Student Equity Proposal
EOP&S/CARE and Foster Youth Programs

Name: # 19

Date: April 20, 2015

Name of Project: Foster Youth Success Initiative

Amount of Funding Requested: $101,705.70

Achievement Gap you are addressing:

1. Access
2. Basic skills improvement – math
3. Basic skills improvement – English
4. Transfer
5. Degree and Certificate Completion

Student Population you are addressing: Foster youth, economic disadvantage, underrepresented minorities

Which other departments will be required to support this effort?

1. Foster Kinship Care Education (FKCE)
2. High School Relations & Transfer Center
3. Financial aid
4. Admissions and Records
5. Learning Resource Center
6. Student Affairs/Project Leap
7. Career Center
8. Career and Technical Education
9. Psychological services

Did you communicate your project idea within your department?

Yes, the EOP&S/CARE department and advisory were notified that a proposal would be submitted to support foster youth participating in EOP&S/CARE and to support the needs of students not participating in the program.

Implementation of the Center for community college student engagement promising practices:

1. Academic goal setting and planning
2. Priority registration (already guaranteed)
3. Student success course
4. Tutoring
5. Alert and intervention
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Description of Project: 4 pages maximum

The purpose of this project is to provide funding to the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) at Pasadena City College (PCC) which provides a comprehensive program designed to assist current and former foster youth to successfully transition from foster care to college, and to provide targeted support services to current and former foster youth participating in EOP&S/CARE. Also, to provide concentrated support services and intrusive counseling services to current and former foster youth participating in the EOP&S/CARE program. National, state and local data on the achievement of foster youth in education is startling. Promises 2 Kids reported, in the United States, 52% of foster youth attend schools that rank in the lowest 33 percent, only 50% will receive a high school diploma and only 10% of former foster youth will attend college and of that 10%, only 3% will graduate. Foster youth at PCC face significant equity gaps in basic skills English and math, transfer, degree and certificate completion, and access. Most notably, 0% of foster youth completed a degree or certificate. Student equity funding will provide critical resources to the most underserved student population at PCC.

FYSI program services:

Outreach and Recruitment

A foster youth liaison will establish partnerships with in-district high schools, community based organizations serving foster youth, Independent Living Centers, and group homes to inform current and former foster youth of the importance of a college education, and the services available at PCC (e.g. EOP&S/CARE, Financial Aid). Former or current foster youth seeking to attend PCC will receive assistance with completing the online PCC admission application, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Chafee Grant application. All students that indicate on the PCC application or FAFSA that they are current or former foster youth will be contacted to offer additional support and to ensure they have completed the necessary matriculation steps (e.g. assessment, orientation) to ensure a smooth transition to college. High School Relations has committed to assist with this effort by making connections to in-district high schools and partnering to assist foster youth with the online PCC application. The foster youth liaison will coordinate an annual EOP&S/CARE and Foster Youth programs Outreach Fair that will include EOP&S/CARE and FYSI application assistance, program presentations, information booths, food and entertainment. The purpose of this event is to increase the awareness of programs services among eligible PCC students to increase enrollment in EOP&S/CARE and foster youth programs.

Counseling services

Current or former foster youth will have an opportunity to meet with a counselor dedicated to serving this population of students. The counselor will determine if a student is eligible to receive EOP&S program services. Foster youth that are eligible will be enrolled in the EOP&S program and be assigned to the foster youth counselor; students that do not meet EOP&S eligibility requirements will not be enrolled in EOP&S, but students will still be allowed to meet
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with this counselor to receive counseling services. All current or former foster youth will now
have a dedicated counselor to provide academic goal setting and planning (Promising Practice).

Counseling services will entail:

- Comprehensive Student Educational Plans based on foster youth specific needs
- Assistance with short and long term goal setting
- Assistance with career planning
- Interpretation of assessment results and course recommendations
- Certificate, degree, and transfer requirements
- Unofficial transcript evaluations of previous college coursework, and referrals to the PCC
  evaluators for official evaluations as needed
- Information about transfer majors and major preparation requirements
- Referrals to campus learning resources and appropriate support services
- Personal and crisis counseling

In addition to providing one-on-one support to foster youth, the counselor will also implement
student success workshops to prepare and equip foster youth for college success and how to cope
with challenges. Workshops on time management, career exploration, transfer, stress
management, financial aid and scholarships, financial literacy and study skills will be offered to
students each semester. In addition to individual counseling and group workshops, a counseling
course for foster youth will be offered each semester (Promising Practice).

Self Enhancement Series

For foster youth to truly thrive in the 21st century workplace, they need skills and resources
beyond just getting the education needed for a career. The desired outcome of the Self
Enhancement Series is to equip students with essential resources needed to become responsible
adults so once they embark on a career path, they have the skills to maintain a self-sufficient
standard of living. To achieve this outcome, 12-15 students who are currently being served by
the FYSI program will participate in a 10-week series of workshops and practicum designed to
develop the student as a whole person. Following the in class workshops, transportation will be
be provided to take students to the DMV, Social Security office, Registrar Recorder and local
credit union. This series would be offered one time per semester and would include workshops
on:

- Self-sufficiency
- Financial self-portrait
- Self-esteem
- Self-advocacy
- Career self-assessment
- Self-care

Tutoring
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Tutors will be available to assist former or current foster youth, EOP&S/CARE students needing individual or small group assistance in an academic subject area. PCC foster youth in basic skills English and math were below the 80% rule and proportionality index – English 82.9%/0.83 and math 73.3%/0.73. PCC economic disadvantage The tutoring services (Promising Practice) will create a supportive and safe learning environment for foster students and promote positive peer interactions. The Learning Resource Center has committed to assisting with the identification of tutors and providing a space for tutors to meet.

Mentoring

In partnership with Project LEAP, current and former foster youth, EOP&S/CARE students will have an opportunity to be matched to a mentor. Students are matched one-on-one with volunteer mentors who meet with them once each week to listen, care, motivate, and encourage them to maximize their potential. Mentors in the program are administrative staff, faculty, and classified staff who represent a cross section of the campus community. In addition to weekly meetings between mentors and students, a Guidance seminar and special programs are offered to foster student success. Mentorship programs provide students with the academic and emotional support needed to navigate the college system obtain their academic goals. A 2009 study by the U.S. Department of Education found that students who received mentoring from advisors regularly during their freshmen year had 170% greater chance of completing their academic program.

Special events

Thematic special events will be planned to create a sense of community among foster youth at PCC. For instance, Thanksgiving, holiday and academic achievement/graduation event. Also, students will attend tours of colleges and universities to increase their awareness of college opportunities and transfer options. These special events will improve retention, connectedness to PCC, and awareness of college opportunities.

Scalability

Startup

- House FYSI in the EOP&S/CARE department to centralize foster youth program services. Services are currently being provided in three different departments.
- Hire one adjunct counselor to provide counseling services and student success workshops.
- Hire a foster youth liaison to outreach to the surrounding community and “in reach” to PCC campus community and coordinate student support services.

Scale-up plan

- Offer counseling course and self-enhancement series each term.
- Hire an additional adjunct counselor to provide counseling services.

Sustainability plan
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- Create a "foster youth pathway" for incoming students to address their specific needs.
- Develop a faculty/staff safe zone to educate the campus community on the unique needs of current and former foster youth.
- Institutionalize FYSI by integrating into the EOP&S program.

Evaluation and Assessment

FYSI will use both quantitative and qualitative measures to ensure the program is efficiently implemented and is meeting targeted program outcomes. Data analysis will be performed by the EOP&S/CARE Director, FKCE Coordinator, EOP&S/foster youth adjunct counselor, and the college’s Institutional Planning and Research Office (IPRO). FYSI will employ two types of data gathering (descriptive data and statistical outcomes data) to examine the program effectiveness. Formative and summative evaluation methods will be implemented. Formative assessment will take place through regular department meetings and the review of event specific student evaluation forms. This ongoing analysis will provide timely information regarding the effectiveness of program services and allow program staff to make any necessary adjustments to the program. Summative assessment will entail conducting an end-of-year program evaluation to evaluate program activities, services and personnel. Results will be evaluated to determine if programs goals and objectives were met.

Program outcomes:

1. Foster youth will gain the knowledge of and access PCC and community resources designed to improve their individual development.
2. Foster youth will identify educational plans (e.g. transfer, Associate degree, certificate completion).
3. Foster youth will develop life skills to increase their level of self-sufficiency.
4. Foster youth receiving tutoring assistance will improve comprehension of course material.
5. Foster youth will learn how to effectively use specific study/learning strategies.
6. The FYSI program will:
   a. Increase the number of foster youth identified.
   b. Increase the number of foster youth enrolled.
   c. Increase the number of foster youth participating in the FYSI program.
   d. Increase retention rates of foster youth.
   e. Increase the graduation rates of foster youth

Training and support

A foster youth advisory will meet twice an academic year to communicate program and services targeting foster youth to support and coordinate efforts between PCC departments and prevent duplication of services.

Program staff and faculty will attend annual FYSI and EOP&S/CARE annual conference to be informed of best practices, trends and updates to provide high quality student services and properly advise students of available resources.
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Adjunct counselors will attend training opportunities provided by General Counseling.

All program staff and faculty will attend regular department meetings to provide ongoing support and communication.

Technology and Accessibility

EOP&S/CARE and Foster Youth programs currently have a website. In partnership with Public Relations, our webpage content will be revised and streamlined and all new content will be 508 compliant. Our department was recently selected to participate in a pilot project to redesign the EOP&S/CARE and Foster Youth programs department content.

Conclusion

EOP&S/CARE is the model for student success. This proposal provides concentrated efforts to foster youth participating in EOP&S and attending PCC. This program will provide foster youth with supporting and caring adults that believe in their academic success. Highly skilled and trained counselor will provide counseling support and student support services; in addition to, academic support in the form of tutors. The hope of this program is to provide students a sense of belonging, self-worth and most importantly hope for their future to explore and accomplish their goals.
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