



California Edition 12

Raise Your Voice and Make a Difference!

September Edition 2023

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We are thrilled to announce that iFoster is conducting our 3rd annual Voice of the Foster Care Community Survey, and we want to hear from you. With your input, we seek to improve child well-being in the areas of Prevention, Time in Care, and Exit from Care/After Care. We value your opinions and welcome your participation in creating solutions that drive progress.

Your voice matters, and your input could lead to positive change in the foster care system. The survey will be open until November 26, 2023, and those who complete it will be entered to win one of ten \$500 Visa gift cards. Thank you for your valuable input!

[Join the Survey and Win \\$500](#)

Join iFoster's Voice of the Foster Care Community Survey 2023-2024 and win \$500!



Raise your voice to help our community and be one of the 10 lucky winners of a \$500 VISA gift card just in time for Thanksgiving 2023. Your voice matters!

It takes just 5-10 minutes to share your experiences and insights about improving the child welfare system. You can increase your chances by answering specific Prevention, Care, and Exit questions. You'll earn one sweepstakes ticket for each section completed!

To ensure you receive your gift card, we ask that you confirm the email address and you will receive a survey link. We'll reach out to you if you win!

Thank you for being a part of our foster care community. Let's make a difference together! Remember, you can complete the survey at your convenience.

Join the Survey and Win \$500

The Power of Our Collective Voice



Over the span of two years, you have shared more than 6,000 recorded voices in our Voice of the Foster Care Community report.

The powerful testimonials shared in these volumes have been amplified in the halls of Congress and reported on local and national news to advocate for change in the child welfare system.

"Bed availability-lately I can only place kids where beds are available and not by where is the best fit. Otherwise, kids live in my office"

-State/County Case Workers, North Carolina

"My brother is trans and he faced a lot of discrimination. He was forced to sleep in the outhouse while the rest of us slept indoors. Eventually my brother ran away and all of us were moved."

-Current Foster Youth, State Unknown

This year's report sheds light on the issues and offers practical recommendations for change, detailed in the companion Lived Experience Guide to Fixing Foster Care. By releasing these two documents, we aim to ensure that elected officials, agencies, and the public are fully aware of your concerns.

We have received positive feedback on our guidebook from experts and community members in the field. By sharing solutions derived from the experiences of individuals who have gone through the foster care system, we aim to enhance the well-being and outcomes of children and youth in foster care. The voices and lived experiences that reside in these works are not only being heard but are being listened to by those who have the power to change. Take it from one of the panelists themselves:

Ifoster's Lived Experience Guide to Fixing Foster Care Panel Discussion



"I want you to know that your voices are really powerful lever for change. You have allies in the highest levels of government who are really listening to what you have to say, and they will be aware of this report and will be reviewing it as well. So. . . continue to lift up your voices and don't ever be silenced, and know how powerful each one of you are. . ."

-Allison Lowery Palmer, J.D., Senior Advisor, Children's Bureau

READ: the *Voice of the Foster Care Community* reports - hear and share your words amplifying your Voice at - www.voiceoffostercare.org

Express Your Voice through Artwork!

Attention artists! Art possesses the ability to convey powerful messages and initiate meaningful conversations. That is why we extend an invitation for you to submit your artwork as a means of expressing your thoughts on child welfare.

Child welfare impacts us all, and we aim to shed light on it through our community's artistic abilities and creativity. Regardless of whether you specialize in painting, photography, or any other visual art form, we strongly encourage you to utilize your talent to ignite discussions and raise awareness.

Your artwork has the potential to explore various aspects of child welfare, such as foster care, adoption, children's rights, and the significance of an enriching environment. It can evoke emotions, narrate stories, and inspire conversations that have the potential to bring about positive change.

Please submit your artwork to our gallery and let your voice resonate. Take this opportunity to view other submissions and make a meaningful impact through your artistic expression!



ARE YOU A CURRENT OR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH IN CALIFORNIA

THEN YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE

4 A FREE

REVL 6 5G SMARTPHONE



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For more information, please contact: iFoster Support at
855-936-7837 / text 530-550-8001/ support@ifoster.org
Must be an iFoster Member/ Register at www.ifoster.org, it's free!

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