



iFoster: Dream Factory





About iFoster



iFoster can reach **every youth in the child welfare system**



iFoster represents the **largest collective voice** influencing child welfare



iFoster provides **\$467 Million** in needed resources annually



iFoster creates programs that fill needs and become state entitlements like **CA LifeLine Phones for Foster Youth**



iFoster is proven to **improve lives** by reducing family needs and increasing youth self-sufficiency*



iFoster is the **largest workforce trainer and employer of foster youth** with award-winning, promising practice jobs program*



iFoster: ReMade

Upcycled Goods
Uplifted Lives





Waste Crisis

- **11.3 Million** tons of textile waste
- California **1.2 Million** tons costing **\$99 Million** in landfill costs
- **8 Million** plush toys discarded, representing **6%** of all plastics
- Clothing takes **200 years** to decompose
- Plush toys take **500 years** to decompose
- **95%** of textiles could be recycled, but only **15%** of clothing and **0%** of plush toys are recycled

Youth Crisis

- **7 Million children & youth** come to the attention of child welfare every year
- **5 Million youth (16-24)** disconnected from school or work
- **3.5 Million youth** homeless
- **750,000 youth** in or exiting child welfare, juvenile/adult justice



- **50%** experience homelessness by age 24
- **33%** drop out
- **8%** earn a college degree
- **50%** will be unemployed by 24, those employed earn **\$7,500/yr**
- **\$1M cost** to society for every youth who does not achieve self-sufficiency

CA's SB707 Bombshell

- **85%** recycled
- Textile producers are responsible for funding and being fined
- Includes all **new** and **used** textiles
- **2030** full implementation
- Leapfrogs Europe's textile recovery activities
- Legislation replicating in multiple **states** and taken in up **federally**



iFoster ReMade

- **ComFYie Remanufacture:** waste recovery social enterprise
- **ReMade Academy** for workforce development
- **ReMade Trust** charitable trust for foster kids

KPI Metrics	2026 to 2028
Social Enterprise	\$8 Million
Youth Workforce	400 youth earning \$4 Million
Social Impact	260,000 foster kids
Economic Impact	\$43 Million
Environmental Impact	230 tons



ComFYie™

Remanufacture

- Growing **\$4 Billion US plush market**, target **\$600M Corporate/Cause Marketing niche**
- **Key partners:** Bright Time Toys; LA Sanitation Dept; LA Mayor's Office of Major Events and Economic Development; LA CleanTech Incubator (LACI)
- **Donation of used plush toys** provides recycled polyfill and pure polyester for sale to Reju, others





ComFYie™ Social Enterprise

- **Made in LA / Made in U.S.A. / GRS recycled / Made by Foster Youth for Foster Youth** social enterprise designations
- **ComFYie is a collectible** with limited runs of specific designs in partnership with major events, partners and street and pop artists of the moment.
- **ComFYie brand sales** – proof of concept LA World Cup Fan Zones, child welfare court and agency channels
- **Custom ComFYies** – corporate (Golden One), teams/leagues (Sacramento Kings), cause (ELAC), other (hospitals, dependency court, schools)



ReMade Academy

- **Pre-apprenticeships in:**

FASHION

1. Entrepreneurship
2. Upcycling Design, Marketing and Merchandising

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

1. Advanced Sorting and Grading Technician
2. Reverse Logistics Coordinator
3. Recycling, Reclamation and Remanufacture

- **Key Partners:** CA Statewide Textile Recovery Task Force (STRAT), East LA College (ELAC) and their Entrepreneurship Incubator, Boyle Heights Tech Center, Goodwill SoCal, SBWIB workforce partners, along with our over 60 local TAY serving agency partners



Future Forward Job Skills

Fundamentals

- Basic job skills
- Circular Economy fundamentals
- OSHA certification
- 2D/3D CAD software and other machine software
- Prototyping and pattern engineering
- Sublimation
- CNC laser cutting
- Programmable template sewing

Fashion Track

- Upcycling Designing
- Marketing Recycled Products
- Merchandising Recycled Products
- Digital media
- Online shopping store
- Virtual & AI-driven design
- 3D to 2D design
- Optimizing for pattern design

Advanced Manufacturing Track

- AI/NIR spectrometry for sorting and grading
- Ozone sanitization
- Machine calibration and maintenance
- Quality control mgmt
- GSR certified warehouse mgmt
- Reverse supply chain logistics

Group Project: Design, remanufacture and bring to market Unique Plush Toy

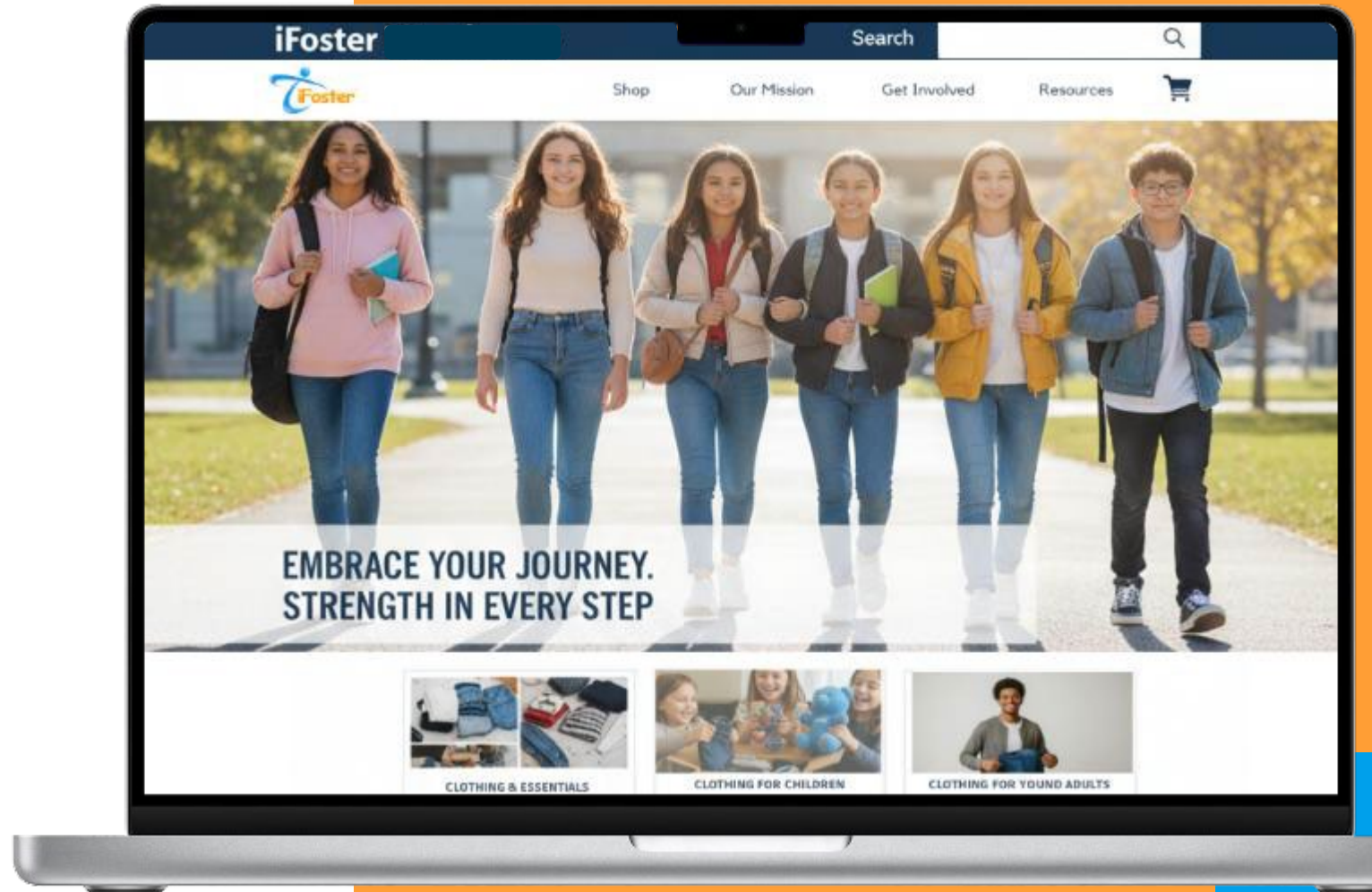
ReMade Trust

- **Unsold and returned** clothing from select Brand partners addresses #1 concrete resource need
- **Clothing Kits** consist of an entire day's outfit with a BOGO ComFYie
- Clothing that cannot be reused is **recycled** – sorted and graded per recycling partner contracts
- **Key partners:** Debrand, Brands under NDA
- Goal is for iFoster to **consume 85% of all clothing received** into reused and recycled fiber fill



Community Distribution

- **Clothing Kits** are available for free
- Distribution via iFoster's **existing distribution channels**, with the last mile by child welfare partners
- **Key partners:** child welfare agencies; USPS, Senator Padilla's office
- **Reverse supply chain logistics** tracking and reporting for PRO





Peers Paving the Path



Rising Medicaid Costs Provide Opportunity

- **Medicaid accounts for 25%** of all mental health expenditures
- Our youth account for **3% of the youth Medicaid population**, but **29% of Medicaid behavioral health expenditures**
- To reduce cost, Medicaid has designated them priority populations for **community-based Enhanced Care Management (ECM) services**
- ECM allows for **1:1 case management for a year**
- iFoster has become a **Medicaid provider in CA** and is working on **NV and KY** to provide and bill for these services



Power of Peers

- Research shows that Medicaid-recognized **Peer Support Specialists (PSS)** improve engagement and reduce costs by ~ \$2,000 per month
- Trusted peers – **individuals with lived experience** – work especially well for disconnected youth
- iFoster’s strategy is to **train, certify and employ former foster youth as Medicaid Certified PSS** to deliver ECM services to disconnected youth
- Built on our **AmeriCorps jobs program track record** of providing peer resource navigation
- Approach resonates with our community – **more referrals** through a single newsletter **than our staff can handle**



iFoster Peers Paving the Path

- **Medicaid Provider** of ECM services for disconnected youth
- **PSS Academy** for workforce development
- **Staffing Agency** to augment partner CBO capacity



KPI Metrics	2026 to 2028
Social Enterprise	\$15.7 Million billed
Youth Workforce	600 youth earning \$4 Million
Social Impact	3,500 youth supported to achieve self-sufficiency
Economic Impact	\$59 Million Medicaid cost avoidance

Medicaid Provider

- Lead Case Manager who is **Medicaid-certified Peer Support Specialist**
- **Initial assessment** completed and **self-sufficiency goals** set, which results in a care plan
- **Bi-weekly meetings** focused on achieving goals, including both barrier reduction and gaining employment
- Connection to and support in **navigating resources** (vital documents, housing, transportation, etc.)
- **Ongoing meetings to support stability** and manage any ongoing or newly emerging needs



ECM Self-Sufficiency Case Plan

Care Plan Topic	Milestones with Periodic Check Ins on Adherence to Plan
Care Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-sufficiency care plan with goals and milestones developed
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolled in continuing education • Accessing financial aid (FAFSA/Pell/Chafee, school)
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job skills training / work experience • Secured employment • Maintains employment (through 3, 6, 9, 12 months)
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured housing • Accessing available housing supports (i.e. vouchers, THP-Plus)
Other Key Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated certified PSS and is engaged in at least bi-weekly check-ins • All needed vital documents, right to work documents • Accessing all eligible government benefits (enrolled, meeting requirements, providing necessary documentation for redetermination) • Youth has a bank account and has a budget • Youth has transportation plan and resources • Youth has created a wellness plan- physical exercise, self care and mental health, healthy eating
Support Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid and active supportive network • Enrolled in CA LifeLine Phones for FY program
Health Insurance Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolled in Medi-Cal MCP of choice and remains enrolled (redetermination).

PSS Academy Workforce Development

- 40% of the U.S. population lives in designated mental health professional shortage areas
- Foster youths' #1 career path of choice is **healthcare and social services**
- Two pathways to employment:
 - **Rapid certification over 5 weeks** for entry into apprenticeship and entry level youth worker or patient services
 - **Apprenticeship over 1 year** with 1,700 hours of work experience providing ECM services to iFoster clients for first-in-line interviews as Lead Care Managers and other like community-based para-professionals



Staffing Agency

- **iFoster AmeriCorps experience** – CBO host sites want and need peers, but can't afford to hire them full-time once iFoster is no longer paying for them
- CBOs don't want to become Medicaid Providers due to complexity, case rigor, billing management, etc.
- iFoster is a **proven, trusted source** of well-trained and supported youth with the capability of placing youth as PSS at host sites to amplify host site impact
- iFoster can “**bill-on-behalf of**” as a **staffing agency**, emulating how most healthcare clinics operate today
- Creates a **sustainable employment pathway** for youth and a **subsidized workforce** for CBOs



**iFoster Peers
Paving the Path**

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Power of



PEERS

