



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

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California Community Colleges Board of Governors Approves Funding for Educational Support Program for Foster Youth

WALNUT, Calif. – The California Community Colleges Board of Governors this week approved up to \$15 million to fund Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) programs at 10 community college districts across California.

CAFYES programs serve current and former foster youth by establishing an educational program that provides services promoting academic success. CAFYES programs offer support to students in several areas, including counseling, tutoring, help with transportation costs, books and supplies, child care, career guidance, housing assistance, work study grants and health services. Eligible students are those whose dependency was established by the court on or after their 16th birthday and who are under 26 years old at the beginning of any academic year in which he or she participates in the program. Students must also be enrolled in at least nine college credits upon acceptance into the program.

“Funding these programs goes a long way in supporting some of the nearly 13,000 current and former foster youth who are enrolled in California’s community colleges,” said California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. “It provides students who might not have otherwise dreamed of higher education the tools they need to succeed.”

The Board of Governors approved funding CAFYES programs at the following community college districts: Shasta-Tehama-Trinity and Sierra in Northern California; Peralta, Sonoma County and State Center in the San Francisco Bay Area and central California; and Allan Hancock, Coast, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, Los Angeles and Pasadena Area in Southern California. CAFYES programs will be implemented at 26 community colleges within those 10 districts. Once fully implemented in the 2017-18 academic year, the programs are expected to serve approximately 2560 students.

The budget provides up to \$15 million for the program in 2015-16 and is expected to continue in future years.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 113 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/CACommColleges>, or <https://twitter.com/CalCommColleges>.

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