

RESOURCES

National Foster Care Coalition

As a unique coalition of national organizations and foster care alumni, the National Foster Care Coalition is dedicated to raising public awareness, coordinating advocacy efforts and building diverse alliances that strengthen foster care and community supports to ensure children, youth and families reach their full potential.

<http://www.natl-fostercare.org/>

Mocking Bird Society

The Mockingbird Society strives toward the vision of a world in which the intrinsic value of our most marginalized children will be both recognized and celebrated. As an organization, we are committed to advocacy, public education and system reform on behalf of the thousands of children and adolescents involved in the Child Welfare System.

<http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org/>

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is a national foundation whose mission is to help youth in foster care make successful transitions to adulthood. The Initiative brings together the people and resources needed to help youth make the connections they need to education, employment, health care, housing, and supportive personal and community relationships. As a grant-making foundation, the Initiative supports successful community-based efforts that create opportunities and build assets for youth leaving foster care through grants, technical assistance, and coalition building with multiple stakeholders.

<http://www.jimcaseyouth.org/>

California Youth Connection

California Youth Connection (CYC) is guided, focused and driven by current and former foster youth with the assistance of other committed community members. CYC promotes the participation of foster youth in policy development and legislative change to improve the foster care system, and strives to improve social work practice and child welfare policy. CYC Chapters in counties throughout the state identify local issues and use grassroots and community organizing to create change.

<http://www.cal youthconn.org/site/cvc/>

Alameda Independent Living Skills Program

A program supporting youth transitioning from the foster care or juvenile justice system to independent living. This site provides information for current, former, and prospective ILSP students, child welfare workers, probation officers, foster parents and other caregivers, advocates, and supporters of youth in foster care or on probation.

<http://www.alamedacountyilsp.org/>

San Francisco Independent Living Skills Program

The San Francisco Independent Living Skills Program supports current and former foster youth to meet life's challenges and work towards getting what they need to become self-sufficient, successful adults.

<http://www.sfilsp.org/home.html>

Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance

A coalition of youth, service providers, and community organizations, Foster Youth Alliance is dedicated to empowering foster youth as they transition to adulthood. FYA promotes a seamless system of services in Alameda County, California, through maximum coordination, strong advocacy and strategic resource development.

<http://acfya.com/index.htm>

First Place Fund for Youth

The First Place Fund for Youth is an Oakland-based nonprofit organization founded in 1998 to remedy the lack of services available to youth who are making the difficult transition from foster care to independent living. First Place targets its services to 16 to 23 year-olds who are preparing to age out of foster care or who have recently aged out of care. It is the mission of First Place to support youth in their transition from foster care to successful adulthood by promoting choices and strengthening individual and community resources. We fulfill this mission through three programs: the Supported Housing Program and the Emancipation Training Center and the Emancipation Specialist Program

<http://www.firstplacefund.org/>

Connect for Kids

Connect for Kids makes the best use of communications technologies, specifically the Internet, to give adults – parents, grandparents, guardians, educators, advocates, policymakers, elected officials and others – the tools and information they need to improve the lives of children, youth and families. The Connect for Kids online publication covers more than 30 topics ranging from arts to youth development, foster care to adoption, and welfare reform to oral health.

<http://www.connectforkids.org>

Children's Defense Fund

The Children's Defense Fund's Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start*, and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF provides a strong, effective voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. They pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF encourages preventive investment before they get sick or into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown. CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. They have never taken government funds.

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/>