



# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES MSW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



## **What is Foster Youth Services?**

The Foster Youth Services Program serves the unique educational needs of all San Francisco foster and probation youth residing in out-of-home care. Foster youth are children who are removed from the care of their parents primarily because of abuse and neglect that resulted from complex family, social and environmental conditions. Children in foster care move frequently among emergency shelters, foster family, guardian homes (kinship/relative or non-relative) and group homes. These changes often result in multiple school placements. Because of these complexities in their lives, many foster youth perform below grade level, are held back in school, and have lower graduation rates than their peers.

## **What is the FYS Intern Program?**

**FYS Interns** practice educationally focused, generalist case management of foster/probation youth and become knowledgeable about various social systems and SFUSD available student support services: SFUSD, Human Services Agency, Juvenile Probation Department, Juvenile Court, and community-based organizations. By understanding these larger systems, the FYS interns are able to advocate on behalf of their clients. Interns will provide individual and group interventions with students at the school site and/or foster care placement, participate in foster care events, attend Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, and consult with multidisciplinary team members. Interns' site supervisors are generally Wellness Center staff in the high schools or Learning Support Professionals in the elementary and middle schools.

## **What is an intern's role on the school campus?**

- Provide education focused case management with identified foster youth
- Assess the educational/life skills needs of assigned clients
- Establish clear goals and objectives and a plan for providing support services for each student
- Provide social and educational support services through collaboration with care provider, child welfare/probation worker, youth's attorney, school counselor, school nurse, and other adults involved with youth
- Attend and participate in meetings that are held on behalf of a student
- Advocate for student(s) in the assessment and provision of special education services or other modifications in school placement
- Inform care provider and child welfare worker/probation worker when there are concerns from the school regarding a child's welfare
- Consult with child welfare worker/probation officer regarding the need for a surrogate parent or a responsible adult when an educational rights representative is not represented or available
- Coordinate school based services in the event of a crisis
- Refer client to mentoring, tutoring, Independent Living Skills Program, and other school or community based services as needed
- Facilitate group interventions, student support groups, and/or foster youth resource information sessions

For more information please contact:

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