

# From Fragmented to Connected:

iFoster's 4-Us-by-Us Approach = Scaffolding to Build Futures Together

In our first decade, iFoster turned a fragmented child welfare system into the nation's largest lived-experience community where youth, families, and the front-line workers who support them can get what they need, helping children and youth thrive. iFoster's programs have been evaluated and awarded by:



- **Less than 20%** of iFoster community members find that the child welfare system provide the quality services a child needs. An overwhelming majority do not know what they are eligible for or how to access available resources.

- iFoster has a curated portal of exclusive resources and connects our community to the resources they need as well as providing the knowledge and skills for self-sufficiency.

- **Less than 20%** youth feel they are ready to be independent with a minority receiving the independent living skills development they need.

- iFoster anchors self-sufficiency on financial stability through employment and career.

- **Less than 20%** of youth and caregivers feel that they have a voice in decision-making about placement, resources and permanency. The majority would like to change the system for their peers.

- iFoster amplifies their collective voice providing platforms for those with lived experience to influence policy, practice and their own lives.



2024

# END OF THE YEAR SNAPSHOT

The achievements highlighted here aren't just numbers on a page—they represent lives changed, dreams realized, and partnerships forged and strengthened under a vision of "Scaffolding to Build Futures Together."

In 2024, we worked with hundreds of partners to provide resources, open doors to opportunities, and elevate the community's voice.

What's next? Amazing opportunities to bring more resources, partners & funding into foster care; working with policymakers who are asking us to bring the voice of the foster care community into the decisions that impact us all; and leveraging our technology platform and partnerships to change how we access information and services. The foundation has been laid for truly transformative change in child welfare.



## Historic System Change: May 2024 iFoster

### By unanimous CA state ruling iFoster's Phones 4 Foster Youth Program

became a permanent program so that every CA youth in care age 13+ can have the digital tech + access they need for free.



**15,000+** **Voices Raised**

Voice of the Community - series of surveys have caught the attention of legislators, government departments, and agencies nationwide resulting in policies and program shifts putting the child at the center, focusing on child wellbeing and ensuring that children and youth have a say in pro grams that impact them.



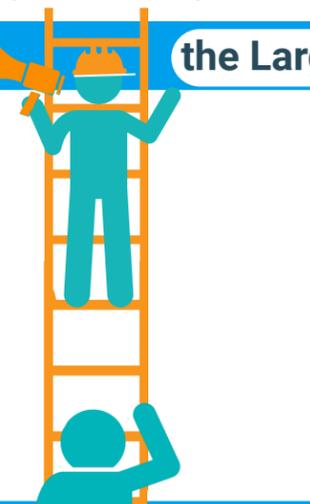
## iFoster is

**650+**  
Youth have joined our award winning Jobs Program

**107,200**  
LA County Community Clinic Patients connected to medical services

## the Largest National Community providing direct access & support to almost every child

Youth gained access to Government benefits which helped them to achieve self-sufficiency



**13,956**

**24,758**  
Youth provided with peer support mentoring to achieve their education, employment, and life goals

**5,000+**  
Youth learned independent living skills through iFoster's online trainings

being raised in the foster care system. With resources and supported valued at

**a Total of \$432,688,500**

**67,431 Members** used resources in our Self-Service Portal valued at **\$337 million**

**30,602 Members** received direct 1-on-1 support valued at **\$92 million**

*Top resources from 30 different states: technology, housing, bill assistance, health & wellness, post-secondary education counseling, financial assistance, and tax filing assistance*

**710 Foster Youth** joined iFoster's GI Pilot, which provided \$750 a month in bridge funding for 18 months equaling **\$3.7 million**

iFoster was selected by CDSS to run the largest GI Pilot in the country.

**88,509 MEMBERS STRONG**





## iFoster Testimonies

*"Our first year with iFoster's AmeriCorps program has been incredible. We have four hardworking interns who joined us in May, becoming invaluable assets to Stepping Forward LA. One intern has even taken a leadership role, significantly enhancing our team. iFoster has been supportive and communicative throughout, making this partnership a huge benefit. This program provides foster youth with vital hands-on experience while helping non-profits expand without additional funding. We look forward to many more years of collaboration. Thank you for supporting the foster youth community!"*

● Beth Ryan, Executive Director and Founder of Stepping Forward LA. ●

*"Growing up in foster care, I often felt lost and alone, lacking control over my life. After working hard, I graduated from Cal State Dominguez Hills in 2023 with a degree in psychology, aiming to improve the foster system. Joining TAY AmeriCorps in 2023 was a life-changing decision, allowing me to support foster youth who have aged out. I hope to continue with iFoster/Angels Nest after my term. I highly recommend AmeriCorps and iFoster to everyone, as they offer incredible experiences and opportunities."*

● iFoster AmeriCorps 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Member ●

*"In September, 13 members completed Peer Support Specialist training at the Southern California Counseling Center, with another cohort currently in training. This program has been a valuable learning experience, focusing on empowering communities facing mental health or addiction challenges through advocacy, mentorship, and relationship-building. Tyler Sullivan, a participant, finds the course impactful despite occasional triggers from his lived experience. It's providing him the tools to help others, and he aspires to work in the medical field to support individuals like himself."*

● iFoster Staff ●

