



National Edition 35

Building Sustainable Futures Together

May Edition 2026

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LA World Cup Kickoff: iFoster Showcases Foster Youth Innovation



iFoster is thrilled to announce that **ReMade in America** will debut its first line of **ComFYie** plush toys during the LA World Cup events **kicking off next month!** These one-of-a-kind comfort creations—made from recycled textiles—represent the talent, creativity, and innovation of the foster youth community, and we can't wait to showcase them on a global stage.

Check out our tent—the home base for ComFYies during World Cup festivities! Stay tuned for ways to get our custom LA World Cup ComFYies before the rest of the world!

This milestone builds on the momentum of our **Dream Factory grand opening**, where we celebrated the launch of our new warehouse space, bringing sustainability, workforce development, and real career pathways together under one roof. If you missed it, check out the event recap below to see the energy and excitement firsthand.

You Have Been Heard: Fostering the Future Act Heads to Senate



Last month, over 300 of you shared your thoughts on the six Chafee bills—and Congress heard you. Your comments were read by members of the Ways and Means Committee, which unanimously combined them into a single bipartisan bill.

BIG UPDATE: That legislation—[H.R. 7432](#), the Fostering the Future Act—was passed by the House on [May 19, 2025](#), and is headed to the Senate. Leadership is aiming to pass it by November.

What the bill delivers for transition-age foster youth:

- Stable housing supports and coordination with FYI vouchers
- Workforce training and apprenticeships
- More flexible, increased education supports (ETVs)
- Access to legal services during transition to adulthood
- Support for expectant and parenting youth

Share your thoughts about the Fostering the Future Act, and we'll make sure your comments reach these Senate Committee members. Your voice makes a difference!

Share Your Comment

June 1 Deadline: SNAP Work Requirements Go Nationwide—Are You Prepared?



Starting June 1, new federal SNAP work requirements take effect nationwide. If you're ages 18–64 and receive SNAP, you may need to meet monthly work or activity requirements to keep benefits beyond 3 months. **Missing these requirements could disqualify you from benefits for up to 3 years.**

Former foster youth are no longer automatically exempt in many situations—so it's important to understand if you're affected and what steps to take now.

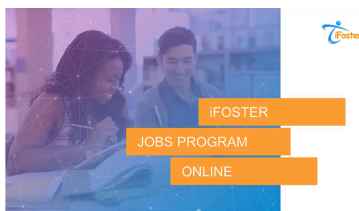
Need help? iFoster's Benefits Counselor, Shake Khachatryan, can assist with exemptions, paperwork, and understanding county notices.

Shake@ifoster.org

[View the Flyer to Get the Full Breakdown](#)

Resources For You

Getting a Job: Tools to Help You Succeed



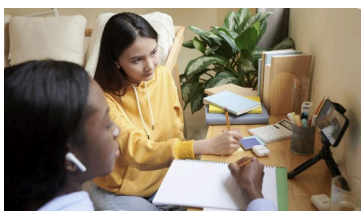
Looking for your next job or not sure where to start? iFoster's **"Getting a Job" resource** is designed to guide foster youth every step of the way from building skills to landing and keeping a job.

This easy-to-use resource offers practical tips and support to help you prepare for employment, understand what employers are looking for, and confidently navigate the job search process.

Whether you're applying for your first job or planning your next move, this tool is here to help you take that next step.

[Get Started Here](#)

FREE K-12 Tutoring for Foster Youth



Need a little extra help with school? iFoster works in collaboration with LearnToBe to offer **free tutoring in all subjects** for current and former foster youth.

LearnToBe's trusted tutors come from top schools like UCLA, UC San Diego, and Cornell, and are matched to fit each student's unique learning needs.

We also have Spanish-speaking tutors available to support ESL learners. Whatever your academic goals, we're here to help you succeed!

[Find a Tutor Today](#)

Summer Break Shouldn't Mean Meal Break

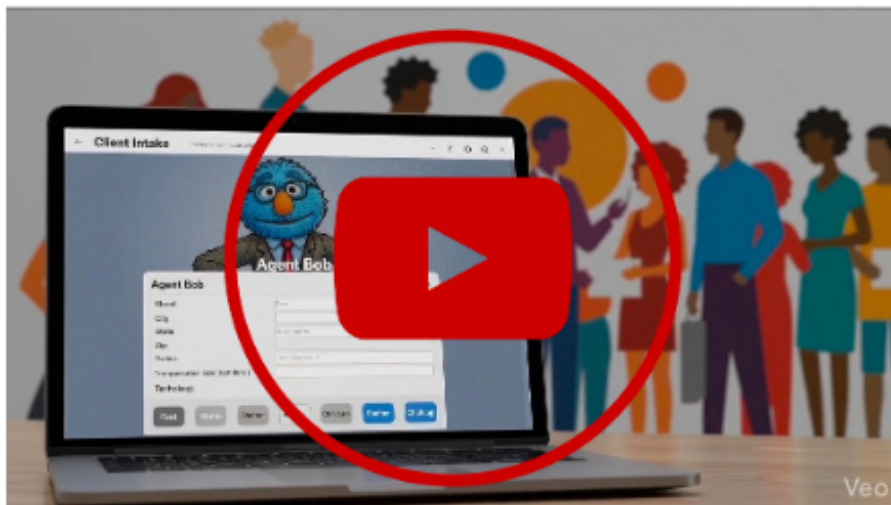


School's out—but free meals aren't. Kids and teens 18 and under can get no-cost breakfast, lunch, and snacks at parks, schools, and neighborhood spots all summer long. Some areas even offer pickup or delivery. Find a site near you!

[Find a Location](#)

Did You Know?

From Summit to Service: Agent Bob Arrives Spring 2026



Presentado en la Cumbre Global de Líderes de Organizaciones sin Fines de Lucro de Microsoft el pasado mes de marzo, Agent Bob —un agente de IA desarrollado por iFoster específicamente para jóvenes y familias de acogida— hizo su debut. Agent Bob es la herramienta definitiva para la búsqueda de recursos en tiempo real, ofreciendo una orientación verificada, personalizada y al instante para acceder a alimentos, refugio, vivienda, cuidado infantil, educación, empleo y tecnología, todo ello salvaguardando la privacidad del usuario. ¡Así es: Agent Bob cumple con la normativa HIPAA!

Obtenga más información escuchando la grabación de la serie «Aprovechamiento de la tecnología para apoyar y empoderar a los jóvenes mayores en el sistema de acogida, en la que Serita Cox (CEO de iFoster) y Usha Upadhyayula presentaron la sesión titulada: Conozca a Agent Bob, el agente de IA de iFoster: cómo utilizar la inteligencia artificial para ayudar a los jóvenes a encontrar y acceder a recursos protegiendo, al mismo tiempo, su privacidad.

- [Watch the Recording](#)
- [View the Slides](#)
- [Watch the About BOB Video](#)

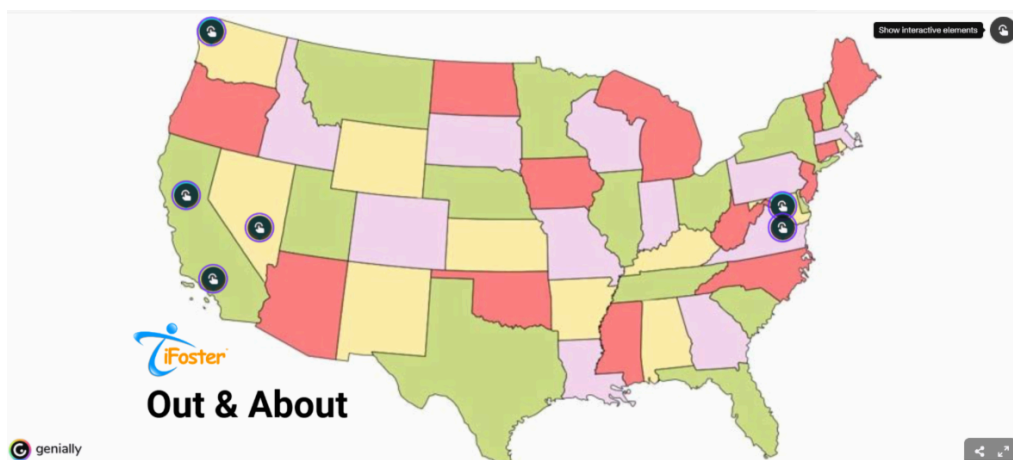
Want to Try Agent Bob Now?

iFoster's Medicaid-certified Peer Support Specialists are already using Agent Bob to find the resources tailored to you and your family.

📞 Call: 530-550-8001

✉️ Email: support@ifoster.org

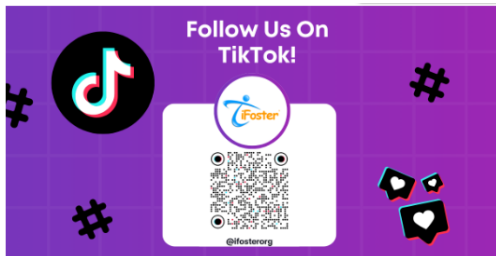
iFoster Out and About!!



[Click here](#) to journey through iFoster's ongoing impact and all the new stories we've gathered from across the country.

From our Open House to Capitol Hill to the field—see how iFoster and our members showed up for Foster Care Month.

🎉 We're on TikTok! 🎉



iFoster is now officially on TikTok, and we'd love for you to follow along! We'll be sharing helpful resources, team moments, program highlights, and a closer look at the work happening every day to support foster youth. From the Dream Factory to real career pathways, you'll get to see it all in action. And this is just the beginning... 🙄

We've got new, exciting content coming soon that you won't want to miss.

👉 Follow us on TikTok: [@ifosterorg](#) ❤️

Grow Your Impact as a Kinship Caregiver or Other Supportive Adult



Grandfamilies & Kinship University (GKU) is a new national leadership program from Generations United designed for kinship caregivers, including grandparents, relatives, and close family friends raising children.

GKU helps participants strengthen leadership skills, connect with peers, and turn their lived experience into meaningful community action through training, collaboration, and hands-on projects.

No formal leadership experience is required, just lived experience and a desire to make a difference. Applications are open through **June 8, 2026**, with a limited number of participants selected for the inaugural cohort.

If you are a kinship caregiver or know someone who is, please share this opportunity.

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Your Future, Your Opportunities: iFoster's 2025 Impact Report

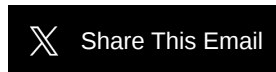
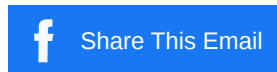


This isn't just a report—it's proof of what's possible. In 2025, iFoster connected tens of thousands of youth and families to resources, support, and real opportunities through three pillars: Community Resources, Opportunity Pathways, and Collective Voice.

The highlights: \$467M in services delivered, 72,000+ members supported, foster youth trained as Medi-Cal certified Peer Support Specialists, guaranteed income for hundreds, and initiatives like ReMade in America—shaped by the community itself.

If you're part of the foster care world, this is your impact. Take a few minutes to explore

👉 <https://ifoster.org/2025-report/>



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

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