



Voices

YOUTH PROGRAMS

VOICES Services & The Impact of Authentic Youth Engagement

# VOICES Mission & Vision

*VOICES: A youth-developed, youth-led emancipation center focused on supporting current and former foster youth transition into healthy adulthood.*

VOICES Centers located in:

Sonoma County

Napa County

Solano County

Mobile Outreach in Alameda County

VOICES' mission is to empower underserved youth, ages 16-24, by utilizing holistic services throughout their transition from systems of care, while building a loving community and establishing a solid foundation for a healthy future. At the core of VOICES are youth-led programs designed to address the independent living, housing, education, employment, and wellness needs of transition-age youth.

VOICES Supports Over 2,800 Youth Annually Across the North Bay

# Unmet Needs of Transition Age Foster Youth

## The Basics:

- 1.Safe and affordable Housing
- 2.Sustainable Employment Opportunities
- 3.Safe mental health support services

## The Other Stuff:

- 1.Feeling prepared, connected and contributing
- 2.Youth believe they are valued and understood
- 3.Youth have life-long connections in supportive communities
- 4.Youth feel capable, loveable and worthy

## And Ultimately:

Youth lead each other and the community & youth leaders raise up the next generation

# VOICES Services

## Education and Employment Services:

- College & Career Exploration and Readiness
- GED support
- Financial Aid and Scholarships
- Pre-employment Skill Building
- Job Placement

## Housing & Independent Living Skills Programs:

- Housing Navigation
- Rental/Security Deposit Support
- Independent Livings Skills Program in Napa and Sonoma
- Guaranteed Basic Income Programming

## Wellness & Goal Setting:

- Health System Navigation
- One-on-one Wellness Support
- Workshops focused on wellness activities and eliminating toxic stress



# True and Authentic Youth Leadership

- The VOICES Napa Housing Navigator works to leverage THP funds, FUP Vouchers, SILP payments and other housing subsidies to support youth in finding, and staying in, housing. The Housing Navigator supports Burbank Housing with the case management of 14 TAY units at the Valley Lodge property in Napa.
- VOICES staff youth led Wellness Centers at five high schools throughout Napa. When students comes to the Wellness Center, they are greeted by a recent graduate that is there to listen and support.
- VOICES Solano has youth-led Street Outreach Programs that supports youth that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The team meets youth wherever they are.
- VOICES Solano partners with the Vallejo Police Department as part of a recidivism-reduction effort.
- VOICES Sonoma Youth Advocates are working with the County IT Department and IBM to develop a mobile-responsive web app specifically designed for transition-aged youth. A key goal is to provide this population with their primary need: a digital document repository.

# The Real Impact

## Enhanced Outcomes for Youth

- Comprehensive Understanding of Needs
- Whole Person Approach

## Public Sector Accountability

- Youth Advocates Working onsite at Child Welfare
- Youth-Led Systems Change

## Bringing Up the Next Generation of Leaders

- Youth Feel Capable, Lovable and Worthy
- Healthy Adults/Parents

