

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

California College Pathways

California

Challenge

Education is the key to economic well-being and personal success. There is a shocking disparity however between the number of foster youth who aspire to a college-level education and those who achieve this goal. While 90% have a goal of attending and graduating from college, only an estimated 8% of foster youth successfully go on to receive a degree nationwide as compared to 47% of the general population.

Innovation

Using a collective impact model that engages partners from both the public and private sectors, California College Pathways (CCP) is helping foster youth across the state achieve their higher education goals and move on to fulfilling careers. Partners have worked collaboratively to expand direct support for foster youth enrolled in college, streamline the transition from high school to college for foster youth, and implement policy changes that facilitate project goals.

Overview

Achievements have included the establishment of an intersegmental data sharing system, expansion of the Chafee Employment and Training voucher program, the only publicly funded source of financial aid designated for foster youth, and the creation of a state sponsored foster youth support program at 41 community colleges throughout the state. Through partnerships between local philanthropy and California's public post-secondary, child welfare and K-12 education systems, along with the determination and the perseverance of youth themselves, California College Pathways has helped thousands of foster youth succeed in college and contribute to their local communities. CCP continues to assist colleges to expand support for foster youth, serve as a clearinghouse for information, and advocate for statewide and regional policy changes that support CCP goals. The allocation of close to \$20 million in new ongoing state funding and the embedding of programs within individual public institutions ensures a long-lasting impact for years to come.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

California Department of Education,
California Community College
Chancellor's Office

OTHER PARTNERS

Stuart and Walter S. Johnson
Foundations, John Burton Advocates
for Youth

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