



Bridging the Digital Divide for CA Foster Youth



Foster Youth are the most at-risk population



Source: California Child Welfare CWS/CMS 2018 Quarterly Extract, as of April 1, 2018, Chapin Hall CalYouth Study 2016 & 2018, Opportunity Youth Network, 2017

- ~60,000 children & youth in foster care in California; ~20,000 are 16 to 21
- 25% will not complete high school

Within 4 years of aging out:

- 50% are unemployed
- Those employed earn <\$7,500/year
- 50% will experience homelessness
- 70% will be on government assistance
- Less than 3% will earn a college degree

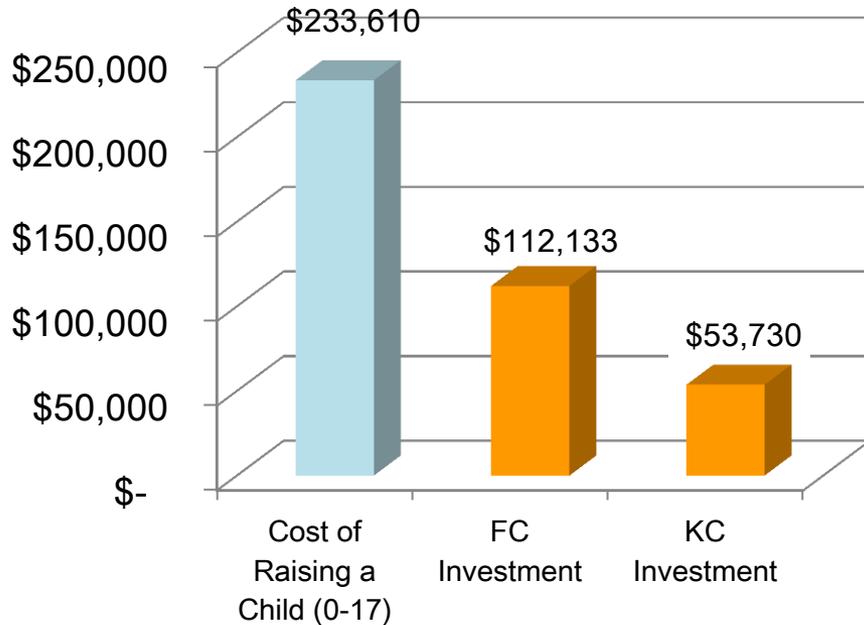


- Cost to California = \$381 Million / year

iFoster turns surviving into thriving

iFoster's mission is to ensure that every child growing up outside to their biological home has the resources and opportunities they need to become successful, independent adults.

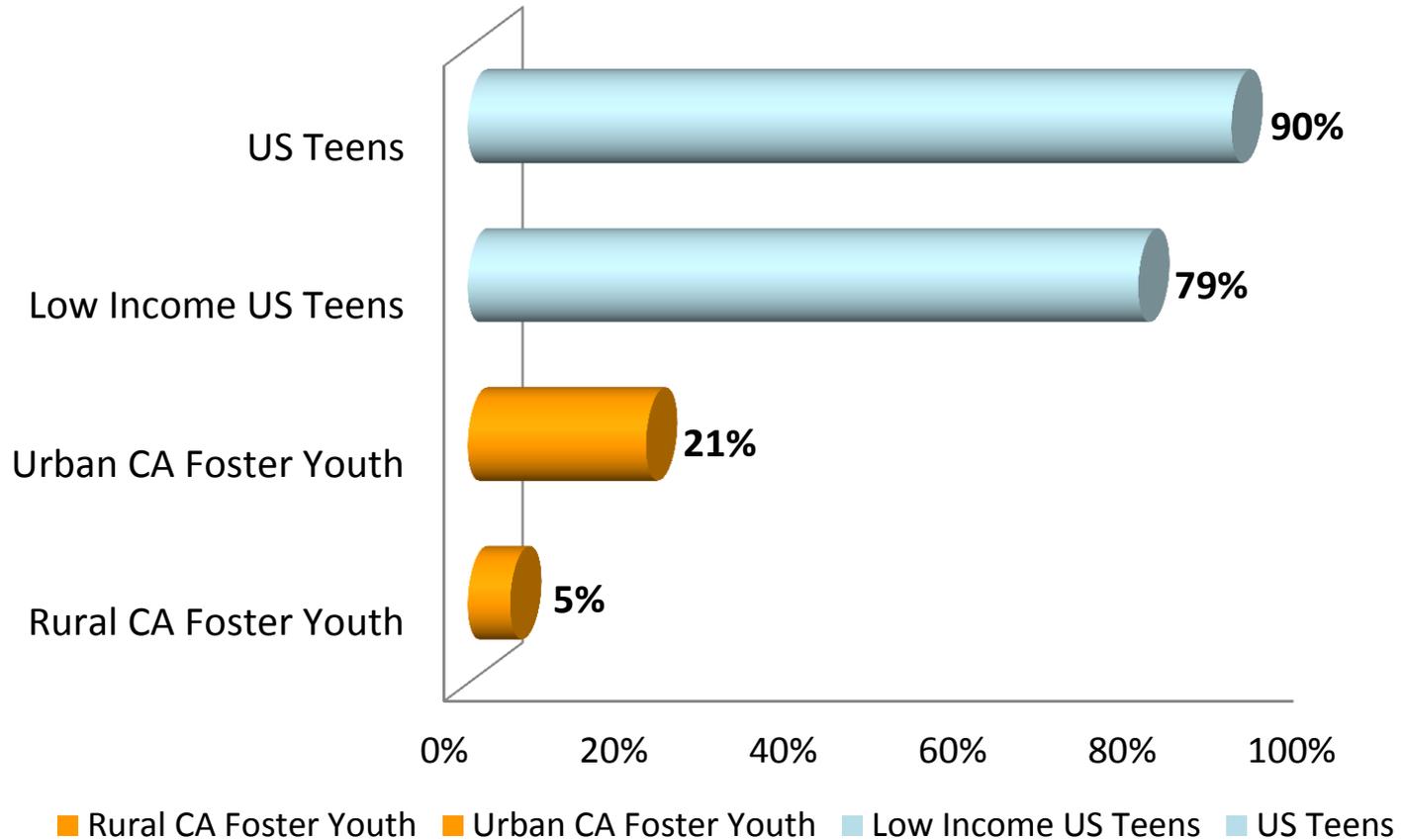
iFoster bridges the investment gap



Source: Average basic foster care rate and TANF-Child rate, USDA Cost of Raising a Child 2016

- iFoster partners with public & private orgs outside of child welfare to bring needed resources into the community
- With 100's of resources, iFoster invests ~\$80 M/year in foster children
- Resources include discounts on daily living expenses, free eye glasses, discounted braces, tutoring, college prep, Lifeline cellphones, laptops, scholarships, and job opportunities
- Over 45,000 members access the portal from across all 50 states

Tech access is the #1 need of foster youth



Consistent Tech Access as measured by access to a computer at home

Source: Pew Research Center, 2014; iFoster survey of 3,063 foster youth in Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera & Placer Counties

Tech access matters

Laptop Ownership Impact on Foster Youth

based on a 1 year study of 730 Los Angeles, Placer, Madera foster youth (16 to 20) receiving laptops

Improved Academic Performance

- Improved grades
- Reduced missed days of school and work
- Increased pursuit of college & employment

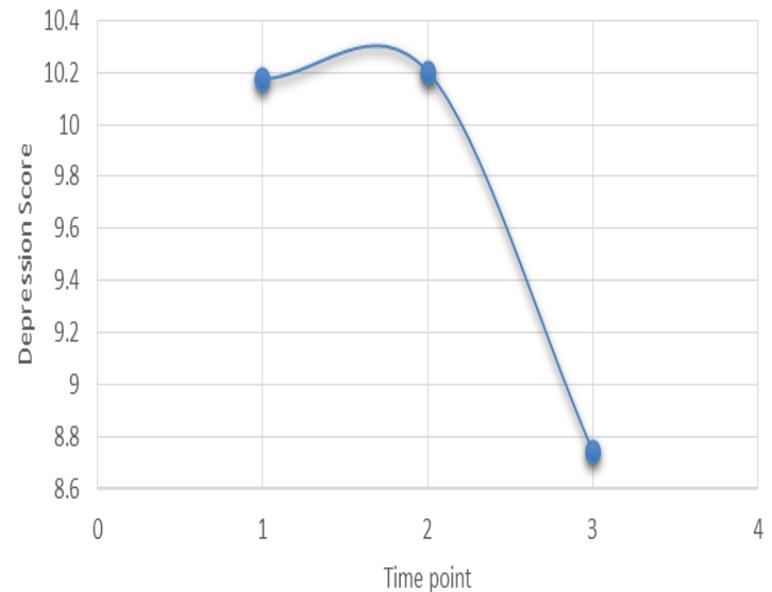
Stronger Social Network

- Improved relationship with bio family
- More likely to connect with support network (friends, teachers, case workers)

Increased Life Satisfaction

- Increased life satisfaction and self-esteem
- Reduced depression and suicidality
- More likely to report freedom; that they fit in more; that they will be wealthy someday

Depression Over Time



CA LifeLine has been a life saver & life builder



Jade, former foster youth, catering entrepreneur

- Since 2014, iFoster has helped 626 CA foster youth get LifeLine mobile service
- LifeLine has been used to protect CSEC victims and help launch entrepreneurs
- Foster Youth age 18-26 are legally eligible for LifeLine as they are on MediCal
- LifeLine enrollment processes, eligibility checks, and time to approval systematically excludes and denies foster youth (i.e. household of one, living arrangements, proof of address, frequent moves)

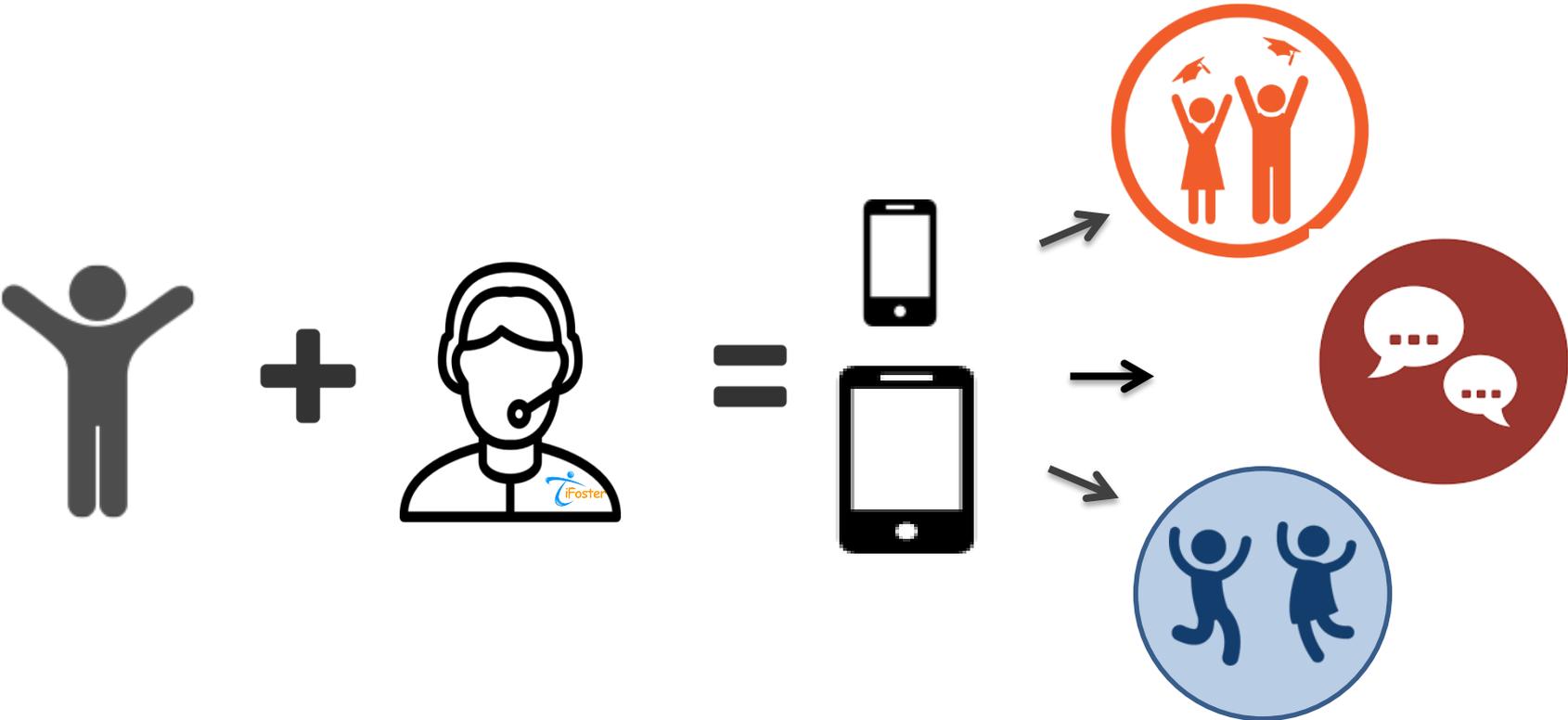
Pilot: Suggestions from the field

- For foster youth 16 to 24, starting with 18+
- Plan Features
 - FREE device (phone, tablet, laptop)
 - FREE Unlimited – voice, text, data
 - FREE Limited hotspots
 - BYOP replacements with free set-up
 - Keeping service and # if inactive
- Leverage existing child welfare eligibility
- Youth signs agreement with iFoster and Child Welfare on proper use and care of phone and service plan, as well as right to remove
- iFoster as broker for: outreach, application, eligibility check, phone & service receipt, reporting back to CPUC/Carrier, and evaluation
- Augment iFoster program administration



Cellular
Voice • Data • Text

Proposed iFoster pilot design



**County Child Welfare
Identifies Eligible
Foster Youth**

**iFoster works with
Youth and County to
complete application
and receive device &
service**

**Quarterly surveys
over 2 Years with Youth
(Raffle incentives)**

Evaluate Impact on:
1. Academic Performance
2. Strength of Social Network
3. Life Satisfaction & Well-Being

In their own words...

I got a job because of this phone. Employers have a working number to call after an interview. And now, I get my schedule via text.

I feel more empowered, I am able to do what I need to do and want to do because am connected.

I feel more connected to other people too. More prepared, like other youth and way less stressed

A cell phone is important to me because I am able to be connected. I can now text and make phone calls and stay in touch with my friends. If I didn't have one, I would feel isolated from everyone.

Makes me feel motivated. It makes me feel like I am more independent.