

Notice of major policy update

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2022-23 CA State Budget Prioritizes Foster Youth

\$48 million expansion to support college education

San Diego, July 6, 2022 – On June 30th, Governor Gavin Newsom signed California’s [\\$308 billion budget](#), which went into effect on July 1, 2022. This budget included multiple increases to foster youth support from [increased access transitional housing](#) to improved support for transitional-aged foster youth pursuing higher education.

The new budget includes a [\\$48 million expansion to college foster youth support](#). \$30 million was set aside for the [NextUp](#) program which provides services to current and former foster youth (increased from \$20 million to \$50 million), and an additional \$18 million for foster youth programs at University of California and California State University campuses.

Wesley House Student Residence is ready to provide interviews with experts on college foster youth including our in-house experts and our San Diego partners. We may also provide access to system-impacted youth pursuing a higher education.

The Need

Foster youth experience only an 8% graduation rate from colleges and universities. The reasons for this low number are myriad and include housing insecurity, food insecurity, difficulty maintaining meaningful employment, and the lack of a support system and access to resources.

Providing easy-to-navigate access to resources and academic and emotional support can be the difference between a student dropping out of college to meet their basic needs or graduating with a degree. Studies show that a higher education has a direct and positive impact on long-term health outcomes while creating opportunities to break the cycle of poverty ([health.gov](#)).

The Numbers

- According to [a 2021 study](#), **59% of San Diego college students** report experiencing housing insecurity.
- The same study reports **18% of San Diego college students** experiencing homelessness.
 - Homelessness includes living in a vehicle, couch-surfing, living in hotels, temporarily staying with family and/or friends, sleeping on the street, and generally not having a stable, secure place to live.
- A [5-year study](#) shows that foster students are more deeply impacted: **62%** experience food insecurity, **70%** experience housing insecurity.

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Please contact Joe Shumate at joseph@wesleysdsu.org or 310-903-7480 for more information or to arrange for interviews.

Wesley House Student Residence empowers qualifying students to achieve their goals through affordable housing and support services.