



OYC | LAP3 Quarterly: Promoting Equitable Employment for Foster Youth
September 22, 2021

[Presentation Slides](#)
[Recording](#)

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Please complete this evaluation of the webinar, and we appreciate your feedback and ideas for future topics.

- Evaluation Survey [Click Here](#)

[Questions + Answers](#)

Q: Can someone from the independent skills program refer foster youth to workforce services through the ARS?

- Yes, anyone can refer a current or former foster youth to workforce services in L.A. County by completing the Universal Job Referral Form [Here](#). Once completed, submit the form by email to ilp.jobs@dcfs.lacounty.gov. Staff at DCFS will confirm the youth's case status and submit the referral through the Automated Referral System (ARS). The youth will be matched with a workforce center and can expect to be contacted within a few days. Please include your own contact information on the form as a supportive adult - you may be contacted by the workforce center to assist with the youth's enrollment.

Q: Can CBO's use the ARS referral system or is this just for DCFS? Any suggestions as to how orgs supporting foster youth can make referrals into a central entry point?

- The Universal Referral Form works best if you're not sure where the closest youth workforce center is to the youth's residence. If you do know the name of the closest workforce center, you can always reach out to the center directly by calling their publicly listed phone number.

Q: After completing TAY WOW & WIOA programs/internships/ Paid work experience what options are available for careers for current/former foster youth instead of jobs? Are there any accredited certification programs AJCC's (American Job Centers of California) offer for youth who want to transition into a career?

- The 120 hour paid work experience program is meant to be an opportunity to build early job skills AND explore career interests. Youth enrolling in Youth@Work (HireLA) should talk with their case manager about their career interests and ask to be placed at a work site related to their interests. The youth may find that the job was completely different from what they thought it would be and start thinking about different careers. That's perfectly ok! But if a youth is interested in continuing to train for a career, the workforce center can enroll the youth in the next level of services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. Through WIOA, AJCCs (YouthSource Centers) or workforce centers partner with schools and training programs to offer many types of vocational training, such as in nursing, welding, culinary, etc.

We would love to hear your ideas on how to better support youth in career pathways through these paid work experience programs. We also know there are sometimes gaps between policies and practices, so if you would be willing to speak with us or participate in a focus group, complete this interest form: <http://bit.ly/YCDsignup>

Q: Do work centers provide employment opportunities for foster youth with special needs such as Regional Center clients, other disabilities?

- The California Department of Rehabilitation operates its own workforce programs with special services and training to meet the needs of youth and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. If a youth has an IEP or 504 plan, they are eligible for workforce services provided by the Department of Rehab. [Check out the flyer here.](#) Complete the [Universal Referral Form](#) and check off if the youth has an IEP or 504 plan. Youth must be enrolled in school in order to be referred to the Department of Rehab youth workforce program.

Q: What ways are there to better connect with caregivers?

- If you are a workforce center and are having difficulty contacting the caregiver listed on the youth's referral form, contact the social worker listed on the referral form and ilp.jobs@dcfs.lacounty.gov.

- [Check out our Fostering Careers guide](#) for caregivers - contact info@laoyc.org if you have a group of caregivers interested in learning how to use the guides.

Q: Could there be a caregiver and a youth on a panel like this in the future to bring in their voice and perspective?

- Great idea! If you are working with any youth that you think would be great to feature on a panel, we would love to connect with you! Contact info@laoyc.org.

Additional Resources

- Case Study: [Improving Equitable Employment Outcomes for Transition-Age Youth in LA County](#)
- [Vital Records Resource Sheet](#)