Foster Youth: Apply for California Community College Early or Lose Money!

Are you planning to attend community college in 2014? Don’t wait! Apply early to ensure access to Priority Enrollment and Financial Aid!

Application Process

• Apply through www.cccapply.org by January for the following fall in order to complete the process in time to access priority enrollment (which takes place in the spring for the fall term). Students who miss this deadline can still apply but early application is strongly encouraged.

Financial Aid

• Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), CalGrant GPA Verification Form and Chafee grant application between January 1st and March 2nd for maximum financial aid. Students who miss the March 2nd deadline should still apply but early application is strongly encouraged as some grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Priority Enrollment

• To be eligible for priority enrollment, youth must complete placement testing, participate in a college orientation session and meet with an academic counselor to create an educational plan.

• Youth should bring their high school and/or college transcripts, proof of high school or GED completion and ward of the court documentation to their first counseling appointment and verify that they’ve been flagged for priority enrollment. Youth should attend the counseling appointment even if they do not have all the documentation at that time. The more documentation they have however, the more streamlined their enrollment process will be.

Student Support

• The Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) provides a point of contact at every CA community college to advocate and assist youth. For the most current listing of FYSI liaisons click here.

• Every CA Community College has an EOPS program that can provide additional support to foster youth. Programs fill up, so apply early and check with your college for specific deadlines.

• Various other student service programs are available to support youth in achieving success in their academic endeavors. Click here for additional information.

Career Technical Education

• In addition to offering associate degrees and preparation to transfer to a four-year university or college, Community colleges offer a variety of career-focused education programs to jump-start a career. Career technical education programs are normally 6 to 18 months in length. To explore career options visit www.whodouwant2b.com or www.cacareercafe.com.

For more information see the California Community College Foster Youth Resource Guide or visit www.cacolleagepathways.org.

Brought to you by the California Foster Youth Education Task Force, Post-Secondary Education Committee