

This follow-up flyer is being sent to foster youth who **may** qualify for a new state program, as well as their caregivers and social workers.

### **"The California Fostering Connections to Success Act" - Assembly Bill 12 (AB12)**

Starting January 1st, 2012, eligible foster youth who are 18 years old (or turn 18 years old in 2012) and are dependents of the juvenile court in out of home care **may** qualify for a voluntary program that enables them to have continued dependency as Non Minor Dependents. This also includes *certain* probation youth (who would transition from wards of the court to Non Minor Dependents) and youth with guardianship or adoption established after 16 years of age. Detailed information is available on the internet at: <http://www.cafosteringconnections.org/>

#### **Goals of the program**

- ✓ Maintain a safety net of support for young adults (18-20 years old) while encouraging them to experience independence in a secure and supervised living environment
- ✓ Provide young adults extended time as non-minor dependents to obtain education and employment training opportunities which will prepare them for successful transition into adulthood and self-sufficiency
- ✓ Assist young adults to avoid negative behaviors that can lead to adverse outcomes

#### **Benefits (from the age of 18-20)**

- ✓ Financial assistance in the form of monthly foster care payments and stipends (which generally match foster care/other payments)
- ✓ Access to a team that includes a caregiver as a mentor, social worker and independent Learning Program staff to help identify and pursue success in their educational and vocational pursuits

#### **Eligibility**

Starting Jan 1, 2012: 18 year olds in foster care (or in a guardianship/adoption established after their 16th birthday) may be eligible if:

- ✓ they agree to live in an approved placement location, AND at least one of the following:
- ✓ Work toward completion of high school or equivalent program (i.e. GED); OR
- ✓ Enrolled in college, community college or a vocational education program, OR
- ✓ Employed at least 80 hours per month; OR
- ✓ Participating in a program designed to assist in gaining employment; OR
- ✓ Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a diagnosed medical condition

**If youth is currently a dependent, their social worker will be contacting you in the future to discuss this program. If not, a staff member will follow-up.**

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