The mission of Cabrillo College's Foster Youth Independence Program (FYI) is to provide academic support services for current and former Foster Youth and to assist them in navigating the community college system successfully. The services are designed to promote academic, financial, and emotional stability in the lives of these potential and current students. Along with this, we also strive to maintain a social community to enrich the academic environment of these youth while they attend Cabrillo. The FYI staff includes former foster youth peer mentors for one-on-one student advising, as well as financial and academic counselors. The efforts combined will walk advocates and youth through the necessary processes to establish a path for independence and success at our college.

Contact Information

Phone: 831 479-6115

Foster Youth Program Staff

Catherine Lachance, Director
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Student Mentors/Assistants
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Foster Youth Support Staff at Cabrillo College

Sally Larter, Academic Counselor
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Antonio Alarco, Financial Aid Advisor
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Location

Cabrillo College Campus, Rm 1006
6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos, CA
Bldg. 1000 · Room 1006

“Only the educated are free.”
— Epictetus
**Program Overview**

FYI services are intended to increase current and former Foster Youth student success rates of earning certificates, associate degrees and transfer to four-year colleges and universities. To better serve the Cabrillo College current and former Foster Youth population, Cabrillo has assigned a counselor and a financial aid advisor who focus on current and former Foster Youth students. Additionally, several former Foster Youth have been trained to serve as peer mentors to work directly with current and former Foster Youth at Cabrillo and in the community. This team is intended to guide current and former Foster Youth through the process of navigating Cabrillo College.

The FYI team assists current and former Foster Youth on an individual basis. The team provides outreach and support to assist youth with completing the documentation for financial aid, determining housing and economic status, and developing additional support services the students need.

There are many support services in place at Cabrillo. The Foster Youth Independence program has its own office located in room 1006. This is a welcoming space where students can study, with access to computers and a printer, get assistance, and socialize. In addition services are available to current and former Foster Youth from the FYI program staff, including workshops held during the semester. Youth also have the opportunity to receive other forms of assistance, such as:

- Textbook Grants
- Scholarships
- Financial Aid Assistance
- Academic Counseling
- Bus Passes
- Peer Advising

Should FYI’s services not adequately meet the needs of those in our program we will refer them to our network of community resources to ensure they receive the support they need to succeed at Cabrillo.

**Ways to Get Involved**

If you are or were a Foster Youth or know of a youth who plans to attend Cabrillo, please contact one of the people on the back of this brochure. The staff and students are dedicated to your success.

Furthermore we are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve our services for foster youth at our college and in our community. If you wish to get involved, provide a donation, or simply learn more about the foster youth program or the foster youth population in general please contact Catherine Lachance at calachan@cabrillo.edu.