

# Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Foster Youth Initiative Fund Resource Guide



California Youth Connection  
Center For Non-Violent Education &  
Parenting (Echo)  
Educating Students Together  
Fostering UNITY  
Happy Trails for Kid  
The RightWay Foundation  
Upward Bound House

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Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Foster Youth  
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Trust Company

# California Youth Connection

## Mission

Founded in 1988, California Youth Connection (CYC) is a member-led organization comprised of youth ages 14-24 who have experienced foster care, and who come together to build community, organize, and advocate for improvements to the foster care, education, juvenile justice, mental health, and other public systems with which they interact.

## Services Description

**Youth Training Project/Training Department:** One of our core programs through which we train, develop and engage our members while also simultaneously providing cutting-edge youth-centered education to child welfare professionals. Targeting individuals working with foster and juvenile justice youth, including social workers, probation officers, resource parents, educators, judges, case managers, group home staff and other community workers, we train on an array of topics from positive youth development, sex education and engaging youth in healthy sexual development, and the roots and perpetuation of systemic racism in the foster care system, among others.

**Policy & Legislative Committee:** Elevates CYC's leaders' collective priorities and perspectives through the participation of youth who have experienced foster care directly engaging in legislative, policy, and practice transformation. This committee maintains strategic relationships, acts as a liaison between statewide and local policy activities, and shapes our organizational policy and legislative platform each year.

**Local Organizing/Member Engagement:** Using a chapter-based model that spans from San Diego to Humboldt, our member engagement team helps to develop the leadership and interpersonal skills of young people by engaging them in local organizing around policy issues in their own communities. In tandem with our statewide policy work, our local advocacy (led by our members) helps to shape and drive our legislative priorities each year.

**Eligibility:** We work with young people who have experienced the foster care system ages 14-24 (for any period of time). Youth must reside within California.

**Intake Process:** We currently do not have a waitlist. Interested youth submit an interest form with answers to a series of simple questions. Upon receipt, a geographically appropriate community advocacy coordinator will reach out to conduct a short interview. Following this conversation, they will then submit a more formal membership form.

### Contact Info:

[mmiller@calyouthconn.org](mailto:mmiller@calyouthconn.org), [janaye@calyouthconn.org](mailto:janaye@calyouthconn.org), [info@calyouth.org](mailto:info@calyouth.org)

Phone: 510-920-3557

Hours of Operation: 9-5, M-F

Website: <https://calyouthconn.org>

## Center For Non-Violent Education & Parenting (Echo)

### Mission

Our mission is to educate families, communities and professionals about trauma and resilience in order to promote survivor empowerment, resolve individual- and community-level trauma, and create the safe, stable nurturing relationships that break the cycle of generational trauma.

### Services Description

**Trauma-informed nonviolent parenting class series:** 10 classes online in English or Spanish. Certificate of completion is DCFS- and court-eligible. Cost is \$99; free for foster or former foster youth. No age or other restrictions.

Curriculum addresses generational trauma as well as other adverse experiences and resilience-building. Caregivers are taught how to create a better relationship with their child, how to optimize brain and emotional development, how to remain emotionally regulated during difficult conversations and conflict, and how to set limits while staying connected.

**Professional development trainings:** Online and virtual training in trauma and resilience and body-based trauma treatment modalities. Cost ranges between \$19-\$65. Topics include: Trauma Responses, Yoga for Trauma Recovery, Havening, Emotional Freedom Techniques (tapping), and Trauma-informed Mindfulness.

**Eligibility:** No requirements. Parenting classes are available in English and Spanish.

**Intake Process:** Registration for expectant and parenting foster or former foster youth is online at [www.echotraining.org](http://www.echotraining.org). Enter the code (HILTON) to bypass payment.

**Contact Info:**

[info@echotraining.org](mailto:info@echotraining.org)

(213) 484-6676 (Mon-Fri, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm)

[www.echotraining.org](http://www.echotraining.org)

# Educating Students Together (EST)

## Mission

Educating Students Together's College Access Program increases the access, retention, and graduation of foster and low-income youth at four-year colleges, putting them on the pathway to successful careers and ending the generational cycle of poverty. Since 2002, Educational Student Tours (EST) College Access Program has been empowering economically disadvantaged BIPOC youth, particularly those in foster care, to pursue and achieve their dreams of a college education.

## Services Description

**College Application Support:** Our experience shows us that foster youth need a mentor during the college application process, especially since the majority of high schools have just one college counselor for the entire school. Program participants are helped in five main areas of the college-going process: taking the right classes, building college lists, essays, applications, and scholarships/financial aid.

**High School to College Bridge:** During the summer, students attend a mandatory seven-week financial literacy course taught by Loyola-Marymount University to learn budgeting, how to avoid credit card debt, and investing.

**College Persistence and Success:** While in college, program participants have regular check-ins with their assigned mentor via email, text, or Zoom. Mentors help students make connections to campus support services such as tutors, and counselors, or EST alumni attending the same college.

**Eligibility:** Foster youth or those in kinship care (grades 9 through 12). We do not have a GPA requirement. We work with students who are interested in college or careers that do not require a four-year college degree.

**Intake Process:** Students are asked to provide: name, email, cell phone, academic information, social information, goals after high school graduation, plans to reach the goals, and current issues/challenges. New in 2022, we will be adding career assessments (Strong-Campbell and Myers-Briggs) and teaching students about the Holland Codes to help our students match their personalities to appropriate occupational environments.

### Contact Info:

Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, Chief Program Officer

(310) 215-9522 office

(818) 261-6832 cell

[www.estcap.org](http://www.estcap.org)

Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

# Fostering UNITY

## Mission

Fostering UNITY improves outcomes for children in foster care through child-centered family strengthening programs, enhanced community partnerships, and intentional caregiver support. We cultivate community partnerships to best serve Los Angeles County Resource Parents and the children/youth they care for so that caregivers feel supported, valued, and heard, thereby enhancing caregiver retention and placement stability.

## Services Description

**C.A.R.E Help Line:** Serves as real-time response support for Caregivers/Resource Parents and is designed to support the unique needs of Caregivers/ Resource Parents. Staffed 24/7: [\(213\) 269-0000](tel:(213)269-0000).

**C.A.R.E Service Specialists (CSS):** In partnership with the California Foster Youth Initiative AmeriCorps Program, CSS are experienced caregivers who have been trained as peer mentors to support caregivers through trauma-informed parent coaching; support for expecting and parenting youth; child and family team meeting support; self-care & mindfulness techniques; navigating the child welfare system & court system; children & youth rights education; reunification and placement transition.

**Referral Form** <https://fosteringunity.org/referral-form>

**Purposeful Placements:** Intentionally matches the needs of children/youth in foster care with the family best suited to provide an environment to heal and grow. Visit our supportive, private [Facebook Group](#).

Referral form for agencies wanting Fostering UNITY to post Purposeful Placements

<https://fosteringunity.org/purposeful-placements>

**Weekly Virtual Support:** Open to all relative, non-relative, and adoptive families, these virtual events offer caregiver support and resource sharing. <https://fosteringunity.org/our-programs>

*Coffee With Caregivers:* Wednesdays at 1:30 pm

*La Hora de Charlar:* Mondays at 11:00 am

*Tomorrow's About You-Youth Mentoring:* Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

**Eligibility:** Programs open to all Los Angeles County child-welfare-impacted families and the children/youth they care for. Youth ages 12-21 are eligible to participate in our Tomorrow's About You- youth mentoring program. Programs are available in English and Spanish.

**Intake Process:** Fostering UNITY does not have a wait list and prioritizes real-time responses to service needs in order to best support the families and youth we serve.

### Contact Info:

Dayna Freier, Director of Operations

213-434-0069

[dayna@fosteringunity.org](mailto:dayna@fosteringunity.org)

Monday- Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

# Happy Trails for Kids

## Mission

Founded in 1993, Happy Trails for Kids transforms the lives of children and youth impacted by foster care by building a supportive community through the magic of camp and year-round educational, skills-based and extracurricular programming.

## Services Description

**Camping:** (1) Overnight Summer Camp – Campers ages 7 through 18 reunite with siblings, friends and supportive counselors for an immersive experience in nature and new adventures; (2) Winter Camp – an annual retreat that brings holiday cheer and reinforces camper connections.

**Year-Round Programming:** We also offer year-round educational, cultural and outdoor social programming activities to engage and expose youth to experiences that they might not otherwise have. Through these continued engagements, we build the trust and relationships that are vital in the lives of our campers.

**Trails to Success:** Serves older campers, junior counselors and camp counselors, ages 12 through 24, throughout Los Angeles County. The program offers varied levels of involvement and participation and offers skills-based workshops, leadership development, and individualized counselor support, reinforcing to youth that they never “age out” of Happy Trails.

### Eligibility:

Happy Trails for Kids serves youth who are experiencing foster care. We serve youth from all geographic regions within Los Angeles.

### Intake Process:

There is no formal intake process. Youth enter our program initially through our Campership Program. To receive a camp application or join our program email list, please contact our Program Director, September Sucher at 310-650-5943 or at [September@happytrailsforkids.org](mailto:September@happytrailsforkids.org)

### Contact Info:

Lindsay Elliott, Executive Director  
310-452-7979

[Lindsay@happytrailsforkids.org](mailto:Lindsay@happytrailsforkids.org)

[www.happytrailsforkids.org](http://www.happytrailsforkids.org)

# The RightWay Foundation

## Mission

The RightWay Foundation offers programs for transition-age foster youth and re-entry youth (ages 18-26) designed to address trauma, support successful employment, and promote healing and self-sufficiency in adulthood. We envision a future where foster youth are afforded the necessary resources to thrive and build a better tomorrow, grounded in mental health and solidified through employment.

## Services Description

**Operation Emancipation (OE)** is a 32-hour workshop that integrates trauma-focused mental health services, employment services/job placement, life skills training, career counseling, supportive services, and follow-up case management to provide foster youth with a support system. Upon completion, participants work with case managers to connect them with training, internships, employment, etc. and receive ongoing therapy.

**Operation Second Chance** is the same as OE, but for justice system-impacted re-entry youth .

**Operation Housing First** provides one year of subsidized housing to employed but unhoused and/or housing-insecure Operation Emancipation graduates

### Eligibility:

RightWay youth must be (1) either current or former Los Angeles County DCFS foster youth or Los Angeles County criminal justice impacted re-entry youth, and (2) between the ages of 18-26 when they begin participation in Operation Emancipation.

### Intake Process:

Intake is done Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (and Friday by appointment only) at both locations. There is no wait list.

### Contact Info:

Baldwin Hills location (Headquarters)  
3650 W Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., #195  
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Long Beach location  
4401 Atlantic Ave Suite 214  
Long Beach, CA 90807

(323) 903-5021

[info@therightwayfoundation.org](mailto:info@therightwayfoundation.org)

[www.therightwayfoundation.org](http://www.therightwayfoundation.org)

# Upward Bound House

## Mission

UBH serves families experiencing homelessness, including those headed by transition-age youth (TAY) ages 18-24, providing different types of shelter and rapid re-housing services. Priority populations: 1) pregnant and/or parenting youth ages 18-24 and 2) parents with children.

## Services Description

### SPA 5 Programs

Crisis Housing: Offers emergency shelter and supportive services for up to 18 families at a time through Family Shelter in Culver City.

Transitional Housing: Family Place in Santa Monica offers shelter (up to 12 months) and essential supportive services to address families' immediate and longer-term self-sufficiency needs.

### SPA 6 Programs

Crisis Housing: Offers emergency shelter and supportive services for up to 36 families at a time via four facilities in South LA.

Bright Futures Maternity Group Home: Serves pregnant and parenting youth - up to 14 at a time at two sites in South LA – through transitional housing (up to 36 months) enriched with life skills, education, employment and permanent housing services.

Rapid Re-Housing: Based in Compton and South LA, the program moves homeless families into permanent housing as quickly as possible by providing apartment search assistance and financial aid and time-limited case management services.

**Eligibility:** Households must either meet HUD's homeless definition; be fleeing domestic violence or other life-threatening situations (e.g., human trafficking); or be living on the streets, in a shelter, or in another place not meant for human habitation. For non-TAY programs, parents must have custody of a minor child or be in the second trimester of their pregnancy. No income restrictions. Geographic restrictions: LA County, with a focus on SPAs 5 and 6.

**Intake Process:** Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

UBH uses both Coordinated Entry System standard intake forms and internal forms. No wait list.

**Contact Info:** [www.upwardbounhouse.org](http://www.upwardbounhouse.org)

Bright Futures and other shelter referrals:  
Brenda Thomas, Assoc. Dir. of Interim Housing  
[bthomas@upwardboundhouse.org](mailto:bthomas@upwardboundhouse.org)  
(310) 415-7575

Rapid rehousing referrals:  
Karen Acfalle, Assoc. Dir. of Permanent Housing  
[kacfalle@upwardboundhouse.org](mailto:kacfalle@upwardboundhouse.org)  
(310) 878-7903