



# TAY AmeriCorps Fact Sheet



## Our Challenge

Over 10,000 transition-age youth (TAY) live in LA County and the Bay Area. Less than 20% of them feel prepared to be independent and self-sufficient. As a result, within 4 years of aging out: 50% are unemployed and those employed earn less than \$7,500; 50% experience homelessness; 70% will be on government assistance. These outcomes can be traced back to TAY not being able to achieve academic, economic or self-sufficiency milestones while they are in care.

Attainment Measures	TAY	Low SES	General
<b>High School Attainment</b>			
% proficient or above CA Standards Test - English	29%	40%	53%
% proficient or above CA Standards Test - Math	37%	50%	60%
% who passed both English and Math for Exit Exam	49%	66%	76%
% who drop out of High School	33%	14%	13%
<b>College Attainment</b>			
Persist in community college for at least 1 year	41%	48%	62%
% with at least an AA degree by age 26	8%	47%	
<b>Employment</b>			
Unemployment (at age 19)	67%	12%	8%
Worked in the last week for pay	15%	n/a	n/a
<b>Self-Sufficiency</b>			
% youth feel ready to be independent when aging out	20%		

These results are despite the fact that resources and supports exist. Unfortunately, only 33% of TAY say they receive sufficient educational support services while in high school. Only 27% of TAY on college campuses access their Guardian Scholar or EOPS programs. And despite a mandate that every CA ILP-eligible foster youth are connected to WIA and EDD centers, only 11% of TAY access youth workforce centers for jobs skills training, internships, and job placement.

## TAY AmeriCorps Program Overview

TAY AmeriCorps is a county-wide program targeted at providing peer support to LA County and the Bay Area’s transition-age foster youth (TAY, ages 14 to 23) to help them successfully transition to independence. TAY AmeriCorps will deploy 150 trained current and former foster youth (ages 18-23) a year as paid AmeriCorps service members to partner agencies at high schools, colleges, and youth workforce centers to augment their capacity to support TAY achieving key life goals of: academic persistence, employment, and self-sufficiency.

### 2019 Goals

- 6,000 TAY will be outreached to and informed of resources
- 3,500 TAY will be connected to academic, employment and self-sufficiency resources
- 2,000 TAY will follow through to consume the resource
- 85% find the resources they received useful
- 75% will show improvement in academics, employment, and/or self-sufficiency



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### TAY AmeriCorps Member Role

The Member role is to connect TAY to the resources they need (programs, services, supportive adults) to achieve academic, employment, and self-sufficiency success through: outreach, resource navigation, follow-up while developing a peer supportive relationship. Service roles are focused on High School Attainment, College Attainment, Employment, and Self-Sufficiency. Service roles are designed to develop Members' job skills competencies as a pathway to careers in the public sector.

- a. Outreach : Conduct outreach activities to TAY in high schools, on college campuses, and in youth workforce centers
- b. Resource Navigation: Connect TAY to a suite of relevant resources based on their academic, employment and self-sufficiency needs using a standardized needs assessment checklist and suite of resources.
- c. Follow-Up: Follow-up with TAY and resource provider to ensure TAY has been connected and collect feedback on utility and impact.
- d. Check In: Regular check ins with clients (monthly or as deemed appropriate by client) to check if additional resources are needed, inform them of new resources, and build a supportive peer relationship

### Member Training and Support

- Members undergo 30 hours of core training covering AmeriCorps and National Service; basic jobs skills training focused on development of 7 critical soft skills with an emphasis on effective communication with peers as clients, with peers as service colleagues, with supervisors, and with other stakeholders; Resource Navigation training on a standard suite of academic, employment, and self-sufficiency resources; Self-Care training on dealing and managing secondary trauma.
- Members serve Monday to Thursday – 4 hours during school, 8 hours out-of-school; with Friday reserved for Member professional development
- Members receive weekly coaching and professional development training in 6 competency areas: self-efficacy and leadership; communications, social and professional skills; financial literacy;; community network; education planning; and career exploration
- Members are provided with 2:1 direct supervision with managers who have experience working with, supervising, and coaching TAY
- Member Specialists provide regular “nudges” to ensure Members are meeting their scheduled commitments, provide any supports needed, and mentoring
- Members can serve up to 4 years with expanding responsibilities each year

### Host Sites

Members work at host sites who already serve TAY helping to increase the number of TAY using their services. Host sites have deep experience in working with TAY and are committed to providing the direct supervision and coaching support to develop TAY AmeriCorps into peer leaders and capable of earning public sector positions after their service.