1. Assessment Plan - Four Column

PIE - Student Services: REACH Unit

Where We Are: Analysis and Summary

2017-18

Contact Person: Jeze Lopez
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External Conditions, Trends, or Impacts (Student Services): 1. In 2016 an additional $3 million was allocated by the state legislature to supplement funding for the Chafee Education and Training Voucher program. This is the only source of Financial Aid for college dedicated solely for Foster Youth. This increase will means more Foster Youth will receive the Chafee Grant and will seek services from the REACH program.

2. AB 595 requires all students who are otherwise eligible for priority enrollment (including foster youth) to complete orientation, assessment and an educational plan in order to gain access to priority enrollment. Priority registration for Foster Youth documentation is primarily done through the REACH program.

3. AB 669 allows colleges and universities to grant resident status to foster youth under the age of 19 who were residing out of state as a dependent or ward under California's child welfare system. The issue of non-residency has been a common one amongst first-time college Foster Youth students at Mt. SAC.

4. AB 801 (2016) expanded priority registration and various other benefits received by foster youth to homeless youth as well and mandated the designation of a foster and homeless youth liaison at public college and university campuses. REACH program has served as the unofficial homeless liaison for the college.

5. SB 906 (2016) removed the sunset clause from priority registration for foster youth (original bill was scheduled to sunset on Jan 1, 2017) and expanded eligibility to include all foster youth who were in foster care after their 16th birthday under the age of 26.

6. AB 1393 requires UCs and CSUs to give foster youth priority for on-campus housing. California community colleges are requested to give priority to foster youth. In addition, CSUs that have student housing open during school breaks are required to give first priority to current and former foster youth. UCs are only required to do so for foster youth who are otherwise eligible for a particular campus housing facility. REACH program has collaborated with Cal Poly Pomona to provide priority housing to Mt. SAC Foster Youth at Cal Poly Pomona Village.

7. SB 12 (2017) Expands access to financial aid for foster youth by requiring county child welfare agency to identify a person to assist foster youth with applications for postsecondary education and financial aid; streamlining the financial aid verification process for foster youth who apply through FAFSA; and expanding CAFYES from the current level of 10 community college districts to up to 20 districts.

AB 1567 (2017) Requires community colleges and CSU campuses to provide information to foster youth regarding resources available on campus such as EOPS, CAFYES and EOP.
Internal Conditions, Trends, or Impacts (Student Services): 1. Increase in Foster Youth students, therefore increase in demand for assistance and services.

2. Increase in Foster Youth students usage of the REACH office; increase engagement.

4. Increase in our Foster Youth population by providing outreach/inreach; provide year-round activities.

5. Increase in outside referrals of Foster Youth Students from DCFS and High School Districts.

6. Collaboration with Career and transfer services in order to provide a smooth transition to transferring Foster Youth students.

7. Collaboration is being done with several Housing programs to offer local housing options to Foster Youth students attending Mt. SAC.

8. Increase collaboration with other Mt. SAC special programs such as ACES, Aspire, DREAM and Bridge.

9. Increase retention and persistence with REACH students by providing incentives and additional life skills support.

10. Increase workshops designed specifically for incoming Foster Youth students.

Critical Decisions Made by Unit: 1. REACH program applied and successfully obtained a $30,000 grant from the Pritzker foundation

2. REACH program hired a part-time administrative assistant.

3. REACH program has hired a success coach to assist with independent living skills training.

4. REACH program started a collaboration with the iFoster program to host yearly job training curriculum for foster youth students and find them job placements upon completion of the program.

5. REACH staff have been trained in the CalFresh application process in order to provide application assistance to REACH students.

6. REACH staff have been trained in the Next Step Tool assessment in order to provide student referrals to the Los Angeles County Coordinated Entry System for housing matching.

7. REACH program implemented a Two Tier system for students to join the program. Tier A having requirements to be met by students in order to be considered active and benefit from additional resources. Tier B was created for those students that would like to use the REACH center but not be an active REACH member.
Notable Achievements for Theme A: To Advance Academic Excellence and Student Achievement: 1. The REACH Program had 10 students graduating/transferring this academic year. 5 student were accepted into the UC system, and 2 students were accepted into UCLA and USC.

2. REACH students transferring had an average GPA of 3.08.

3. Three REACH students were awarded the 2018 Student of Distinction award at Mt. SAC.

4. Seven REACH students were awarded a Mt. SAC scholarship in the 2018 season.

5. REACH assisted 30 students in completing their CalFresh application this academic year. From those students, 9 were awarded and are now receiving benefits.

Notable Achievements for Theme B: To Support Student Access and Success: 1. The REACH program served 93 students in the 17-18 academic year under its Tier A and 51 in Tier B.

2. The REACH program hosted a job training program with the iFoster program that provided job training and placements to 11 REACH students.

3. The REACH program rehired 2 students and hired 4 new students to be REACH Ambassadors and be peer mentors to Foster Youth students. Each Ambassador had a case load assigned to them.

4. The REACH program organized Mt. SAC's thirds Foster Youth Awareness Week with a total of 4 events.

5. The REACH program organized a Foster Youth conference "REACH for College" for High School foster youth with a total attendance of 130 high school students from 8 different school districts.

Notable Achievements for Theme C: Secure Human, Technological, & Financial Resources: 1. REACH program applied and successfully obtained a $30,000 grant from the Pritzker foundation

2. An APEX database was created for REACH to be utilized for student tracking.

3. REACH Program has hired a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time success coach.

Notable Achievements for Theme D: To Foster an Atmosphere of Cooperation and Collaboration: 1. The REACH program has established collaborations with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Local Transitional Housing Programs, Local School District Foster Youth Liaisons and other Foster Youth agencies in the area.

2. The REACH program has collaborated with the Los Angeles Housing and Services Authority and Hathaway Sycamores in Pasadena to find various pathways to housing for students. Through the efforts done by these agencies, including REACH, a total of 7 students were able to secure housing.

3. The REACH program started a collaboration with the iFoster program to host yearly job training curriculum for foster youth students and find them job placements upon completion of the program.

Contributors to the Report: Jeze Lopez, REACH/Student Success and Equity

Unit Goals	Resources Needed	Where We Make an Impact: Closing the Loop on Goals and Plans
Increase Applications - Increase number of Foster Youth Students that are part of the REACH program **Status:** Active **Goal Year(s):** 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 **Goal Entered:** 03/21/2018	**No Funding Requested -** Increase office space for the REACH program as currently reach does not have enough offices for staff to meet with students in privacy. **Describe Plans & Activities Supported:** REACH program will grow active members by 20% each academic year starting with the benchmarks set in Spring 17 (72 active members). **Lead:** Jeze Lopez, REACH Program Coordinator **Type of Request:** Facilities , Staffing **Planning Unit Priority:** High **What would success look like and how would you measure it?:** A higher percentage of Foster Youth participating in REACH will maintain SAP, transfer/graduate within 7 semesters (Fall/Spring) when compared to Foster Youth not in the REACH program.	**Reporting Year:** 2017-18 **% Completed:** 100 In the 2017-2018 academic year the REACH program served a total of 143 unduplicated students. Tier A served 93 and Tier B served 51. (06/18/2018) **Reporting Year:** 2017-18 **% Completed:** 0 In the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semester the REACH program continues to not have sufficient office space for staff. The REACH program currently only has 2 offices to share with 2 full time staff and a counselor. During this same period the REACH program has increased its active members to 82. (03/22/2018)
Inreach/Outreach - Continue inreach/outreach efforts with other departments to reach out to students on campus and in surrounding community **Status:** Active **Goal Year(s):** 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 **Goal Entered:** 09/01/2016	**Full Funding Requested -** Counselor, REACH **Describe Plans & Activities Supported:** Foster youth students have many barriers that prevent them from succeeding in their educational goals. One of them is the lack of consistency within their adult mentors. This causes students to struggle in trusting and opening up about their issues and would benefit from having a consistent counselor within the program that allows rapport to be created between the student and the	**Reporting Year:** 2016-17 **% Completed:** 0 REACH currently has 3 adjunct counselors serving the program for a total of 25 hours per week. Beginning December 2016, a total of 69 hours of counseling have been utilized by REACH students. As the program grows and more students become aware that the program now offers counseling the amount of hours used will grow. Minimum counseling contacts are a requirement for REACH students to remain active in the program. (06/29/2017)

Unit Goals	Resources Needed	Where We Make an Impact: Closing the Loop on Goals and Plans
	counselor. **Lead:** Jeze Lopez **One-Time Funding Requested (if applicable):** 114000 **Type of Request:** Staffing **Planning Unit Priority:** High **What would success look like and how would you measure it?:** REACH students will have higher retention and persistence rates when compared with non-REACH foster youth students.	
	Full Funding Requested - High School Foster Youth Conference **Describe Plans & Activities Supported:** REACH would seek to expand the conference to include Mckiney-Vento (unaccompanied youth) students and create a component for staff to attend as well. **Lead:** Jeze Lopez **One-Time Funding Requested (if applicable):** 10000 **Type of Request:** Professional Development **Planning Unit Priority:** High **What would success look like and how would you measure it?:** The conference will target high school foster youth from our surrounding community. The conference will allow high school foster youth to gain knowledge and understanding about the REACH program and the educational resources provided at Mt. SAC. **Documentation Attached?:** No	**Reporting Year:** 2017-18 **% Completed:** 50 The REACH program held the second annual Foster Youth conference "REACH for College". It was attended by 130 students and 25 staff from various agencies. At this moment additional funding specifically for the conference has not been allocated. (03/22/2018) **Reporting Year:** 2016-17 **% Completed:** 100 On April 21, 2017, the REACH program held the first Foster Youth Conference. A total of 120 high school Foster Youth from 5 different school district attended the conference. (06/29/2017)
Solidify Program - Solidify	**Full Funding Requested -** Director-	**Reporting Year:** 2017-18

Unit Goals	Resources Needed	Where We Make an Impact: Closing the Loop on Goals and Plans
programming and services available for foster youth attending Mt. SAC **Status:** Active **Goal Year(s):** 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 **Goal Entered:** 09/01/2016	REACH **Describe Plans & Activities Supported:** The creation of a REACH Director position will provide the proper oversight to a program that has grown considerably in the last academic year in terms of staff and students served. Currently REACH has 2 full-time staff, 3 adjunct counselors, 6 student workers and 2 part-time staff. In the 2017-2018 Academic year the REACH program had a caseload of 143 students within its two tiers. In addition the REACH program has worked intensively to create connections and resources within the community to better support our Foster Youth. REACH now has a recognized presence in the community with housing programs, county officials, school districts, and statewide Foster Youth organizations among others that have established a strong partnership with the program and the college. **Lead:** Jeze Lopez **One-Time Funding Requested (if applicable):** 114000 **Type of Request:** Staffing **Planning Unit Priority:** High	**% Completed:** 0 The creation of a REACH Director position will provide the proper oversight to a program that has grown considerably in the last academic year in terms of staff and students served. Currently REACH has 2 full-time staff, 3 adjunct counselors, 5 student workers and will soon have an administrative assistant. In the spring 2017 semester the REACH program had 72 active students, and 121 foster youth have applied to Mt. SAC for the upcoming academic year, however this number is lower than the actual number of incoming foster youth as many youth do not identify as foster youth until they begin attending the college. This means that the REACH program can easily more than double its size in the 2017-2018 academic year. In addition the REACH program has worked intensively to create connections and resources within the community to better support our Foster Youth. REACH now has a recognized presence in the community with housing programs, county officials, school districts, and statewide Foster Youth organizations among others that have established a strong partnership with the program and the college. (06/18/2018)
Inreach/Outreach: Foster Youth Activities - Increase REACH activities available to Foster Youth Students **Status:** Active **Goal Year(s):** 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21	**Full Funding Requested -** REACH Incoming Student Pilot Program **Describe Plans & Activities Supported:** The REACH program would create a cohort of incoming foster youth students that would be	**Reporting Year:** 2017-18 **% Completed:** 0 Pilot program has not been implemented. If funded, implementation would begin in Fall 2019. (06/19/2018)

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Goal Entered: 09/01/2016	placed in a linked English, Math and Counseling class on success strategies. The target population would be students that are in their first year of college and not participating in summer bridge. This group of students do not persist from one semester to the other and REACH would seek to increase the services provided to them. This would be along the lines of the bridge program but specifically for foster youth and with a case management component that would follow them through their first year at Mt. SAC. Students would be required to have a study hall, have a supplemental instructor, along with other supportive interventions. Students would receive incentives such as laptops, textbooks, care packets, among other things to keep them engaged. This group of students would continue to be tracked for one academic year. **Lead:** REACH Program **One-Time Funding Requested (if applicable):** 20000 **Type of Request:** Facilities , Staffing, Instructional Equipment, Instructional Supplies **Planning Unit Priority:** High **What would success look like and how would you measure it?:** Retention and Persistence among new REACH students will be higher that for those students that entered the program before the implementation of the program.	

Unit Goals	Resources Needed	Where We Make an Impact: Closing the Loop on Goals and Plans
Inreach/Outreach: Foster Youth Workshops - Increase REACH Workshops available to Foster Youth Students **Status:** Active **Goal Year(s):** 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 **Goal Entered:** 09/01/2016	**Full Funding Requested -** REACH Leadership Retreat **Describe Plans & Activities Supported:** The REACH program would like to have a 2 day retreat with up to 30 REACH students. This retreat would include specific workshops and interventions geared towards addressing foster youth issues such as trauma, healthy relationships and identity. The retreat would have an overnight component for which a location would need to be secured. **Lead:** Jeze Lopez **One-Time Funding Requested (if applicable):** 10000 **Type of Request:** Professional Development **Planning Unit Priority:** Medium **What would success look like and how would you measure it?:** 50% of REACH students attending the retreat will remain active in the program for the academic year.	**Reporting Year:** 2017-18 **% Completed:** 0 No data is available as this is a new implementation for the 18-19 academic year. (06/26/2018)