



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

James B. Milliken
President

June 4, 2026

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

universityofcalifornia.edu

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Laird:

Pursuant to Section 92663 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California’s annual report to the Legislature on *Foster Youth*.

If you have any questions, Associate Vice President 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,

James B. Milliken
President

Enclosure

- cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
- The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, Chair
- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
- (Attn: Mr. Diego Lopez)
- (Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)
- The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair
- Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
- (Attn: Mr. Christian Griffith)
- (Attn: Mr. Tobias Wolken)
- Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- Ms. Jessica Holmes, Department of Finance
- Ms. Jessica Deitchman, Department of Finance
- Ms. Gabriela Chavez, Department of Finance
- Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office
- Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office
- Ms. Florence Bouvet, Legislative Analyst’s Office
- Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
- Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt

CAMPUSES

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

MEDICAL CENTERS

- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- San Diego
- San Francisco

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Associate Vice Provost Cynthia Davalos
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner
Vice President Pamela Brown
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton
Associate Vice President Cain Diaz

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Former Foster Youth Program Legislative Report 2024–25

Introduction

This report fulfills the requirements of the Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 179) pertaining to the ongoing State allocation of \$6 million per year to support former foster youth programs and services at the University of California (see Appendix). This report details the use and impact of the funds serving the 2024–25 year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) by campus.

Former Foster Youth Programs at the University of California

All ten UC campuses have programs serving enrolled students who are foster youth or former foster youth. Students are identified for program eligibility via self-reporting on admissions applications, financial aid forms, updating their online accounts, and/or referrals from other campus support services. Six campuses' foster youth programs are named Guardian Scholars Program (UC Davis, UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UCSF, and UC Santa Barbara); three are named Hope Scholars (UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Cruz), and one is named Foster Youth Resilience in Education (UC Irvine). UC Riverside has an additional program, Foster Youth Scholars.

Funding

Campuses receive annual funding for their foster youth programs, including a base allocation and equity-based funding informed by the proportion of foster youth at each campus. This State allocation is the primary source of funding for each campus's foster youth programs, enabling campuses to build and stabilize services for this population. Nine campuses also receive some funding from grants, student fees, and private donations. However, UC San Francisco (UCSF)'s foster youth program is currently entirely State funded. As UCSF only offers postgraduate degrees, and the campus is significantly smaller than all other UC campuses, UCSF receives base funding only. Figure 1 provides information on annual allocations for each campus.

Figure 1.
UC Campus Funding Allocations for Foster Youth Programs and Services, 2024–25

CAMPUS	Base allocation	Equity-based funding	Total Allocation
Berkeley	250,000	401,000	651,000
Davis	250,000	458,000	708,000
Irvine	250,000	316,000	566,000
Los Angeles	250,000	604,000	854,000
Merced	250,000	235,000	485,000
Riverside	250,000	484,000	734,000
San Diego	250,000	416,000	666,000
San Francisco	250,000	—	250,000
Santa Barbara	250,000	340,000	590,000
Santa Cruz	250,000	246,000	496,000
TOTAL	2,500,000	3,500,000	6,000,000

Allocations are based on proportion of foster youth enrolled at each campus in 2022–23. Based on 2024–25 data and discussions with campus programs, allocations remain the same in 2025–26.

Programs

Campuses used State funds to create or build a variety of programs responsive to the needs of their community’s foster youth population. These programs provide academic, community-building, and other services to support foster youth in meeting their academic goals and basic needs. Programs made possible by State funding include, but are not necessarily limited to:

Academic Support

- Scholarships
- Study and resource spaces
- Tutoring and textbook lending
- Graduate school application support
- Student research opportunities

Student Services

- Emergency awards, including direct funding
- Customary and specialized orientation programs
- Mentorship programs

- Case management
- Skill-building workshops and events (such as financial aid, housing, and financial literacy)
- Community-building events
- Graduation events

Basic Needs

- Food security resources, including food pantries and grocery cards
- Housing security resources, including rapid rehousing support and summer and academic term break

Basic Needs (con't.)

- Transportation resources such as public transportation cards
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Technology access

State funding has provided a critical role in campuses' ability to provide these services in a high-quality and consistent manner. Campuses articulate that expanded services since State funding began have increased program participation and engagement, supported student retention and graduation, and provided critical staffing. Among the most common services provided are foster youth-specific orientation programs, basic needs support, mental health support, and scholarships or grants.

Program Enrollment, Retention, and Completion

Foster youth programs at each UC campus support students in their academic goals, including retention and graduation. Figure 2 shows the estimated number of student foster youth program participants, the estimated number of participants who persisted into the next term at the institution, and the estimated number of participants who graduated or completed their programs in 2024–25. Cell sizes smaller than eleven are redacted to protect student privacy.

Figure 2.
UC Campus Foster Youth Program Participant Retention and Graduation, 2024–25

CAMPUS	PARTICIPATED	RETAINED	GRADUATED¹
Berkeley	165	151	40
Davis	148	109	23
Irvine	95	93	14
Los Angeles	315	255	60
Merced	111	88	21
Riverside	150	146	Redacted
San Diego	66	47	11
San Francisco	14	14	Redacted
Santa Barbara	144	144	45
Santa Cruz	89	83	Redacted

These data confirm feedback from campus program directors and leads that the foster youth programs made possible by State funding have supported graduation, retention, and program participation. The majority of program participants were retained systemwide or graduated.

Figure 3 shows estimated foster youth program participation by ethnicity and sex for each campus, minus redacted categories. Cell sizes smaller than eleven are redacted to protect

¹ Due to minor differences in how campuses collect and analyze their data, some duplication may occur between retained and graduated students.

student privacy. UC Santa Barbara does not collect students' demographic data, so their data is not included in these counts. American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander categories have been excluded because the cell sizes for all campuses were smaller than eleven. Similarly, non-cisgender categories were excluded due to small cell sizes.

Figure 3.
UC Campus Foster Youth Program Participants by Ethnicity and Gender 2024–25

CAMPUS	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian	Black/ African American	White	Male	Female
Berkeley	73	24	18	35	57	103
Davis	66	19	30	23	30	106
Irvine	56	17	Redacted	Redacted	26	68
Los Angeles	113	35	49	49	62	247
Merced	31	Redacted	12	Redacted	37	46
Riverside²	100	10	16	20	N/A	N/A
San Diego	28	15	10	Redacted	16	Redacted
San Francisco	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted
Santa Barbara³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Cruz	40	Redacted	13	20	29	55

Conclusion

Ongoing State funding for foster youth programming enabled every UC campus to establish, maintain, and build critical dedicated support services and programs. Campuses developed resources and physical spaces responsive to their community needs, strengthened or created partnerships with campus and community organizations, and added critical staffing to support these students. High retention and graduation rates indicate the effectiveness of these services.

Nationally, up to 64 percent of foster youth enroll in college or other postsecondary programs, but only 8 to 12 percent of all foster youth complete a two or four-year degree by their late twenties. In contrast, approximately 49 percent of youth in the general population of this age group complete a degree. Systemwide at UC, at least 87 percent of foster youth program participants were retained and 233 students graduated in the 2024–25 year.

² UC Riverside is unable to provide data on gender or sex due to institutional protocols restricting access to certain disaggregated demographic data for student privacy.

³ UC Santa Barbara does not require students in foster youth programs to disclose ethnicity.

Appendix

Section 92663 of the Education Code 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.