UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Wiener:

Pursuant to Section 92663 of the Education, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on Former Foster Youth State Budget Allocation, 2022–23.

If you have any questions, Interim Associate Vice President and Director Cain Diaz would be pleased to speak with you. Cain can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9350, or by email at Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

Enclosure

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
        The Honorable John Laird, Chair
        Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
           (Attn: Mr. Christopher Francis)
           (Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)
         The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair
         Assembly Education Finance Subcommittee #3
            (Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)
            (Attn: Ms. Sarah Haynes)
        Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
        Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
        Ms. Rebecca Lee, Department of Finance
        Ms. Gabriela Chavez, Department of Finance
        Ms. Jennifer Louie, Department of Finance
        Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office
        Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office

Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt
Interim Associate Vice Provost Cynthia Davalos
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Interim Senior Vice President Michael Reese
Vice President Pamela Brown
Interim Associate Vice President and Director Cain Diaz
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Former Foster Youth State Budget Allocation Academic Year 2022–23
Legislative Report

Introduction

This report is submitted by the University of California (UC) in compliance with Section 92663 of the Education Code, which states in part:

> *(f) Commencing March 31, 2024, and every two years thereafter, the office of the President of the University of California shall submit a report to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee describing all of the following:*
>
> *(1) Efforts during the previous academic year to serve students who are foster youth and former foster youth, including uses of the funding allocated pursuant to subdivision (a) and uses of other internal and external resources supporting foster youth services.*
>
> *(2) Enrollment, retention, and completion rate data for students who are foster youth and former foster youth and participated in programs funded pursuant to this section on a campus-by-campus basis, and other metrics as appropriate.*
>
> *(3) As feasible, systemwide data on enrollment, retention, and completion rates for students who are foster youth and former foster youth and participated in programs funded pursuant to this section, and other metrics as appropriate, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.*

This report provides information about The Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 179) and its allocation of new, ongoing state General Fund resources to support former foster youth programs and services. A total of $6 million was allocated, on an ongoing basis, to support foster youth programs, with the guidance that a campus program may provide services to enrolled students who are foster youth or former foster youth. Campuses received their allocation between December of 2022 and January of 2023. This report details the use and impact of the funds, by campus, from the time they received funding until June 2023 (a six-month period).

Former Foster Youth Programs Systemwide

Eight campuses already had foster youth and former foster youth support programs, prior to the State allocation of funds. Two campuses—UC San Francisco, a graduate and professional student campus, and UC Santa Cruz—were able to establish their programs as a result of having received these funds. Program names vary from Guardian Scholars Program (UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, and UC San Francisco) to Hope Scholars (UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Cruz) and Foster Youth Resilience in Education (UC Irvine).

Each campus is independently responsible for defining eligibility criteria for these programs, but all have come to adopt similar criteria. Students qualify if they have current or prior involvement of any duration in foster care, regardless of their age at entrance into or exit from care. They also are eligible to participate if they were supervised by child welfare or youth probation as a ward of the court, or whether they were placed in home or out of home. In addition to these criteria, the students must be registered for the next regular term at the UC campus where they are receiving services.

Students are identified for participation in these programs through a combination of self-reporting on admissions applications and financial aid forms and referral from collaborating campus support services.

Funding

Annual, ongoing campus allocations are displayed in the table below. Allocations will be revisited every three years to incorporate updated data and information about enrollment, student participation, and outcomes. In making allocations, the UC Office of President (UCOP) sought to provide a base allocation for a staff director or a similar coordinator-position salary and benefits, plus basic operational costs to every eligible campus, along with equity funding based on estimates of each student population.

Table 1. Annual UC Campus Funding Allocations for Foster Youth Programs and Services, AY 2022-23

CAMPUS	BASE ALLOCATION	Estimated Number of Former Foster Students	Share of Former Foster Students	Equity-based Funding	TOTAL ALLOCATION
BERKELEY	$250,000	184	11%	$401,000	$651,000
DAVIS	$250,000	210	13%	$458,000	$708,000
IRVINE	$250,000	145	9%	$316,000	$566,000
LOS ANGELES	$250,000	277	17%	$604,000	$854,000
MERCED	$250,000	108	7%	$235,000	$485,000
RIVERSIDE	$250,000	222	14%	$484,000	$734,000
SAN DIEGO	$250,000	191	12%	$416,000	$666,000
SAN FRANCISCO	$250,000	—	0%	—	$250,000
SANTA BARBARA	$250,000	156	10%	$340,000	$590,000
SANTA CRUZ	$250,000	113	7%	$246,000	$496,000

In the fall of 2022, each campus submitted a three-year funding plan. The State budget allocation is the primary source of financial support for all ten foster youth support programs in the UC system. Additional funding sources include campus funding, grants, private donations, and student fees. In general, funding sources are not designated to individual initiatives but are used collectively to produce the programs and services enumerated in the examples below. UC San Francisco is the only program solely funded by the State funding allocation.

Funds were dispersed to campuses over the course of December 2022 and January 2023, and in addition to hiring career staff, each campus enhanced its program plans and offerings to include a range of services and supports during the first year of funding:

- Student professional development
- Community-building events
- Educational workshops
- Priority enrollment
- Scholarships
- Case management

- Mentorship programs
- Summer Career Enrichment programs
- Conference registration and travel
- Graduation fee support and regalia
- Parking permits

- Culmination ceremonies for graduating students
- Program marketing
- Website production
- Fall orientation for new and continuing students
- Foster Youth Awareness Month
- Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

- Graduate school application fee support
- Graduate school application development services
- Basic needs support, including, but not limited to, rapid rehousing, summer housing, grocery cards, toiletries and personal hygiene essentials, and gas and transportation cards

New opportunities and services for foster you and former foster youth varied by campus. Key examples are:

- UC Berkeley created a summer grant funding program for former foster youth in addition to allocating research opportunity stipends for students.
- UC Davis created the Essential and Critical Needs Grant to assist students with expenses related to their essential needs, critical needs, or unexpected costs. Examples of support include, but are not limited to, gaps in housing, food/meal support, assistance with medical/dental/mental health care, utilities/personal bills, and transportation/auto repairs.
- UC Irvine committed a portion of its funding to emergency summer housing for sixteen students, to ensure they were housed between campus leasing contracts.
- UCLA created a professional development fund to assist all undergraduate students with professional development courses, test preparation courses, and test preparation materials to assist with their academic and professional planning post-undergraduate studies.
- UC Merced established a one-to-one mentoring program for participants in their Guardian Scholars program.
- UC Riverside offered textbook support for participants of their program.
- At UC San Diego, academic support for Hope Scholars was enhanced through the addition of licenses for the highly utilized Tutor Me online tutoring platform.
- UC San Francisco hired its first program-specific staff member to provide individualized case management for participants in their new Guardian Scholars program.
- UC Santa Barbara created a quarterly workshop for incoming students aimed at developing tools for navigating the transition from foster care into higher education and for how to prepare for post-graduation life.
- UC Santa Cruz onboarded three new career staff positions to support the program: an associate director, a case manager, and a program coordinator.

Staffing Structure

All nine undergraduate campuses had at least one full-time employee supporting former foster youth programs prior to the allocation of State funding. UC San Francisco employed an advisor who supported former foster youth students as well as students from other underserved populations. As a result of the budget allocation, UCSF has secured a dedicated advisor who is able to provide focused case management for these students. Beyond UCSF, each campus is in the process of expanding their career staff teams to continue as the primary point of service for foster youth at UC. The table below shows the number of full-time employees prior to the new funding, as well as the number of full-time employees added at each campus because of the funding.

Table 2. UC Campus Foster Youth Program Staffing Levels, AY 2022-23

CAMPUS	FTE PRIOR TO FUNDING	FTE HIRED OR IN PROCESS AY22–23	TOTAL PLANNED
BERKELEY	2	3	5
DAVIS	1	2	3
IRVINE	1	1	2
LOS ANGELES	2	1	3
MERCED	1	1	2
RIVERSIDE	1	3	4
SAN DIEGO	1	3	3
SAN FRANCISCO	0.5	1	2
SANTA BARBARA	2	2	4
SANTA CRUZ	2	2	4

Enrollment, Retention, and Completion Data

The table that follows shows participation data for each program, as well as the number of participants who persisted into the next term at the institution and those who graduated.

Table 3. UC Campus Foster Youth Program Participant Retention and Graduation, AY 2022-23

CAMPUS	PARTICIPATED	RETAINED	GRADUATED	% Retained or Graduated
BERKELEY	179	146	29	97.77%
DAVIS	99	56	36	92.93%
IRVINE	45	39	3	93.33%
LOS ANGELES	323	258	65	100%
MERCED	79	60	16	96.20%
RIVERSIDE	185	32[1]	8	n/a[1]
SAN DIEGO	58	32	8	68.97%
SAN FRANCISCO	9	8	1	100.00%
SANTA BARBARA	196	94	102	100.00%
SANTA CRUZ	34	26	3	85.29%

Currently, systemwide data on enrollment, retention, and completion rates for students who are foster youth and former foster youth are not disaggregated by race, ethnicity, or gender, to protect participants' identities. In the future, mindful of the need for uniformity in data collection, the year-two report will be designed so that this information can be responsibly reported.

Conclusion

The allocation of new ongoing State general fund resources made it feasible for every UC campus to have dedicated support services and programs for foster youth and former foster youth. In the initial year of funding, campuses thoughtfully developed three-year plans for the funding and dutifully set to work when they received the funds, developing necessary supports, programming, and engagement opportunities. The positive impact is demonstrated by the retention and graduation rates of program participants.

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[1] Retention data collected in AY22–23 only tracked new participants in the Guardian Scholars program. Future tracking will include all participants in the program.