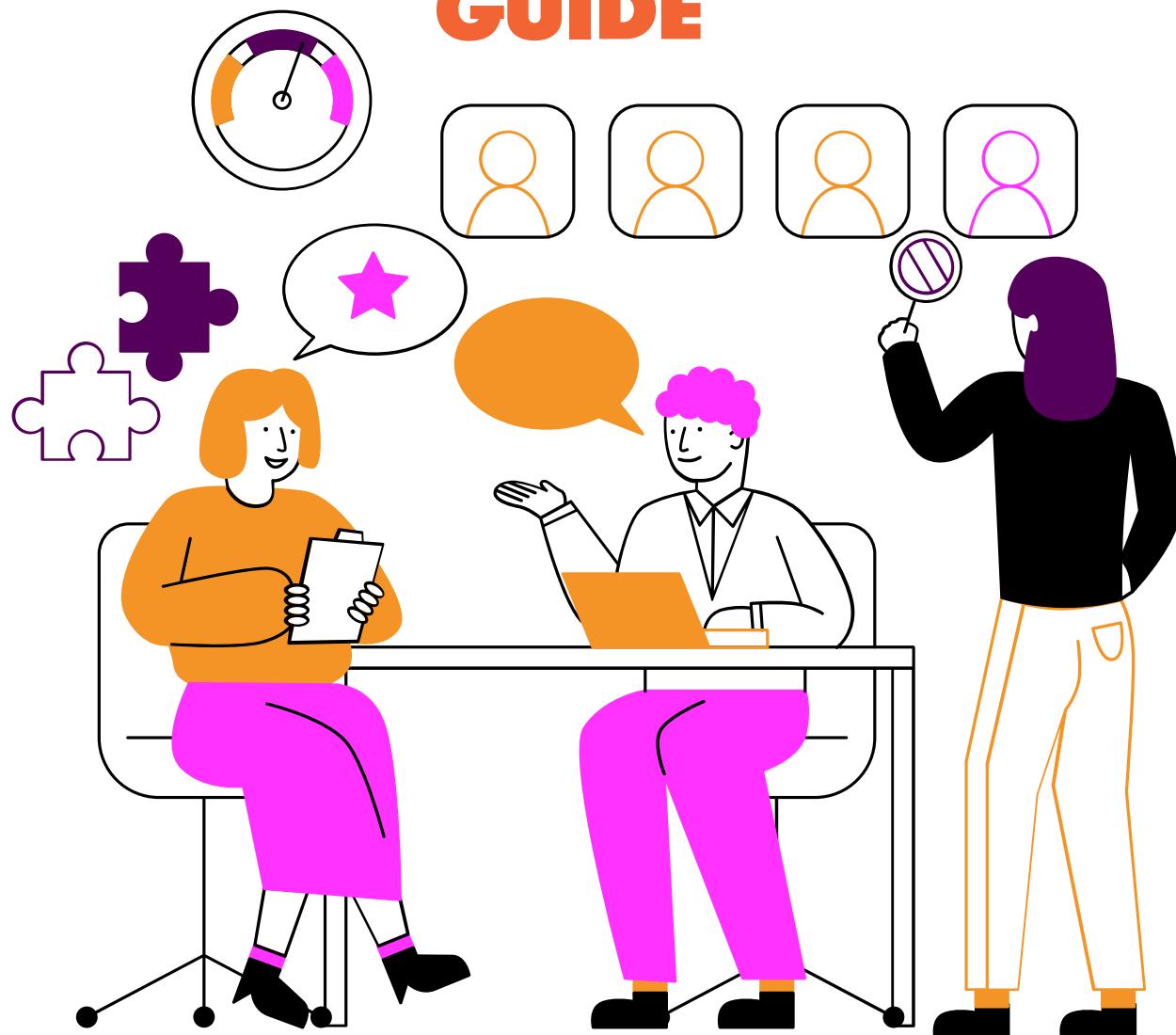


POST-SECONDARY GUIDE



**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

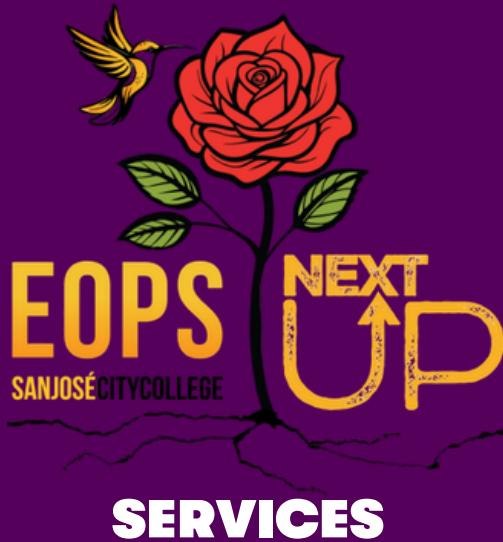
Santa Clara County Office of Education

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/>

EOPS NEXTUP & GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM STAFF

PROGRAM COUNSELOR & COORDINATOR

Julio Flores (julio.flores@sjcc.edu)

PROGRAM SPECIALIST & FYSI

Laura Zepeda (laura.zepeda@sjcc.edu)
(408) 298-2181 ext. 3203

PIVOTAL COACHES

Monica Gonzalez

monica.gonzalez@pivotalnow.org
(408) 201-4957



Saoirse Madden

saoirse.madden@pivotalnow.org
(408) 591-6708



Unique Degrees & Certificates

Medical & Dental Assisting
Kinesiology
Esthetics & Cosmetology
And More!

Foster Youth Support Programs



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



DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Teresa De La Cruz, M.A.
teresa.delacruz@evc.edu



ADMISSIONS TECHNICIAN & FOSTER YOUTH LIAISON
Jose Denton
jose.denton@evc.edu
(408) 274-7900 x 6813



NEXTUP & YESSILP PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Maya Gonzales
maya.gonzales@evc.edu

PIVOTAL COACH

Sarah Gentle | sarah.gentle@pivotalnow.org | (408) 201-4960

UNIQUE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Testla Automotive * Nursing * Engineering

NEXT UP 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



NEXTUP COORDINATOR
Stephanie Rodriguez
steph.rodriguezgomez@missioncollege.edu
(408) 855-5227



NEXTUP ACADEMIC COUNSELOR
Alejandro Zavala



**EOPS/CARE, CALWORKS, &
NEXTUP PROGRAM DIRECTOR**
Dr. Katrina Hermoso



PIVOTAL COACH
Brian Green
brian.green@pivotalnow.org
(408) 482-8311

WEST VALLEY COLLEGE

14000 Fruitdale Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070

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



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

PROGRAM COUNSELOR

Amy Gutierrez

amy.gutierrez@westvalley.edu

(408) 741-2529

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT NEEDS

Samantha Hernandez

samantha.hernandez@westvalley.edu

(408) 741-4081

PIVOTAL COACH

Brian Green

brian.green@pivotalnow.org

(408) 482-8311

UNIQUE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Healthcare Technologies

Fashion Design

Interior Design

Architecture

Park Management

Administration of Justice

And More!



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



SCAN ME





Personalized academic counseling & advising

Career training

Student success center

Health services

Book funds

End of term grants

Priority registration

Transfer assistance

Food pantry

VTA 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/>

EOPS NEXTUP & GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM STAFF

PROGRAM COUNSELOR & COORDINATOR

Flora Payne (payneflora@fhda.edu)
(408) 864-5323

PROGRAM COUNSELOR

Long Phan (phanlong@fhda.edu)
(408) 864-5549

STUDENT SUCCESS SPECIALIST

Cindy Montoya (montoyacindy@fhda.edu)
(408) 864-5357



OTHER FOSTER YOUTH STUDENT ALLIES

FINANCIAL AID LIAISON

Mayra Godoy Rodriguez (godoy-rodriguezmayra@fhda.edu)
(408) 864-8228

PIVOTAL COACH

Sarah Gentle (sarah.gentle@pivotalnow.org)
(408) 201-4960

EOPS FRONT DESK: (408) 864-8950

FOOD PANTRY & BASIC NEEDS: DABASICNEEDS@DEANZA.EDU

NEXT UP

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/>

NEXTUP PROGRAM STAFF

STUDENT SUCCESS SPECIALIST

Melvishia Gaines (gainesmelvishia@fhda.edu)
(650) 949-7227

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Tham (thammichelle@fhda.edu)
(650) 949-7518

DIRECTOR OF EOPS/CARE & NEXTUP

April C. Henderson (hendersonapril@fhda.edu)
(650) 949-7206



KEY FOSTER YOUTH ALLY STAFF

FINANCIAL AID SUPERVISOR

Holly Hawkinson | hawkinsonholly@fhda.edu | (650) 949-7246

COORDINATOR, ACADEMIC SERVICES, ADMISSIONS & RECORDS

Anthony Caceres | caceresanthonys@fhda.edu | (650) 949-7112

BASIC NEEDS CENTER PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Sonia Sanchez Santoyo | sanchezsantoyosonia@fhda.edu | (650) 949-7326

PIVOTAL COACH

Sarah Gentle | sarah.gentle@pivotalnow.org | (408) 201-4960

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



PROGRAM COUNSELOR
Jacqueline Alcalá M.S.
jalcala@gavilan.edu
(408) 848-4776



SENIOR PROGRAM SERVICES SPECIALIST
Breanna Aguilar
baguilar@gavilan.edu
(408) 846-4904



FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM SERVICES SPECIALIST
Alyssa Munoz
amunoz@gavilan.edu
(408) 852-2813



PIVOTAL COACH
Stacy Pham
stacy.pham@pivotalnow.org
(408) 882-7302



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

C. Schye Bell (chandellschye.bell@sjsu.edu)

TRANSITION SUCCESS COUNSELOR

(first-time, incoming students)

Joanna Peralta Arenas (joanna.peraltaarenas@sjsu.edu)

TRANSITION SUCCESS COUNSELOR

(transfer students)

Jeanene Cannon (jeanene.cannon@sjsu.edu)

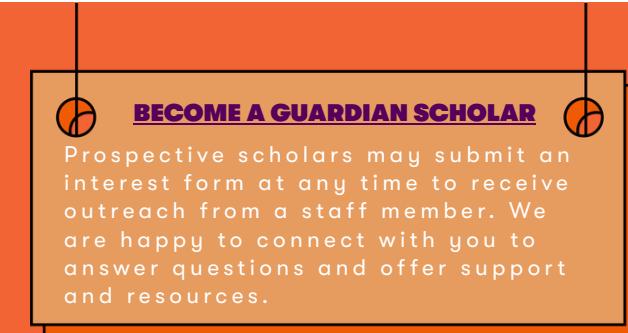
DEPARTMENTS

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>



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/>

KEY FOSTER YOUTH ALLY STAFF



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT WELL-BEING

Dean of Student Office

Katie Holscher

kholscher@scu.edu

(408) 554-6992



OPERATIONS MANAGER

*Drahmann Academic Advising & Learning
Resources Center*

Gloria Hermosillo

ghermosillo@scu.edu

(408) 554-4318



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

*Department of Communication
College of Arts & Sciences*

Nico Opper

nopper@scu.edu

(408) 554-4920

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.

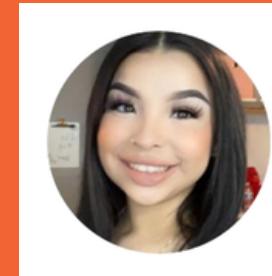


BAY AREA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Isabel Chavarria

(408) 767-8448

isabel@shinetogether.org

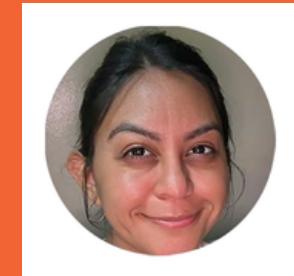


LEAD ADVOCATE

Karolina Cabanillas

(408) 593 - 0291

karolina@shinetogether.org

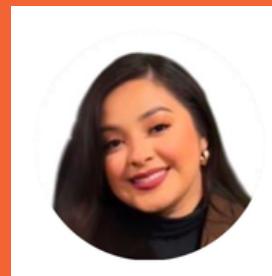


ADVOCATE

Maria Rivera

(408) 593 - 0296

maria@shinetogether.org

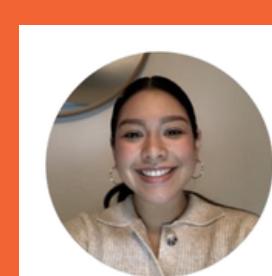


ADVOCATE

Keiry Favela

(408) 422-7120

keiry@shinetogether.org



ADVOCATE

Cecilia Moreno

cecilia@shinetogether.org



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).