

POST-SECONDARY GUIDE



**School and Community Resources for College Students
in and from Foster Care in Santa Clara County**

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INTRODUCTION

This post-secondary guide is designed to support college students in and from the foster care system in Santa Clara County. It provides an overview of the school and community resources to help students successfully explore and navigate higher education while building a strong foundation for their life skills, personal goals, and professional trajectory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This post-secondary guide was developed by the Santa Clara County Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) Collaborative.

Bill Wilson Center

Catholic Charities Refuge Foster Care

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

De Anza College

Department of Family & Children Services

Empowered Admissions

Evergreen Valley College

First Place for Youth

Foothill College

Gavilan College

Mission College

Ohlone College

PIVOTAL

San Jose City College

San Jose Conservatory Corps & Charter School

San Jose State University

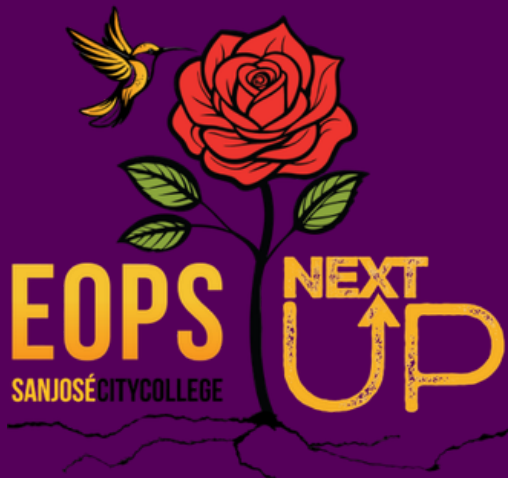
Santa Clara County Office of Education

Santa Clara University

Shine Together

South County Cal-SOAP

West Valley College



SERVICES

Potential grants

Community building opportunities

Laptops

Academic counseling

Personal and life skills training and support

Book vouchers

School materials

Lending library (textbooks & calculators)

University field trips

Referral network for campus and off-campus services

Graduation regalia



SAN JOSE CITY COLLEGE

2100 Moorpark Avenue

San José, CA 95128

<https://www.sjcc.edu/>

EOP&S NEXTUP & GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM STAFF

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Unique Degrees & Certificates

Medical & Dental Assisting
Kinesiology
Esthetics & Cosmetology
And More!



Foster Youth Support Programs





Youth
Empowerment
Strategies for Success

SERVICES

Priority registration

Dedicated financial aid liaison

Dedicated academic counselor

Registration, FAFSA, & scholarship guidance

Access to vendor cards (grocery, gas, etc.)

Laptop loaner program

Meal vouchers

Free printing

Focused workshops to support academic, life skills, & career readiness

And much more!



EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE

3095 Yerba Buena Rd.

San Jose, CA 95135

<https://www.evc.edu/>

EOPS & NEXTUP PROGRAM STAFF



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UNIQUE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Testla Automotive * Nursing * Engineering



SERVICES

Academic, career, and personal
Counseling

Priority enrollment

Textbook assistance

Grants (free money!)

Community building opportunities

School materials

Assistance with food insecurity through
our campus food pantry and basic
needs center

NextUP kits

UNIQUE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Cisco CCNA Cybersecurity & Cloud Computing
Pharmacy Technician
Fire Protection Technology
Firefighter/EMT Academy
And More!



MISSION COLLEGE

3000 Mission College Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

<https://missioncollege.edu/>

PROGRAM STAFF



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Alejandro Zavala



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Dr. Katrina Hermoso

PIVOTAL COACH

Brian Green

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(408) 482-8311





The West Valley College NextUp program provides individualized services for each of our students. As a smaller program, we tailor our conversations to meet you where you are and help you meet your goals. We are happy to help you navigate all aspects of the college experience, from finances to selecting classes, to preparing to transfer to a four-year college.

WANT TO TRANSFER TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE?

West Valley College is the #1 transfer community college in the Bay Area (and #4 of all community colleges in California).



NEXTUP PROGRAM STAFF

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UNIQUE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Healthcare Technologies

Fashion Design

Interior Design

Architecture

Park Management

Administration of Justice

And More!

WEST VALLEY COLLEGE

**14000 Fruitdale Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070**

<https://www.westvalley.edu/>

*Interested in knowing more?
Book an appointment with Amy today!*



SCAN ME 





SERVICES

Personalized academic counseling & advising

Career training

Student success center

Health services

Book funds

End of term grants

Priority registration

Transfer assistance

Food pantry

MTA smart pass & transportation assistance

Emergency housing support

UNIQUE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Cyber Forensics & Investigations *
Automotive Technician * Computer Science



DE ANZA COLLEGE

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014
<https://www.deanza.edu/>

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(408) 201-4960

EOPS FRONT DESK: (408) 864-8950

FOOD PANTRY & BASIC NEEDS: DABASICNEEDS@DEANZA.EDU





SERVICES

Direct financial grants

Emergency grants

Textbooks and school supplies

Campus meal cards

Food and transportation assistance

Personal need and supplies that support college attendance

Housing referrals

Community services & resource assistance

Tutorial services

Priority registration

Dedicated program counselor

Laptop/iPad

Events and workshops

College tour



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

12345 El Monte Rd.

Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

<https://www.foothill.edu/>

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DEGREES & CERTIFICATES • APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TRADES



SERVICES

Academic, personal, & career counseling

Priority registration

Assistance with completing financial aid applications (e.g., FAFSA)

Assistance with applying for CHAFEE grant & scholarships

Textbooks and school supplies (bookstore credit)

Transportation assistance

Direct financial grants

Food assistance

Campus & peer connection

And much more!

UNIQUE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Nursing * Cosmetology * Aviation
Maintenance * Water Resource
Management * HVAC



GAVILAN COLLEGE

5055 Santa Teresa Blvd.
Gilroy, CA 95020
<https://www.gavilan.edu/>

EOPS & NEXTUP PROGRAM STAFF



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SERVICES

Advanced class registration

Priority on-campus housing consideration

On-campus housing during academic breaks

Move-in essentials for your dorm

Workshops, skills-training, and social events

Emergency financial assistance

Grant and scholarship opportunities

Academic, career, and personal development coaching

Access to the GSP resource lounge

Graduation regalia and diploma frame upon graduation



SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Washington Square

San Jose, CA 95192

<https://www.sjsu.edu/>

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM STAFF

DIRECTOR

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TRANSITION SUCCESS COUNSELOR

(transfer students)

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DEPARTMENTS

Admissions: <https://www.sjsu.edu/admissions/>

Academic Advising: <https://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>

Financial Aid: <https://www.sjsu.edu/faso/>

Bookstore: <https://sjsu.bncollege.com/>

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Student Involvement: <https://www.sjsu.edu/getinvolved/>

Experience Campus - Belonging:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/studentaffairs/experience-campus/index.php>

BECOME A GUARDIAN SCHOLAR

Prospective scholars may submit an interest form at any time to receive outreach from a staff member. We are happy to connect with you to answer questions and offer support and resources.





Santa Clara
UNIVERSITY

SERVICES

[Financial aid](#)

[Federal grants](#)

[Center for Student Involvement](#)

[Basic needs support and Bronco food pantry](#)

[Off-campus living support](#)

[Well-being resources](#)

EDUCATION

[Full list of all degree options](#)

[College of Arts & Sciences](#)

[Leavey School of Business](#)

[School of Engineering](#)

[School of Law](#)



**SANTA CLARA
UNIVERSITY**

500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053

<https://www.scu.edu/>

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A PIVOTAL COACH CAN HELP YOU BUILD SKILLS IN THESE AREAS:

Get connected with resources on
and off campus

Complete scholarship applications

Get familiarized with the financial
aid process

Navigate resume writing and job
applications

Explore a range of educational and
career opportunities

Much, much more

READY TO DETERMINE
YOUR OWN PATH?



Submit a referral here!

PIVOTAL™

<https://www.pivotalnow.org/>

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING!

Pivotal works with both current and former foster youth, matching you with a Coach who will support you in setting and reaching your personal, academic, and career goals. If eligible, you're encouraged to apply for the Pivotal scholarship, which helps cover educational expenses you have while you're enrolled in school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

If you were/are in foster, guardianship, or Kin-GAP care in Santa Clara or San Mateo County for at least one day after your 13th birthday, you are likely eligible*.

**Additional criteria applies for non SCC/SMC dependents. Wardships from solely Juvenile Justice/Probation currently ineligible.*

**PROGRAM ENROLLMENT
COORDINATOR**

Sue Pires

sue.pires@pivotalnow.org

(408) 595-2873



SERVICES

Assigned employment counselor

Assessment and career development planning

Support towards removing barriers

Job prep & job search assistance

On-site employer recruitment

Access to county employment & paid internships

Job retention services

Connection to volunteer opportunities

Employment field trips

Supportive services (professional clothing, bus tokens)

Santa Clara County **CAREER DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

<https://linktr.ee/careerdevelopmentunit>

Main Line: (408) 792-1750

Email: cdu@ssa.sccgov.org

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Hub-eligible youth
- NMD & ILP youth, current/former foster youth with a current/past court out-of-home placement case
- Dually-involved probation youth with 241.1 court order

CDU PROGRAMS

- **SCC Student Intern Program**
 - Paid opportunities available year-round based on the needs of the agency
- **County Employment for Foster Youth**
 - Ages: 18 - 24
 - Work with a CEFY liaison to find jobs with the County of Santa Clara through a modified hiring process
- **SCC Intern & Earn 1.0**
 - Ages: 16 - 24
 - Internship Duration: 8 weeks
 - 30 hours/week at county, non-profits, or businesses
- **SCC Intern & Earn 2.0**
 - Ages: 18 - 24
 - Internship Duration: 6 months
 - 30 hours/week at county, non-profits, or businesses



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

You're eligible if you're a young person in foster care in Santa Clara County. You don't have to live in the county, just the jurisdiction of your case.

INTAKE INFORMATION

Talk to your Social Worker for a referral or contact:

Sabrina Martire

sabrina@childadvocatessv.org

(408) 573-5667



<https://www.childadvocatessv.org/>

Main Line: (408) 416-0400

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley runs the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program to support young people like YOU who are in foster care or part of the Santa Clara County Dependency Court System.

WHAT'S A CASA?

A CASA is a trained volunteer - a consistent caring adult who shows up just for you. They're here to:

- Listen when you need to talk
- Help you plan your future
- Go to court and speak up for what you want
- Make sure your school needs are met
- Hang out and do fun stuff
- Be there at your appointments & meetings

WHY CASA MATTERS?

Every foster youth deserves a stable adult who has their back. Your CASA can help you:

- Get the resources & services you're entitled to
- Stay on track with your education and goals
- Feel seen, heard, and supported

**YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE.**



HELPING YOUNG MOMS UNLOCK THEIR POTENTIAL

Shine gives young moms the tools and resources they need to thrive as students and parents. We provide a helping hand to young moms striving to create bright futures for themselves and their children

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Live in Santa Clara County, be pregnant or parenting, and be within the ages 13-25

SERVICES

Child development learning

Academic & career support

Free diapers & wipes

Raffle incentives participation

Partnered with Project Glimmer

Monthly Mommy & Me kits

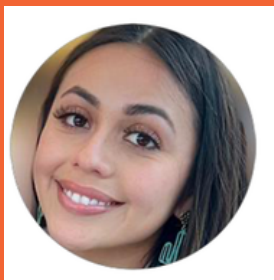
Biweekly Mommy Groups

shine

Helping Young Moms Shine Bright

<https://www.shinetogether.org/>

You CAN give your baby the best life possible and reach your goals. We're here to help pregnant and parenting moms.

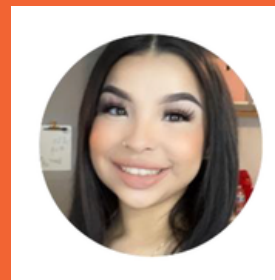


BAY AREA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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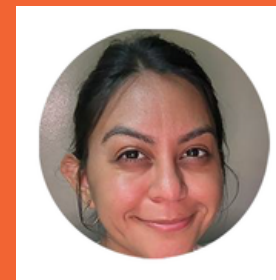


LEAD ADVOCATE

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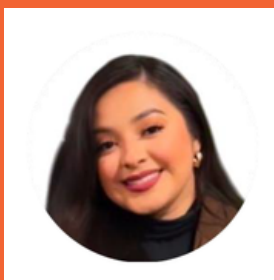


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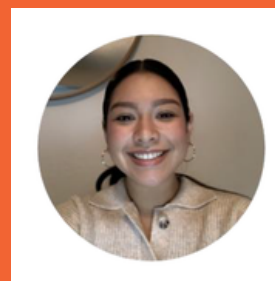


ADVOCATE

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ADVOCATE

Cecilia Moreno

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**SCAN TO SUBMIT A
REFERRAL HERE!**

OTHER KEY RESOURCES

FAFSA & Financial Aid Guide - breaks down the process and answers common questions during the financial aid application process

California Chafee Grant - provides college funding only for former foster youth who meet certain criteria

If you want to attend a California Community College, check out:

- NextUp Program - provides foster youth with financial, academic, and basic needs support to help them succeed in college
- Rising Scholars Network - supports students who are currently or formerly incarcerated or otherwise justice-impacted in accessing and completing higher education

If you want to attend a California State University, check out:

- CSU Campus Foster Youth Programs - supports current and former foster youth through advising, financial aid assistance, and other academic and personal resources
- Project Rebound - helps formerly incarcerated individuals access and succeed in higher education through academic support, advising, and wraparound resources

If you want to attend a University of California, check out:

- Tips for applying as a First Year student
- Tips for applying as a Transfer student

OTHER KEY RESOURCES

Independent Living Program (ILP) and Extended Foster Care (EFC).

- **Social Services Analyst**
 - Cindy Guillen | cindy.guillen@ssa.sccgov.org | (408) 792-1752
- **ILP Social Services Analyst**
 - Georgina Tapia | georgina.tapia@ssa.sccgov.org | (408) 891-8551
- **TAY Project Manager**
 - Marisela Martinez | marisela.martinez@ssa.sccgov.org | (408) 501-6839

California Youth Connection (CYC) - be part of a community to advocate for & connect with other former foster youth

Foster Youth Help Line: 1 (877) 846-1602

A toll-free helpline to help current and former foster youth understand their rights, resolve complaints about care or placement, and connect with resources.

Foster Youth Rights - legal protections and entitlements for current and former foster youth in California, including the right to safety, education support, healthcare, and being heard in decisions about their care

A Home Within - provides free, long-term, one-on-one therapy through volunteer licensed therapists to support the mental and emotional well-being of current and former foster youth

To get in touch with the Santa Clara County Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) Collaborative with questions and/or edits for this guide, please contact Ashley Matysiak at Pivotal (ashley.matysiak@pivotalnow.org).