

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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## California Community College Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)

**FYSI Mission:**

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) has recognized that there is a significant deficit regarding youth from foster care attending higher education. Acknowledging this need, they are sponsoring a concerted effort called the *Foster Youth Success Initiative* (FYSI) to bring issues affecting these youth to the forefront and to improve the ability of these youth to access postsecondary education and benefit from the support services that are available but are often unknown to them.

Through the vision of the CCCCCO, to create a statewide outreach and retention effort to better serve current and former youth from care, the FYSI was established. FYSI was built through CCCCCO leadership and a strong foundation of individuals representing a myriad of agencies and postsecondary educational institutions that have formed a true collaborative effort that has evolved to become a statewide FYSI taskforce. The goals of this initiative are to improve:

- Access to student services and resources
- Access to academic support
- Retention
- Academic performance
- Completion of units
- Completion of programs and degree
- Transfer rates to baccalaureate

**CCCCO Website:**

<http://www.cccco.edu/SystemOffice/Divisions/StudentServices/StudentFinancialAssistancePrograms/FosterYouthSuccessInitiativeFYSI/tabid/997/Default.aspx>

**What's new on the website:**

- 2008 Foster Youth Success Initiative Manual
- Foster Youth Success initiative Resource Guide-County Resource Guide
- County Independent Living Program Contacts
- Directory of all college FYSI Liaisons/contacts, listed by college.

## **Financial Aid Update: Independent Student- Definition changes for 2009-2010**

Under the dependency question on the FAFSA, it has been a requirement that the applicant student needed to verify that both parents were deceased, or that he ( the student) had been a ward of the court until age 18 to be defined an independent student.

In the new language for the FAFSA application for 2009-10, the definition of an independent student now has three additional categories. You (the student) can now be defined “ independent” if (1) you are someone who has been in foster care, or a ward of the court, at any time from age 13, (2) you are an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residency, (3) you are an unaccompanied youth is homeless, or at risk of homelessness during the school year in which you submit your FAFSA.

### **FYSI Listserv:**

**The FYSI Partners list serv** is an open dialog, public, e-mail discussion list to be used by FYSI Liaisons, community partners and youth from foster care. Please add the list address, [FYSIPARTNERS@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET](mailto:FYSIPARTNERS@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET) , and the listserv administration address, [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET), to your approved sender list.

Please remember that this listserv is a two way system, and when you reply to an e-mail, it goes to all subscribers. To send a message to everyone subscribed to the list, address an e-mail to [FYSIPARTNERS@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET](mailto:FYSIPARTNERS@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET)

If you are not subscribed to the list, the FYSIPARTNERS listserv will then send a confirmation request to the sender e-mail address, usually a simple e-mail message with a link for confirmation. Follow the instructions in the e-mail to confirm the posting and your original message will be sent to the list. The confirmation process is used to reduce fraudulent use of the listserv. Subscribers may send messages at will, though all are subject to review.

To UNSUBSCRIBE from the listserv, send e-mail from the subscribed address to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET) and put UNSUBSCRIBE FYSIPARTNERS in the body of a BLANK, NON-HTML e-mail, NO SUBJECT OR SIGNATURES, PLEASE!

If you know others interested in joining this listserv, they may use an e-mail system to SUBSCRIBE to the list. Send e-mail from the address to be subscribed to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET) and put SUBSCRIBE FYSIPARTNERS in the body of a BLANK, NON-HTML e-mail. NO SUBJECT OR SIGNATURES, PLEASE!

