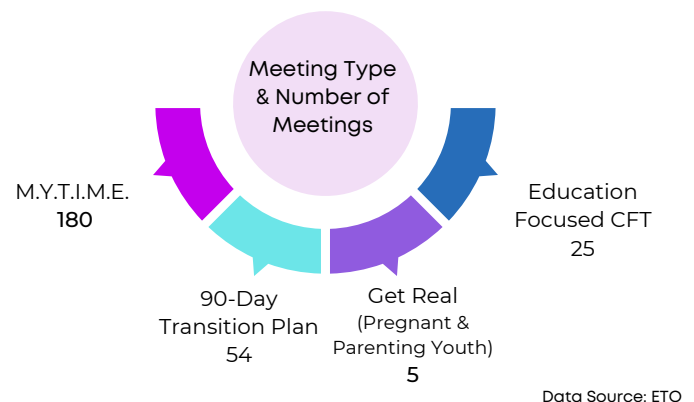
A fourth round of Federal Chafee Cash Payments for the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency were made available during FY 2022-2023, for eligible current and former foster youth who were turning 21 years old in 2022. DFCS was tasked to enroll 67 youth ages 20-21 deemed eligible by CDSS for the payment of \$1298. CDSS distributed the payments electronically via a digital card. CDSS has shared that they will not be releasing any additional payments.



## CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

One of the ways to convene the network of supports for TAY is through Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTs) facilitated by DFCS's social services analysts. Under the CFT umbrella, meetings specific to TAY are Moving Youth Towards Independence and Mindful Emancipation (M.Y.T.I.M.E.), 90-Day Transition Plan, and Get Real meetings (Figure 22) [1]. CFTs are supported with a youth's identified natural support system, which includes primary and extended family members, ILP case manager, social worker, caregiver, community service providers, and others identified by the youth to support decisions around housing, education, employment, and well-being. CFTs are held at least every six months and youth can request a CFT at any time. Get Real meetings are targeted to pregnant and parenting foster youth to ensure they are adequately supported with a mentor, develop and review a Parent Support Plan, receive the Infant Supplement, and are connected to a Public Health Visitation Nurse for nutrition and educational support.

FIGURE 22- TAY CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS



## YOUTH ACCEPTANCE PROJECT

The Youth Acceptance Project (YAP) works with families of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning (LGBTQ), and gender expansive children and youth in foster care or at risk of entering foster care. The intervention serves as a family preservation and family reunification tool, and assists

[1] The 90-Day Transition Plan assists youth to prepare a plan for their exit out of care. Discussion areas include housing; education; workforce support/employment services; health insurance/medical needs; and mentors/continuing support services.

## YOUTH ACCEPTANCE PROJECT CONT.

families who are struggling with the sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression of their child. Family advocates use a psycho-educational model to address misinformation, resistance, fear, and grief that families often struggle with, ultimately moving families to a place of acceptance of their child.



DFCS entered into a service agreement with YAP in FY 2018-2019. Since then, 159 families and youth have received services that helped them access gender affirming health care and mental health services that address trauma resulting from lack of acceptance and affirmation. Other supports included psychoeducation on LGBTQ topics; helping caregivers and youths' understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE), assessing

placements to ensure youths' safety, and advocating for youths' SOGIE needs with caregivers and service providers.

It is estimated that 30% of the foster youth in California identify as SOGIE. In response to this statistic, all child welfare counties are required to implement the Recognize Intervene Support and Empower (RISE) training. This past fiscal year DFCS, Staff Development and Youth Acceptance Project rolled out the RISE training as part of Equity and Justice Series to support social worker staff with addressing SOGIE topics that may surface in their child

welfare caseloads. The goal of this training is to aid social workers to become informed, engaged and connected with efforts to identify inequities and to actively develop solutions to address targeted areas in need of policy and process reform. Six hundred and sixty- seven county staff attended the RISE training.

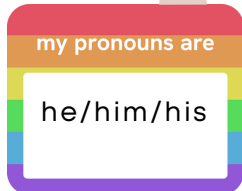
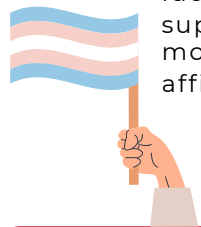


The RISE trainings are based upon strength-based, best practices for working with LGBTQ youth and their families, including principles for effective communication and a review of the legal and professional standards for serving this specific population. The core of the RISE training is the belief that with skilled, thoughtful, and targeted interventions, LGBTQ youth can achieve permanency in safe and

affirming environments. In addition, participants heard directly from a lived experience speaker panel facilitated by the LGBTQ Youth Space on their experiences, support and interventions that made a positive difference in their life.

The following success stories highlight the interventions applied by YAP to assist families and youth who are struggling with sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression to sustain family preservation and reunification:

## YOUTH ACCEPTANCE PROJECT CONT.



J and his mother were referred to YAP services a little over a year ago. J identifies as a transgender boy and his mother was not sure how to best support him. Family Builders' YAP social worker worked with both J and his mother separately. The YAP social worker worked on J's self-esteem first and affirmed his gender and found many resources for him. He started attending a peer group with other transgender young people. The YAP social worker was also working with his mother on processing her feelings about her child identifying as a boy and not her child's sex assigned at birth. J's mother was confused at first and was also hoping that her child's identity was a phase. The YAP social worker spent time with J's mother, allowing her to process her grief over losing her daughter. J's mother had a difficult time accepting the new name her child had chosen. Together, with the YAP social worker facilitating the process, they were able to pick a name that both J and his mother liked. This process strengthened their bond tremendously. Allowing J's mother to process her feelings and better understand transgender identities led to her becoming supportive of her transgender son. Early this year, she and J went to a gender affirming medical provider to support J's identity, and possibly start hormone treatment. J's mother is also working on helping him change his name and gender identity on his birth certificate, ID, etc.



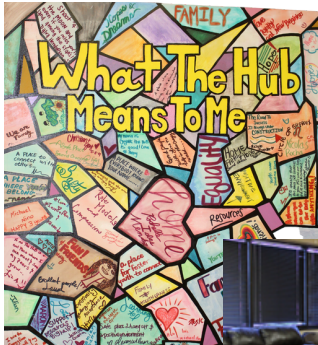
A and her family became involved with child welfare, because A's family struggled to accept their child as a transgender girl. There was significant conflict in the home. The family was referred to YAP shortly after coming to the attention of child welfare. Initially, the father declined to participate in services, but the mother agreed. YAP worked with the mother for several months and she shared that work with the father on her own. A's mother really struggled with letting go of the fact that she was not raising a son anymore. She was overwhelmed by her emotions and had a difficult time supporting her child at school and advocating for her child's identity. Family Builders' YAP social worker went to the school with A's mother and advocated for A, allowing the mother to watch and learn what could be said to ensure her child was allowed to use the bathroom according to her gender identity and that her chosen names and identified pronouns were used. This is when A's mother began to ask the YAP social worker for some education on her child's identity. A's behavior also settled down and she did not run away or leave her home without permission. A was eager to start hormone therapy; however, her father was against it. A's mother is the one who worked with the father. She would let the YAP social worker meet where the father was at and asked for videos and articles to help her work with her husband. When A's father saw how happy his child had become, he finally consented to gender affirming medical care for A. The father gave A a purse for her birthday. A's relationship with her parents improved tremendously and the family became able to advocate on their own and utilize the resources the YAP social worker gave them.





## THE HUB

The Hub is a youth center that provides on-site services to current and former foster youth ages 15 to 25 years of age. Services include educational assistance, career development, employment resources, housing assistance, CalFresh application assistance, independent living case management services, and identity theft prevention. Wellness, medical and mental health services are also available to youth.



The Hub provides warm meals daily to youth, has laundry facilities and showers available, and offers clothes, backpacks, school supplies, hygiene products, baby wipes, diapers and other goods to youth at no cost at its HubMart. Computers and free internet access are available to youth so they can complete schoolwork, search and apply for jobs, shop, and connect with friends and family on social media. All services and supports provided at the

Hub enable youth to develop independent living skills and sustain wellbeing as they age out of the foster care system. All services and supports provided at the Hub enable youth to develop independent living skills and sustain wellbeing as they age out of the foster care system.



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (YLC) AND YOUTH-LED PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (YPAR)

The Hub is also a place where youth develop leadership skills and are given a voice. Through the Youth Leadership Council (YLC), TAY are offered opportunities for public speaking, collaboration, and facilitating successful meetings. The YLC, in partnership with ORE, continue to carry out the use of Youth-led Participatory Action Research (yPAR) methods to solicit meaningful engagement from youth to inform program design and evaluation. These approaches recognize youth

as content experts and evaluation partners, not just program recipients. yPAR has supported the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) survey initiated and led by a YLC youth. The goal of the project has been to evaluate the transportation needs identified by youth, with the possibility of advocating for additional financial support for unmet needs. The evaluation of the survey responses is pending and is being led by YLC with support from yPAR.

With the goal of promoting additional leadership opportunities for YLC youth, the partnership with California Youth Connections (CYC) was renewed. YLC youth were offered the opportunity to attend the 2023 Summer Leadership and Policy Conference and will also be offered an opportunity to attend the 2024 Day at the Capitol Conference.



## IFOSTER BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

In addition to the services listed above, the Hub continues its collaboration with iFoster to make technological devices readily available to foster youth. In order to close the digital divide, the Hub staff continued its partnership with iFoster, and since the pandemic started, 605 laptops and 417 cell phones were issued to foster youth.







## IFOSTER BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE CONT.

iFoster's pilot with the California Public Utilities Commission was a success and now offers permanent free unlimited communication, including internet access by way of free smart phones for every foster youth in California ages 13-26.



## HOUSING NAVIGATOR AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

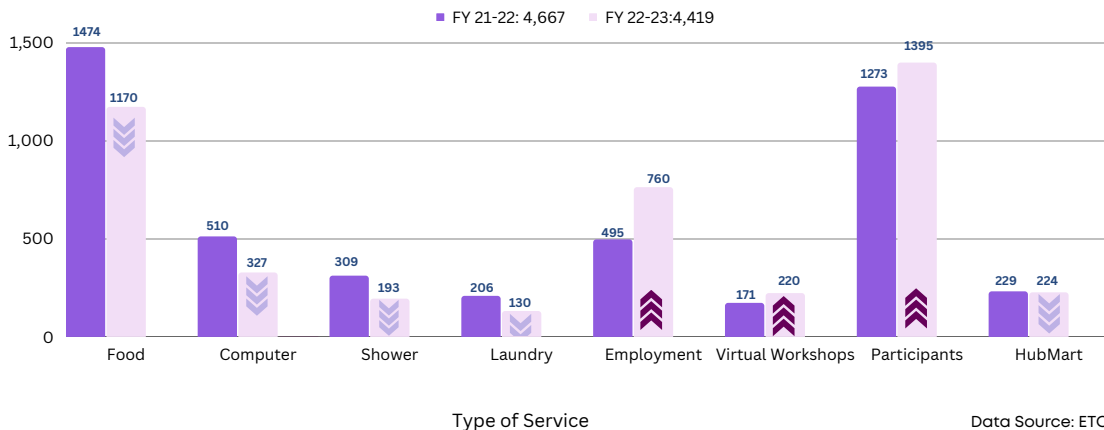
For FY 2022-2023, HCD awarded DFCS a grant in the amount of \$126,080 annually to provide Housing Navigation services to aide current and former foster youth ages 18-24 with identifying housing options. Housing Navigation began on July 1, 2021 and is located at the Hub. Referrals for services can be made at the Hub and/or by drop in daily from 9:00AM to 6:00PM. Last fiscal year the program served 79 youth with locating housing, providing housing amenities, and identifying first month's rent and deposit. The navigator also completes the Vulnerability Index- Services Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPIDAT) for young adults that are homeless.



## THE HUB CONT.

FY 2022-2023, the Hub re-opened its doors for full utilization of services. Per youth request, the Hub also provides a hybrid service delivery model incorporating in-person and virtual services. Figure 23 below shows the utilization of Hub services from FY 2021-2022 and FY 2022-2023. Youth utilization of enrichment services: employment and independent living workshops increased by 22% in FY 2022-2023 compared to 2021-2022. Workshops are offered in person or virtual, making it accessible for youth to log-in and participate. A 25% decrease in usage of basic needs and services may be attributed to youth stability receiving supportive housing services.

Figure 23 - The Hub Service Utilization:  
July-June for Both Fiscal Years



**22%**  
Increase in enrichment services, employment & workshop participation

**25%**  
Decrease in usage of basic needs and services such as food, computer, shower & laundry



## THE NEW HUB ON PARKMOOR

The Hub membership seeks a welcoming high-quality youth center with a significant number of affordable housing units for single foster youth and parenting families. Facilities in the new 17,000 square foot Hub will include generous social enrichment areas that will serve as the focal point of the facility, a snack bar, teaching kitchen, DIY art, and computer facilities. Existing services available at the King Road facility will continue to be provided at the Parkmoor site,



## THE NEW HUB ON PARKMOOR CONT.

including on-site education, employment services, independent living, the HubMart, medical care, and quality childcare activities. The expected date of completion for the new Hub is set for 2025 and the relocation process will begin 2024. DFCS continues to meet with OSH, site developer, Abode Housing and HKIT Architects to finalize programmatic plans for the new Hub to be located at 1510-1540 Parkmoor Avenue in San Jose. With the intent of developing the Hub from a youth lens, a series of five-part workshops dedicated to youth began July 13, 2022. The goal of the workshops was to receive input pertaining to the Hub design exterior and interior, including amenities and activities. Key takeaways for the exterior include ideas for outdoor space such as furniture, play structures, BBQ area, seating and relaxation features to accommodate different types of accessibility needs. Key takeaways for the interior of the Hub are ideas for use of different indoor lighting, materials, color schemes, motivational slogans and the Hub logo. Workshops included the above schedule and topics.

Meeting	Topic	Date
Workshop #1	Kick-Off	July 13th, 2022
Workshop #2	Hub Design: Exterior	August 26th, 2022
Workshop #3	Hub Design: Interior	September 22nd, 2022
Workshop #4	Hub Design: Art	October 20th, 2022
Workshop #5	Housing	November 16th, 2022



# NEXT STEPS

## 01 EMPLOYMENT

In partnership with DEBS, continue to implement the summer Intern & Earn Program 1.0 and the year-round Intern & Earn 2.0 to create employment pathways for foster youth and link to post-secondary educational goals.

## 02 TAX SUPPORT

Increase income tax filing for foster youth to claim cash back credits, such as the California Earned Income Tax Credit and the Foster Youth Income Tax Credit. The program will expand to serve youth in San Mateo County and offer self-filing events to increase financial literacy,

## 03 CRISIS MANAGEMENT RESPONSE PROGRAM

Further develop the Crisis Management Response program located at the Hub to serve the immediate mental health needs of current and former foster youth. The crisis intervention specialist focuses on safety care prevention, evaluating risk of harm and assessing for the appropriate level of care of mental health services. Crisis intervention also includes the application of Naloxone (Narcan) to reverse an opioid overdose.

## 04 EDUCATION

Continue to build on the partnership with SCCOE to improve educational outcomes and advocate for the educational needs of children and foster youth K-12. Promote matriculation in post-secondary education, while increasing FAFSA completion and NMD scholarship award rate.

## 05 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Continue to strengthen the partnerships between YLC, yPAR, and CYC, to amplify youth voice, and promote leadership skills and advocacy opportunities for youth. Build a partnership with Child and Family Policy Institute of California to participate in the Youth Engagement Project (YEP).

## 06 THE NEW HUB

Continue to partner with OSH, FAF, site developer Abode Housing and HKIT Architects, and staff from the Hub site to initiate re-location efforts in preparation of the new Hub located on Parkmoor Avenue.



# GLOSSARY

Bill Wilson Center	ILP services contracted by SSA, DFCS to federally eligible foster youth residing in Santa Clara County, aged 16-21. The BWC is co-located at the Hub offering an array of services including case management, transportation, advocacy and financial stipends.
CalFresh and Medi-Cal Applications	The Hub offers drop-in services to foster youth who need assistance completing and submitting a CalFresh application or activating their Medi-Cal card.
California Youth Connection (CYC)	A youth-led organization whose mission is to develop leaders who empower each other and their communities to transform the foster care system through legislative, policy, and practice change. The CYC Santa Clara Chapter holds meetings at The Hub.
California's Guaranteed Income Pilot Program	State of California allocated \$35 million over five years to fund pilot programs that serve California residents who age out of the extended foster care program at or after 21 years of age or who are pregnant individuals. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will oversee the program and cities and counties will be able to apply for partial funding to create local programs.
Career Development Unit (CDU) Employment Counseling for Foster Youth	Services include job coaching and career planning including assistance with job leads, completing applications, preparing resumes, and interview practice. CDU also provides mentorship and guidance, continuing to support participants once they are involved in training or on the job.
Chafee Cash Cards	Federal Chafee Cash Payments for the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency made available for eligible current and former foster youth ages 18-and not yet 27.
Child and Family Team Meeting (CFT)	Structured, facilitated meetings arranged by a DFCS social worker that bring family members together so that, with the support of professionals and community resources, they can create a plan that ensures child safety and meets the family's needs.
College Summer Bridge Program	A program that links young adults to college and training programs and helps youth enroll in community college and train for a career.
Educational Rights Project	A DFCS project that ensures that dependents of the Juvenile Court are enrolled in and attending school and receiving a free and appropriate educational program. Goals include informing the community of educational initiatives and receiving feedback from the community about improving existing programs and resources. Services for this program are contracted out to Morrissey-Compton and Legal Advocates for Children and Youth.
Education Manager Program	Expansion of the EdSu unit to include six (6) education managers aimed at providing comprehensive educational support to foster youth and children ages 0-21. The DFCS and SCCOE FYSCP jointly hired the education managers co-located at DFCS.
Emancipated Foster Youth (EFY) Employment Program renamed to County Employment for Foster Youth (CEFY)	Youth eligible for this program are current or former foster youth that have 1) emancipated or 2) are non-minor dependent foster youth ages of 17¾ through 24 years whose dependency case is or was in Santa Clara County or who live in the county. Additionally, youth must have completed six months of employment with the same employer or a GetThatJob graduate to qualify for an entry-level position with the County of Santa Clara.
Employment Connection Center	Am SSA program offered to CalWorks recipients. The Employment Connection Center (ECC) partners with employers throughout Santa Clara County to meet their staffing needs by placing thousands of job seekers. ECC provides qualified and pre-screened candidates from diverse employment backgrounds including clerical, industrial, customer service, retail, medical, and much more. ECC hosts job fairs, individual and specialized recruitments, and customized solutions to meet employers' needs.
Financial Literacy	Teaching youth about banking, savings, and credit. This topic is often included in the Independent Living Program (ILP) curriculum for foster youth.

FosterVision	FosterVision is an inter-agency data warehouse coordinated by the SCCOE and made available for DFCS and Juvenile Probation Department to provide educational information including but not limited to grades, attendance, discipline etc.
Foster Youth Independence (FYI) Initiative Housing Choice Vouchers	Home, Together: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness issued 25 Tenant Protection Vouchers to Santa Clara County foster youth in FY 2019-2020. Each voucher subsidizes housing for 36 months to foster youth ages 18-24.
Guaranteed Basic Income	A program similar to the Universal Basic Income that provides monthly stipend of \$1,200 for a year to foster youth.
Host Family Model	A placement option made available through THP+FC or THP+ where a housing provider finds and arranges for a non-minor dependent to live in a rented room with a family. Examples include relatives, a current or former foster family, or an adult mentor who has been selected and approved by the caseworker.
The Hub	The Hub is a County operated youth center led and organized by foster youth and the Bill Wilson Center. The Hub offers a variety services to foster youth between the ages of 15.5 up to 25. Services include employment training and placement, ILP, substance abuse prevention, wellness, parenting support, identify theft resolution, housing, and education.
Independent Living Program (ILP)	ILP case management services designed to assist foster youth ages 16 through 20 in their transition to living independently and self-sufficiently. Some of the services included under the umbrella of case management are budgeting, housing and job search assistance, meal planning and preparation, access to checking/savings account, mentorship and linkages to tutoring or consult referral.
Intern and Earn 1.0	A six-week summer Internship program offered by the County of Santa Clara - SSA for CalWorks, CalFresh, and foster youth to acquire job skills, gain real-world work experience, build healthy work habits, and obtain references for future employment.
Intern and Earn 2.0	A six-month internship program offered by the County of Santa Clara - SSA for foster youth ages 18-24 who have exited foster care. The program is intended for foster youth to acquire job skills, build healthy work habits and transition gainful employment.
Naloxone (Narcan)	Naloxone (Narcan) is an over the counter nasal spray used to reverse an opioid overdose.
Non-Minor Dependent (NMD)	<p>Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) A young adult who has voluntarily chosen to keep his or her dependency case open at age 18 and remain in "foster care" up to the age of 21. This is authorized under California's Extended Foster Care Program, also referred to as Assembly Bill 12 (AB12).</p> <p>In order to participate in AB12, a youth must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing high school or working toward a General Education Development (GED) test or California High School Proficiency Exam, or</li> <li>• Going to college or vocational school, or</li> <li>• Employed at least 80 hours a month, or</li> <li>• Participating in a program to remove barriers to employment (for example a job training program, substance abuse treatment, driver's education, mental health treatment, or many other possible programs), or</li> </ul> <p>Unable to do 1, 2, 3, or 4 because of a documented medical condition.</p>
Opportunity Youth Academy (OYA)	A SCCOE re-entry program that offers a high school diploma completion opportunity for youth 16 through 24 years old who are currently disconnected from an education program. The Hub offers the OYA program specifically targeting foster youth to improve educational outcomes.
Remote Site (Housing)	A Remote Site is a single housing unit where a non-minor dependent (NMD) lives independently in a shared living environment with other foster youth. This housing option is made available through THP+FC and includes apartments, single family dwellings, or condominiums rented or leased by the THP+FC housing provider in various locations.
Scattered-site Housing	This housing option is made available through THP+ housing and a provider may assist foster youth with locating housing in the community, which may include a one-bedroom apartment or a room rental.



Single-Site Housing	Single Site Housing is a placement option under THP+FC where a housing provider owns or leases apartments/rooms in a single facility. An example is an apartment, single family dwelling, or condominium rented or leased by the housing provider, in which one or more adult employees of the housing provider reside and provide supervision.
Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)	A flexible, non-licensed foster care placement available to non-minor dependents (NMDs) participating in the Extended Foster Care Program (EFC) for highly independent living experiences while receiving foster care payments and supportive services. An NMD's assigned social worker must approve SILP placements.
Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)	A transitional housing placement opportunity for youth in foster care, ages 16-17, who are pursuing County-approved TILP goals. Participants live with roommates in apartments and single-family dwellings with supervision by THPP staff, social workers, and ILP case managers. CDSS Community Care Licensing Division must license THPP providers. Housing options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Family Model: live with former foster parents or approved family member</li> <li>• Single Site Model: Provider owns or leases apartment/room in a single facility</li> </ul>
Transitional Housing Placement Plus After-Care Program (THC+AC)	The THP Plus After-Care Program is a transitional housing program opportunity for young adults ages 18 through 23 or 24 who have exited foster care. Eligibility for THP Plus includes youth that have emancipated from the child welfare or juvenile probation systems. The program is for a period of up to 24 months or until the youth's 24th birthday.
Transitional Housing Placement Plus After-Care Program (THC+AC) Continued	In 2014, Senate Bill 1252, authorized an additional year of services, up to a youth's 25th birthday, provided that the participant is enrolled in post-secondary education or a vocational program. There are three different housing options to choose from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Family Model: live with former foster parents or approved family member</li> <li>• Single Site Model: Provider owns or leases apartment/room in a single facility</li> <li>• Scattered Sites: rent a room or an apartment</li> </ul>
Transitional Housing Placement Plus Non-minor Dependent(THPNMD)	A licensed placement program that provides housing and supportive services for youth ages of 18 through 20 years who participate in extended foster care. The housing provider receives payment from the County. The housing options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Family Model: live with former foster parents or approved family member</li> <li>• Single Site Model: Provider owns or leases apartment/room in a single facility</li> <li>• Scattered Sites: rent a room or an apartment</li> <li>• San Jose State University Residence Halls: live on the SJSU campus (full time students only, no children)</li> </ul>
Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)	A SCCOE re-entry program that offers a high school diploma completion opportunity for youth 16 through 24 years old who are currently disconnected from an education program. The Hub offers the OYA program specifically targeting foster youth to improve educational outcomes.
VITA	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Youth Engagement Specialist (YES)	YES is a County employment position offered to former foster youth with lived experience. The job specifications for this position includes helping current foster youth engage in County services.
YES Scholarship, renamed: Non-minor Dependent Scholarship	The YES provides former foster youth with financial assistance to achieve a college education or vocational training. YES scholarship funding supplements other financial aid or scholarship funding and may be used for tuition, books, school supplies, housing, transportation, clothing, food, and other education-related expenses. This program is made possible through a contract between DFCS and SCCOE.
Youth Engagement Project	A partnership between CFPIC and the California Department of Social Services to improve child welfare policies, programs and practices by building capacity for youth engagement at the state and local level.
Youth Leadership Council (YLC)	The YLC consist of both former and current Santa Clara County foster and probation youth up to 25 years of age. DFCS staff and/or community members serve as adult supporters. The YLC board meets monthly and has five elected officer positions focused on reviewing services in the areas of foster youth education, housing, and employment, but has also been utilized for consultation in the areas of Quality Parent Initiative, Youth Engagement Project, and The Hub Youth Center. Additionally, YLC has increased its efforts in promoting, encouraging, and supporting advocacy, both at the individual and group (target population) level.