

What we believe -

# EVERY YOUNG ADULT IS FULLY VALUED



## Our Goals

The Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB12) provides exciting new opportunities to support foster youth as they forge their way into the world as young adults. As of January 1, 2012, many of these young people will have the option of continued services and supports. This landmark legislation is intended to more fully prepare youth for the transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency rather than serve as an extension of traditional foster care.

### Our goals for implementing AB12:

- Ensure young adults leave foster care with the social, emotional and practical skills to achieve their potential and succeed in life.
- Create a system where young adults' individual and collective needs are respected and VALUED.

## Our Values

In implementing AB12, we embrace six core values. Each of these is powerful in its own right - and collectively they reinforce and reflect what will be possible for young adults because of AB12. We affirm as a community that every one of these young people is completely and fully VALUED.

## Voices of Young Adults:

- **The voices of young adults truly matter.** It's about listening to and really hearing what's important to them - and then helping them to act on that. Every aspect of these young lives counts, including educational goals, meaningful work experiences, and permanent, loving and dependable adult relationships.

## Assistance & Partnering:

- **Young people often need active assistance - and real partnerships - to reinforce and support learning as they transition into adulthood.** This is an opportunity to support young adults in taking charge of their lives and futures - working with them on relationships, problem solving, personal responsibility and skill building to ensure they will thrive. We may need to transform the ways in which we work, emphasizing supports rather than supervision, to ensure that everyone is truly working together to provide needed guidance and assistance through youth focused and youth centered programs.

## Love & Belonging:

- **Everyone needs someone.** We all need someone who loves us unconditionally and on whom we can depend. Family and loved ones provide a foundation and help enable young adults to realize their potential. Our job is to ensure that every young adult has a family or caring and committed relationships with adults who can support and guide him or her in life.

## Unique Needs:

- **Every young adult is unique.** Some may require intensive levels of support and assistance, while others may need more guidance and skill building to achieve their goals. Providing individualized attention helps to ensure successful transitions. AB12 aims to be a safety net for the most vulnerable youth struggling with transitioning to adulthood.

## Eligibility:

- **Young adults should have access to every available service.** Our community is committed to supporting programs and policies that cover all eligible young adults - and helping them to secure all needed, allowed and available services and supports.

## Development:

- **Challenges, pitfalls and experimentation are part of the process of becoming an adult.** The ways in which we relate to these young adults must balance the need to protect and guide them with their rights and responsibilities as legal adults. Young people need to explore their own abilities and be accountable for their mistakes. They must be allowed to experience logical consequences knowing that if they stumble - no matter the cause - they can find help, support and guidance from accepting adults.

