



CA Edition 21

Youth Voices Amplifying Change

July Edition 2024

[Haga clic aquí para español](#)



Summer is here, and it's bursting with opportunities! We're excited to dive into the insightful 2024 Voice of the Community report that promises to inspire and guide our community. Let's make the most of these long sunny days to connect, enrich, and strengthen our community. Here's to a rewarding and impactful summer!

[Resources for you](#)

Summer Jobs



Looking for a well-paying summer job? Whether you're into arts or sports, there are plenty of exciting roles waiting for you. Gain valuable skills and earn money while doing something you love.

Find local job opportunities by clicking the link below or visiting Youth Source Centers for additional employment support.

Need help finding a job or applying? Contact us via the link, call 855-936-7837, or text 530-550-8001. We're eager to assist you in making your summer both productive and enjoyable!

[Explore a Program Near You](#)

From Curiosity to Career Readiness



Are you curious about the skills necessary for career success before you're even ready to start job hunting? We've got you covered. Crafted by specialists and refined through trials by iFoster's Peer Navigators, our innovative online program is here to assist you in uncovering your true potential, boosting your self-assurance, and becoming a valuable team member.

It's not enough to attend an interview—we aim for you to LAND THE JOB and EXCEL IN IT!

[Increase Your Chances of Employment](#)

Year Round Meals



School might be out, but summer meals continue! The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) offers free meals, including breakfast, lunch, and snacks, to children 18 and under and adults with disabilities enrolled in educational programs throughout the summer.

To find your nearest Summer Meal Site, click the provided link, text "Summer Meals" to 914-342-7744, or call 1-866-348-6479.

If you cannot locate a site nearby or face food scarcity, please contact us here for assistance. We're here to ensure everyone has access to nutritious meals this summer.

Ways to Save on Things You Love



We have some exciting news for you if you're constantly looking for methods to cut costs and make your money go further. Meet iFoster's Get Perks and Working Advantage, your new champions in snagging major discounts on everything from everyday necessities to stylish apparel, supplies, and thrilling experiences!

Moreover, Working Advantage has set aside \$2 million worth of discounts exclusively for the iFoster community, marking the largest discount allocation for any of its partners.

UPDATE: CA Foster Youth Phone Program Transition from Pilot to Permanency!



UPDATE: CA FOSTER YOUTH PHONE PROGRAM TRANSITION FROM PILOT TO PERMANENCY



WHO IS REPLACING IFOSTER?

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a request for proposals for an admin for the permanent foster youth phone program. iFoster declined to submit a proposal as we have always stated our goal was to design, develop and make the pilot successful so a permanent program owned by the CPUC and their LifeLine telecom providers could be realized.

Maximus, the current LifeLine program admin, will take on running the permanent foster youth program, as well as working with youth no longer eligible for the permanent program to transition to LifeLine. While Maximus has limited child welfare experience, they have significant experience administering LifeLine, working with the CPUC, and working with telecom carriers.

HOW DO WE CONTACT THEM?

Maximus has told us they will be ready to take on their administrative role starting July 31, 2024. Prior to July 31, 2024, new applications, phone number change requests, phone incident reports, and phone replacement requests will continue to be added to the wait list. For now, you can continue to reach out to iFoster to be added to the wait list.

Starting July 31, 2024, Maximus will be ready to receive inquiries and applications from youth directly and will begin addressing these wait lists. Prior to the end of July 2024, Maximus will be providing FAQs and other materials detailing how to reach and work with them.

[Learn more](#)

Summer of Change: Illuminating Voices in Foster Care – A Video Journey Through the Eyes of Our Community

As we bask in the vibrancy of summer, we take a moment to reflect on the work that has been done to get our voices out in the world. Here, through a series of video stories, we invite you to experience the heartfelt passion and powerful messages expressed by over 15,000 members of our national foster care family.

Child at the Core

[Watch the video here:](#) Dive into the first video where we spotlight the deep desires of the community to embrace every child's unique needs, dreams, and preferences, moving away from outdated, one-size-fits-all solutions.

The Joy of Normalcy

[Watch the video here:](#) Experience how the

community fights for foster children to enjoy the same, carefree experiences as their peers, free from the constraints of resource scarcity.

Supportive Teams

Watch the video here: This segment reveals the call for a united, interdisciplinary team approach where various stakeholders collaborate closely to support each child's unique journey.

Responsibility for Smooth Transitions

Watch the video here: Concluding our series, this video stresses the importance of preparing foster youth for a successful transition to adulthood, focused on self-reliance and personal choice.

Celebrate, reflect, and act by immersing yourself in these important conversations and sharing them with others. Visit the **Voice of Foster Care website** to view all these videos and more and let this summer mark a milestone in our collective advocacy and dedication to working to ensure every child has successful outcomes in care.

Additionally...

On the Voices website includes a **guide comparing** the traditional Child Welfare system to the innovative Child First Model. Dive into an analysis that reveals how Child First prioritizes precise assessments, swift service provision, and extensive resources for caregivers and children. The guide uncovers significant gaps in the current system, such as inadequate parenting support and teamwork, and advocates for a system designed with children's best interests at heart.



We're in the Running for Top Intern Program! Cast Your Vote & Let's Make Waves Together

WE'VE BEEN NOMINATED!

We've been nominated for the annual Top 100 Internship Programs List for 2024!

VOTE FOR US NATIONALINTERNDAY.COM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY yello & WayUp

Guess what? We've snagged a nomination for the Yello and WayUp Top 100 Internship Programs! Help us clinch the title by voting for us. Let's kick off National Intern Day celebrations with a win on Thursday, July 25!

How to vote:

1. You can vote **once every day** until the deadline of July 18th.
2. The link is <https://www.nationalinternday.com/employer-vote>.
3. You register with your email and password.
4. Search "iFoster" on the voting, click on our logo, and then click on vote.

Vote now!

Celebrating 30 Years of Service: AmeriCorps' Legacy and iFoster's Unwavering Support in Times of Need



#AmeriCorps30 | September 2023-2024



A Legacy of Determination and Aid

Across three decades, AmeriCorps has forged a path of service, showcasing outstanding commitment to aiding the nation during disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and fires. This enduring dedication mirrors the strength of American communities.

iFoster AmeriCorps: Dynamic Response in Crisis

Confronting the aftermath of natural disasters, iFoster's AmeriCorps members have admirably managed over 500 calls for disaster relief across Kentucky, Mississippi, and Florida. They've effectively connected families with essential services for post-disaster clean-up following severe floods and hurricanes, a testament to their resolve in restoring normalcy and hope in devastated communities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, iFoster AmeriCorps members stepped up to a different challenge as California battled the public health crisis. Their proactive efforts facilitated increased accessibility to vaccination appointments, contributing significantly to public health measures. This initiative paved the way for the creation of the Public Health AmeriCorps (PHA) in Los Angeles, symbolizing a strategic move towards bolstering the region's public health infrastructure and readiness.

Forging Ahead with Purpose

As we reflect on AmeriCorps' 30 years of service, the actions of iFoster AmeriCorps members shine brightly, embodying the organization's philosophy of service above self. Their direct contributions to both disaster recovery and public health initiatives underscore AmeriCorps' mission to make America safer, stronger, and healthier.

Looking to the future, the unwavering commitment of AmeriCorps members' dedicated teams promises to continue lighting the way for service, emphasizing our collective commitment to helping communities bounce back and prosper. This anniversary celebrates the spirit of collaboration and dedication that has defined AmeriCorps and the difference it will continue to make.

Smooth Transitions Center

Introducing the New Smooth Transitions Podcast!

Join us for the latest episode, where we explore the challenges of finding and keeping a job for foster youth. Our special guest, Keira Green, shares insights on programs that can help, the importance of a standout resume, and valuable lessons from her own employment journey.

Discover resources like Career Cruising, a career exploration and resume tool that can guide you. Subscribe now to empower yourself with the knowledge and resources for workforce success.



Got ideas for our next Smooth Transitions episode?

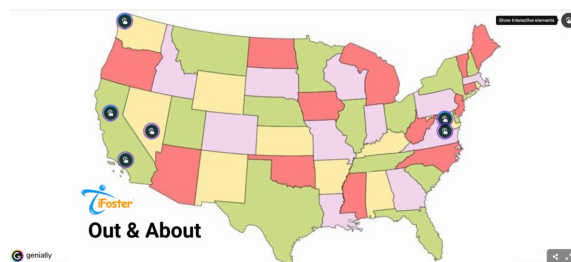
We're all ears! Share your thoughts and help us craft the perfect guide to tackling the next big hurdle in your journey out of foster care.

Share Your Thoughts

iFoster Out and About

Introducing "iFoster Out and About" - Explore iFoster's Exciting Adventures Nationwide!

iFoster is launching a new section in its newsletter called "iFoster Out and About." This section has an interactive map that showcases iFoster's highlights across the country. Follow the link in the newsletter to explore iFoster's exciting achievements and experiences nationwide.



Check out what's going on



Share This Email

Share This Email

Share This Email

For more information, please contact: iFoster Support at 855-936-7837 / text 530-550-8001/ support@ifoster.org
Must be an iFoster Member/ Register at www.ifoster.org, it's free!



Try email marketing for free today!
