

## Don't Forget About Me

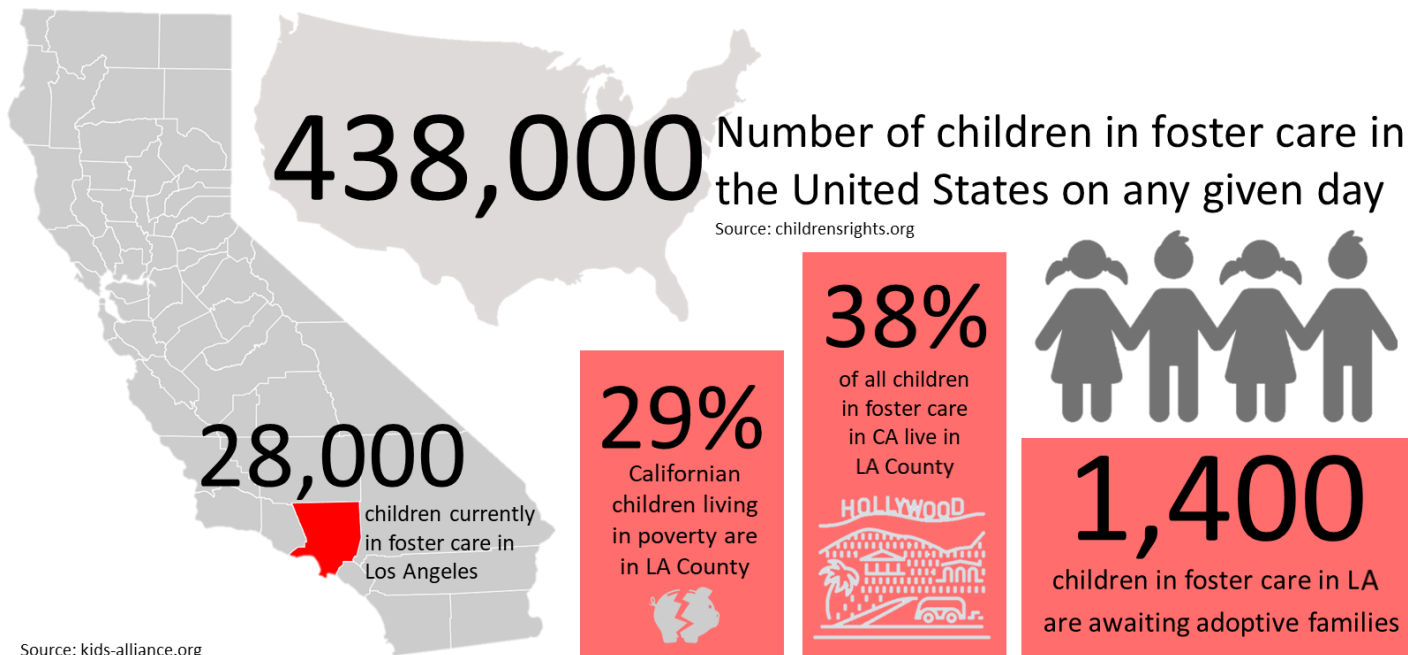
### Exploring Challenges Facing Our Foster Youth in the Education System

#### ABOUT CIVIC LEADERSHIP FORUM

Each year the Junior League of Los Angeles (JLLA) brings together JLLA members and community partners to bring awareness to an issue impacting the Los Angeles community through its Civic Leadership Forum. This year's forum will highlight the barriers to education that Los Angeles foster youth face.

In Los Angeles, there are more than 28,000 youth in foster care. Academically, these foster youth experience challenges that go unresolved, making them one of our county's most vulnerable populations. Foster youth graduation rates, for example, are impacted by the effects of trauma, multiple school transfers, and school absences. These unique academic challenges, along with unemployment rates, influence their economic well-being as adults. JLLA is committed to ensuring foster youth are not forgotten in our educational system, but instead receive the support they need to succeed in and outside of the classroom. Through the 2019 Civic Leadership Forum, you can be part of the conversation and solution to improving the educational outcomes of local foster youth.

#### FOSTER CARE BY THE NUMBERS



Source: kids-alliance.org

## FOSTER CARE TERMS TO KNOW

**Aging Out:** when a youth emancipates or leaves foster care because they turn a certain age, such as 18 or 21 (depending on the laws of the state they live in). Aging out usually results in loss of support from the State for things such as foster care payments, housing, living costs and health services. In California, eligible youth can remain in care up to age 21. The California Fostering Connections to Success Act was signed into law September 30, 2010 through Assembly Bill (AB) 12 and became effective January 1, 2012 (<https://www.fosterclub.com/glossary>)

**Continuum of Care:** A term that implies a progression of services that a child moves through, usually one service at a time. More recently, it has come to mean comprehensive services. (<https://www.uacf4hope.org/glossary-terms>)

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA):** An adult volunteer, assigned by the court to study and protect the best interests of a youth in a civil, criminal abuse or neglect case. ([www.fosterclub.com/glossary](http://www.fosterclub.com/glossary))

**Emancipation:** A youth who is legally declared an adult (by a court) prior to age 18. A youth in foster care who is emancipated is no longer a ward of the court (or in foster care).

**Foster care:** Care provided to youth when they are removed from their biological family's custody and placed in state custody. Foster care includes placement with relatives, foster families, group homes, shelters, and other placements for children under the age of 18 or 21 (depending on individual state policy). ([www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov))

**Transitional Age Foster Youth (TAY):** young people between the ages of 16-24 years who are in transition from state custody or foster care and are considered "at-risk". ([www.uacf4hope.org](http://www.uacf4hope.org))

**Trauma:** is a response to one or more overwhelmingly stressful events, or "adverse experiences," where one's ability to cope, or "resilience," is dramatically undermined. Adverse childhood experiences can include physical abuse, neglect, prenatal trauma (e.g., prenatal substance exposure, medical neglect), and exposure to violence in the family or community, or interrupted attachment such as being separated from a parent or primary caregiver through foster care involvement, death, incarceration, or divorce. ([www.kids-alliance.org](http://www.kids-alliance.org))

## LEGISLATION IMPACTING FOSTER YOUTH

**Fostering Connections to Success Act, known as AB 12** extended foster care eligibility from age 18 to 21, and directed more educational supports to foster youth.

**High School Graduation for Foster Youth: AB 167/216** Foster youth who transfer high schools after their second year may graduate by completing minimum state graduation requirements if, at the time of transfer, they cannot reasonably complete additional local school district requirements within four years of high school.

**The Continuum of Care Reform Act: AB 403** makes sure that youth in foster care have their day-to-day physical, mental, and emotional needs met; that they have the greatest chance to grow up in permanent and supportive homes; and that they have the opportunity to grow into self-sufficient, successful adults.

## ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES

The Junior League of Los Angeles is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.