



CA Edition 24

Happy Holidays From iFoster!

November/December Edition 2024

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As the holiday cheer fills the air, we're thrilled to bring you a special holiday edition focused on the heart of our community: caring relationships. This season, let's celebrate the bonds that connect us and the support we share. May your holidays be filled with joy, love, and the warmth of community.

Resources for you

Celebrate the Holiday Season with Exclusive Savings from iFoster & Working Advantage

New iFoster Mental Health & Wellness Training Modules

Important FAFSA Deadline Update for Future College Students



Welcome the holiday season with open arms and enjoy significant discounts on your festive shopping through iFoster and Working Advantage. With \$2 million dedicated to the iFoster community, your holiday purchases, from stylish clothing to perfect gifts, are more affordable than ever.

Congratulations to Angel E., the winner of our recent \$100 sweepstakes! As we celebrate this win, remember that the savings don't stop here. Continue to explore all the fantastic deals available through Working Advantage and make your holiday shopping joyful and economical. Happy holidays and happy savings!

Unlock your journey to emotional and physical well-being with iFoster's latest self-directed training modules! Our Mental Health and Wellness Training is designed to foster understanding, develop coping strategies, and encourage a holistic approach to wellness.

Each module is tailored for flexibility and comprehensive learning. It includes quizzes and the opportunity for certification. Enhance your well-being in your own time and pace, right from the comfort of your home!

Embark on your path to a healthier mind and body with iFoster's Mental Health and Wellness Training today!

Great news for students planning on college – the release date for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is set for on or before December 1st! This gives you ample time to prepare and ensure that you are in the best possible position to apply for financial aid.

Embrace this additional window to accurately gather all necessary information and complete your application. Need guidance navigating the FAFSA process? iFoster is here to assist you every step of the way.

- For customized support and address any queries, [click here](#) to request one-on-one assistance with your application.
- If you prefer exploring at your own pace, click the button below to check out our self-learning module designed to aid you with FAFSA.

Holiday Savings

Step Into Our Modules

Learn More

Grocery Shopping Made Easier with SNAP/EBT Online



We understand that the holidays can be a stretch on budgets, and we want to ensure that every member of our community has access to nutritious meals and the joy of holiday feasting. We're pleased to announce that you can now order groceries online using SNAP/EBT benefits. This service, initially launched as a pilot program in 2019, has expanded across all 50 states and Washington DC, making it easier to stock up on holiday essentials and everyday needs from the comfort of your home.

To find a list of participating stores near you, click the button below.

Not on SNAP Yet?

If you or someone you know could benefit from SNAP but haven't applied yet, the holiday season is a great time to explore this option. Each state has its process for application, and you can find the contact information to get started by [clicking here](#).

FAQs to Ease Your Holiday Shopping

Is it secure to use my SNAP/EBT online? **Absolutely.** Your security is a top priority, and online EBT transactions are made secure through PIN entry and vendor compliance with strict security standards. Can I use SNAP/EBT for delivery fees? **No.** Unfortunately, SNAP benefits can only be used for eligible food items. Delivery fees and other associated charges need to be covered separately.

How do I know if a store accepts SNAP/EBT online? You can easily find out by [clicking here](#) to search for participating stores in your state.

Does Instacart accept SNAP/EBT? **Yes!** Select stores nationwide now partner with Instacart to accept SNAP/EBT for online purchases, making holiday grocery shopping even more convenient. [Click here to learn more.](#)

This holiday season, let's cherish our relationships by sharing meals and making memories together. We hope this update brings a little extra joy and ease to your holiday preparations.

Wishing you a season filled with happiness, health, and hearty meals.

[Learn More](#)

Your'e Invited: iFoster's Virtual Gratitude Gathering



Gratitude Gathering: Join Us for a Virtual Celebration!

iFoster TAY AmeriCorps Members invite you to our ZOOM party!

Join us for a gratitude activity, short films, and to play games.

Let's celebrate the holiday together!

Wednesday, November 20th, 2024

4-5pm PT / 6-7pm CT / 7-8pm ET

[Register Here!](#)

Zoom link to follow once registered. Appropriate for all ages!

As the year winds down and we reflect on the moments that have shaped us, it's time to gather and share our gratitude. We're excited to invite you to a very special occasion that celebrates you, our incredible community, and the journey we've shared.

Gratitude Gathering Event Details

When: November 20, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM PST / 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM CST / 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM EST

Where: On ZOOM (Virtual)

Hosted by: iFoster TAY AmeriCorps Members

Our Gratitude Gathering is a virtual party designed to bring our vast iFoster community together. No matter where you are, you can join us in a space filled with warmth, laughter, and stories of gratitude. It's an opportunity to reconnect, share your experiences, and celebrate the resilience and strength of our community.

What to Expect:

Fun & Games: Yes, it's a party! Expect engaging activities and games that will leave you smiling and uplifted.

A Moment of Reflection: Together, we'll take a moment to reflect on what we're thankful for, fostering a spirit of gratitude.

[RSVP Here](#)

Spread the Joy with Connectivity: A Special Gift for California's Foster Youth



Join the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Maximus, and the Youth Law Center for a heartwarming webinar on the CA LifeLine Foster Youth Program, a program that offers a free smartphone complete with unlimited talk, text, high-speed data, and hotspot access, to keep our young stars connected and bright.

This webinar will feature topics on:

- The latest updates on the CA LifeLine Program and its benefits
- The transition from the iFoster to the CA LifeLine Program
- How to apply and spread the connectivity cheer
- Eligibility details to ensure nobody misses out on this winter wonderland of connectivity 🎁
- And a Q&A session where you can ask all your questions away!

Deck the Halls Next Week on:

Tuesday, November 19th, 5:30–6:45 PM: [Register and Light Up Your Knowledge](#)

Don't keep this gift to yourself—share it with colleagues and friends!

Partner Spotlight

Final Call: Submit Your Logo Design and Win a \$500 Gift Card!

This is your last chance to participate in the California Foster Youth Education Task Force (CFYETF) Logo Contest! We invite individuals aged 26 or younger who have experienced foster care in California to create a logo that could define the face of CFYETF. The winner not only receives a \$500 prize but also gets the unique opportunity to work alongside a professional graphic designer to perfect their design, which will represent CFYETF across various platforms.

CFYETF is dedicated to breaking down educational barriers for foster youth, and they're eager to find a logo that captures their commitment to empowering these young individuals academically.

California Foster Youth Education Task Force Logo Contest!

\$500 Prize!

Draw a new logo for the CA Foster Youth Education Task Force for a chance to win a \$500 prize

Work with a Graphic Designer!

The winner will have a chance to work with a graphic designer to finalize the logo

Contest Rules

- Only open to California current or former foster youth up to age 26
- Ends December 20, 2024

Submit logo at cfyETF.org/about-5 or scan this code
Questions? email dwondra@childrennow.org



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How to Participate:

- **Eligibility:** Available to anyone 26 or younger with current or past foster care experience in California.
- **Submission Deadline:** December 20, 2024. This is the final call for entries, so make sure yours is submitted on time!
- **Requirements:** Submissions must be original and can be either digital or hand-drawn. Designs should reflect CFYETF's mission of nurturing academic success among foster youth.
- **Prize:** \$500 and the chance to professionalize the winning logo for CFYETF's branding efforts.
- For complete contest details and to submit your design, make sure to visit the [CFYETF's Logo Contest page](#).

This contest is an extraordinary opportunity for young artists to influence how CFYETF is viewed in supporting education for foster youth. Let's rally behind our creative community and encourage their participation to bring about meaningful change!

Show Off Your Creative Skills

Join the 2N Foster Family Cohort Meeting!

Connect with fellow foster families at our partner's next 2N Cohort gathering! Facilitated by an experienced Family Support Specialist (FSS), these monthly meetups offer a mix of support, wisdom sharing, and lighthearted moments – all in a welcoming community setting. While adults engage in heartfelt discussions, children enjoy supervised activities nearby.

Highlights:

- **Community Building:** Forge bonds within a supportive group, each led by an FSS who's walked the foster care journey themselves.
- **Specialty Sessions:** Tackle both the practical (like dependency court forms) and the emotional in sessions designed around your needs, including fun group activities!
- **Host Community Support:** Hosted in diverse community spaces (synagogues, churches, or secular organizations), these meetings provide an avenue for professional and personal support from non-foster family members within the host community.

Whether you're seeking advice, support, or just a good laugh among friends who understand the foster care experience, our 2N Cohort meetings are here to uplift and empower. Don't miss out on being part of this unique community! Check the image out to find a cohort near you.



Are you a foster or fost-adopt family looking for support & a sense of belonging in a relaxed, nurturing environment?

(Along with yummy food and kids' programming!)

♥ RSVP to reserve your family's spot in one of Second Nurture's new Cohorts!

West Valley Location	Mid-City LA Location
Sundays October 27, 11am - 1pm; November 17, 11am - 1pm; December 15, 12:30-2:30pm RSVP rebekah@2nurture.org	Sundays October 13, 12:30-2:30 November 10, 12:30-2:30 December 8, 12:30-2:30 RSVP samara@2nurture.org

"2N has become family!"

"2N is the single best thing I've done as a foster parent."

"2N meets our needs"



RSVP Here

Smooth Transitions Center

Immerse yourself in the art of nurturing meaningful relationships with insightful advice from our latest podcast episode. This episode is a goldmine for those looking to enhance their ability to connect with others effectively.

Episode Insights Include:

- **Building Trust:** Discover the foundational elements necessary for creating trust in both personal and professional settings.
- **Communication Strategies:** Learn the keys to improving your communication skills for better, clearer interactions.
- **Networking Tips:** Essential advice for broadening your network with valuable and lasting connections.
- **Maintaining Connections:** Explore strategies for keeping your relationships vibrant and strong over time.

Dive deep into these topics and equip yourself with the knowledge to strengthen your connections everywhere.



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.



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!

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