

UNITED4YOUTH



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UNITED FOR YOUTH COLLABORATIVE OVERVIEW

Transforming outcomes for foster youth across San Diego County

United for Youth is a countywide partnership uniting more than 40 organizations to transform outcomes for foster youth across San Diego County. Through collaboration, shared data, and coordinated services, these partners align efforts around three key pillars: employment, housing, and mentorship. Together, they will support more than 500 transition-age youth (ages 16–28) over the next two years.

EPIC Collaborative - Empowering Positive Impact & Connections

Co-Leads: Promises2Kids & Just in Time for Foster Youth

Collaborators: Home Start, John Burton Advocates for Youth, Junior Achievement, Lifeline Community Services, San Diego Workforce Partnership, YMCA

Focus: Employment • Housing • Mentorship

The EPIC Collaborative serves as the central hub for United for Youth, operated by its two co-leads. Promises2Kids coordinates shared data and assessments, while Just In Time hosts the 24/7 "digital front door" for the U4Y community. This portal connects youth to vital services including workforce training, paid employment, mentorship, and housing assistance, especially for those who fall outside existing County programs.

Urban Street Angels & Youth Assistance Coalition

Co-Leads: Urban Street Angels & Youth Assistance Coalition

Collaborators: Doors of Change, Oasis Clubhouse, CARE Community Center, Chef Angels, Be A Friend Mentorship, Townspeople, Stand Up for Kids, Humble Design, City College, Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges, SDCCE

Focus: Employment • Housing • Mentorship

As the initiative's key 'front door,' Youth Assistance Coalition's drop-in center offers immediate emergency support and a safe, welcoming space. Urban Street Angels provides a full housing continuum that helps youth move from crisis to stability, pairing housing with workforce development, trade school access, mentorship, and case management to foster long-term independence.

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Resilience Project

Co-Leads: Center for Positive Changes & Varsity Team

Collaborators: Vehicles4Change, Garden 31, Kitchens4Good, California Coast Credit Union, Center 4 Progressive Wellness, Amal's House, Milestone House, Koinonia Family Services, SDCOE: Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCPs), CSUSM ACE Scholars, SDCCD Next Up/EOPS, The Mental Bar, Robinson Family Services (RFS), 37 ECB JCCS School, Able2Work, San Diego County CFWB

Focus: Employment • Housing Stability • Mentorship

The Resilience Project delivers early intervention for youth ages 16–24 who are justice-involved or in group homes, helping them transition successfully into Extended Foster Care. Through intensive case management and advocacy, the project works to stabilize housing and prevent premature exits from care—laying a stronger foundation for adulthood.

Friends of the Children

Co-Leads: Friends of the Children

Collaborators: N/A

Focus: Mentorship

Friends of the Children provides long-term, professional mentorship for the children of current or former foster youth engaged in United for Youth. Each child is paired with a full-time, salaried mentor—called a 'Friend'—for 12+ years, from kindergarten through high school, building stability, resilience, and opportunity across generations.

Collective Impact: 40+ organizations | 7 lead agencies | \$5 million investment | 500 youth served

United for Youth is powered by the Lucky Duck Foundation, Prebys Foundation, and David C. Copley Foundation, representing one of the most collaborative and data-driven efforts to prevent youth homelessness in San Diego's history.

Learn more or get involved at LuckyDuckFoundation.org/UnitedForYouth