

Form Name:	Participatory Budgeting Proposal Form
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IP Address:	209.206.111.120
Unique ID:	1080771477
Location:	34.6234, -86.463

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<b>Project Title</b>	Removing Barriers for Foster Youth Success
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<b>Total Budget Requested</b>	\$50,189
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<b>Name- Full names of all the delegates from your committee that worked on the proposal</b>	Lauren Grayman
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<b>Name- Full names of all the delegates from your committee that worked on the proposal</b>	June Miyake
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<b>Name- Full names of all the delegates from your committee that worked on the proposal</b>	Justine Jennings
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<b>Email- One e-mail address for the PB staff to send a confirmation that the proposal was received</b>	jjennings@firstplaceforyouth.org
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<b>Type of Project- (choose one)</b>	Program and/or Service
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<b>Detailed project description (Be specific and use as much space as you need.)</b>	<p>First Place for Youth proposes to provide Education and Employment (EE) services to 15 transition-age current and former foster youth (ages 16-24) annually in Vallejo. EE services provided by First Place are geared towards increasing access to living-wage careers and include Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Coaching, linked-learning opportunities, soft skills development, career prep activities, and more. First Place also continues to build an internship program with local businesses, offering alternative pathways to employment. The Vallejo-specific EE staff will provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Individualized Support: includes job search, preparation and retention, career exploration, and soft skills development. Supports may include mock interviews, time management strategies, handling workplace conflicts, figuring out transportation and childcare needs, coordinating legal aid for criminal expungements, getting a valid ID or driver's license, etc.</li><li>2. Group Workshops and Activities: weekly group workshops conducted in a hybrid model, taking place either virtually or at our youth-friendly space in Fairfield.</li><li>3. Job Site/Workforce Development: engagement with local businesses aimed at creating employment opportunities to get participants hired.</li></ol>
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**Why is this project needed? (1-2 paragraphs)**

Due to barriers in youth being able to access services which are mainly located in Fairfield, program staff have begun conducting workshops and events within proximity to Vallejo residents, in addition to providing transportation to our Fairfield office. We have identified a need for both transportation support as well as consistent, weekly presence in Vallejo for youth to be able to fully utilize First Place services for maximum benefit. For Vallejo youth specifically, transportation poses a barrier as most of the youth we serve in this area have cars to get around in, however, the cost of gas makes accessibility a privilege as opposed to a given, preventing youth from accessing support services located in Fairfield such as Child Welfare and First Place's youth-centered drop-in space. With many youth only being able to fill up their gas tank a few dollars at a time, First Place knows part of increasing equity for the youth we serve means eliminating barriers such as this. In addition to accessibility to services we have also identified a need for both PSE Coaching and internship and job placement within the City of Vallejo. As many current and former foster youth start out in the workforce they encounter barriers to gaining and retaining employment such as transportation, uniform/wardrobe requirements, education and experience requirements, and a lack of natural supports. While First Place has worked hard to support youth during the pandemic, mental health struggles continue to affect their ability to achieve the goals they set for themselves. Another aspect of increasing more equitable outcomes for current and former foster youth is giving them access to knowledge about, as well as opportunities to engage in, various career paths. Transition-age current and former foster youth have faced significant setbacks due to COVID-19 and have had some of the highest unemployment rates of any population. These funds ensure that the Vallejo youth we serve have everything they need in order to become competitive candidates on a pathway to long-term, sustainable employment, inclusive of benefits and upward mobility.

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**How will the project address or solve this need and/or problem? (1-2 paragraphs)**

First Place's Education and Employment model, consisting of PSE Coaching, Linked-learning, and Apprenticeship opportunities is uniquely suited to transition-age foster youth as it offers them alternative possibilities to the traditional academic path, thereby meeting their need for both increased knowledge about PSE pathways while obtaining the skills-building needed to be competitive in the job market. Providing social and emotional supports in tandem with this professional development ensures that the youth we serve are not only able to obtain employment, but maintain it, through developing critical social competencies necessary for career and life success.

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**Describe in detail how residents, visitors, groups, communities, geographic areas, or the City of Vallejo will benefit from this project. (1-2 paragraphs)**

This project will benefit the community of Vallejo by providing opportunities for economic advancement for the current and emancipated transition-age (TAY) foster youth who reside here. Enabling access to these opportunities also serves to strengthen the community both economically and through community-building. The youth we serve in Vallejo encounter multiple intersecting barriers in achieving upward economic mobility but First Place's Education and Employment programming addresses these unique and specific barriers. Not only does this allow youth to transition in place within their own community, but this also means continued stable social connections for them and a sustained thriving community for Vallejo.

**Describe the potential challenges and/or obstacles for this project (1-2 paragraphs)**

We feel confident that we have the necessary experience and program innovations to continue to provide robust housing and services for current and emancipated transition-age (TAY) foster youth. We have the human capital, program services, and the required infrastructure. In terms of human capital, we have recently increased our human resources capacity as well as added a training department to ensure alignment with agency goals on DEI. We continuously evaluate and improve on program delivery and design to ensure best outcomes for youth. Potential challenges facing youth are transportation, workforce opportunity and mental health barriers. Some of the young people we work with are newer to the workplace and may be working swing shifts. Transportation becomes an obstacle for those youth, as public transportation is unavailable after hours and youth need to rely on shared rides, which are expensive. Another challenge is making sure we have enough partners to provide ample opportunity for employment linkage based on the varying skills of our youth. Lastly, we actively address mental health and provide support to remove this as a barrier to employment, however, there are limited resources available.

**Who will implement the project? (Identify all that apply)**

A prequalified, 501(c)3 non-profit organization (program & Service projects only) Only organizations pre-qualified by September 18,2022 are eligible.

**Name of non-profit organization (Program & Service projects only)**

First Place for Youth

**Website for non-profit organization**

<https://firstplaceforyouth.org/>

**Name of contact person for non-profit organization**

Justine Jennings

**Non-profit organization phone number**

(510) 692-9739

**Non-profit organization contact person's email**

[jjennings@firstplaceforyouth.org](mailto:jjennings@firstplaceforyouth.org)

**Where will the project be implemented?** The City of Vallejo

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**Budget- Upload an itemized budget for the entire project that has line items accounting for the entire amount of PB funding requested. You should develop a spreadsheet or table on Microsoft Word or Excel. Work with City staff to make sure you have a complete, full-cost budget! Make sure you upload documentation that supports your budget request, including:**

- At least one (1) complete bid from a licensed contractor for any work that requires skilled labor, building, construction, or professional installation.
- Copies of vendor quotes, official estimates, or online retailers for any durable, equipment, material or product purchases.
- Letter(s) from implementing partners agreeing to absorb any soft costs not covered by PB

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/14346777289>

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**Describe the project timeline/schedule . You may also attach a detailed timeline schedule as a separate document if already prepared.**

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**Payment Schedule- Program and Service projects must include a quarterly payment schedule that reflects no less than four payments from the City of Vallejo. Include the amounts you are requesting and describe how you will utilize the funds. You may also attach a detailed payment schedule as a separate document if already prepared.**

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**Document upload**

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FIRSTPLACEFORYOUTH.ORG

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

ALAMEDA COUNTY (HQ)  
426 17th Street, Suite 100  
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SOUTH LOS ANGELES  
213.279.2785

MISSISSIPPI  
JACKSON  
601.460.4436

**First Place for Youth**

**Project Title: Removing Barriers for Foster Youth Success**

**1) Annual Proposed Budget**

Employment & Education Specialist	\$32,222	Annual salary \$64,443 @ 50% FTE (serving 15 youth, ½ of normal caseload)
Benefits	\$6,767	21%
Youth Transportation	\$1,500	Public transportation or rideshare as needed for employment support
Program Supplies	\$7,500	\$500 per youth annually for education and employment supports: required clothing/uniforms & supplies to engage in pre-apprenticeship/ apprenticeship/ internship, resume/application materials, books, materials for obtaining certification/linked-learning costs, ID/DL fees, Live Scan/background check fees, etc.
Community building events and workshops	\$1,000	Holiday parties and workshops
<b>Total Direct Costs/Funding Request</b>	<b>\$48,989</b>	



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## **First Place for Youth**

### **Project Title: Removing Barriers for Foster Youth Success**

#### **Project Timeline**

First Place for Youth has existing dedicated staffing and administrative support and systems in place for this program (IT, HR, Finance, and Performance Measures) and will continue to track engagement and expenses accordingly.

Throughout the annual grant period First Place proposes to provide weekly group workshops and activities geared towards education and employment goals, including topics such as career exploration, Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Coaching, resume writing, soft skills development, etc.

In addition to the weekly group workshops First Place participants will also receive ongoing individualized support tailored to their specific needs by their Education and Employment Specialist. This individualized support can consist of job search assistance, one-one-one PSE Coaching, mock interviews, and job readiness assessments.

Another ongoing aspect of this program is First Place's continued engagement with local businesses to create apprenticeship and employment opportunities for youth. Once youth achieve a set of job readiness competencies and have identified an area of career interest they may go on to explore linked-learning opportunities and/or apply for an apprenticeship or work opportunity.

The journey through First Place for Youth's programming is not linear as all programmatic practices are happening at all times while a youth is in-program. Staff are always assessing youth, engaging youth, and supporting their skill-building as they work toward transitioning to self-sufficiency



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**First Place for Youth**

**Project Title: Removing Barriers for Foster Youth Success**

**Payment Schedule**

With a total annual budget request of \$50,189 First Place anticipates invoicing approximately \$12,547 each quarter with line item expenses estimated at the following amounts per quarter:

Employment & Education Specialist	\$8,055	serving 15 youth (½ of normal caseload)
Benefits	\$1,692	
Youth Transportation	\$375	Public transportation or rideshare as needed for employment support
Program Staff Mileage/Parking/Tolls	\$300	mileage and parking reimbursement
Program Supplies	\$1,875	\$500 per youth annually for education and employment supports: required clothing/uniforms & supplies to engage in pre-apprenticeship/ apprenticeship/ internship, resume/application materials, books, materials for obtaining certification/linked-learning costs, ID/DL fees, Live Scan/background check fees, etc.
Community building events and workshops	\$250	Holiday parties and workshops
<b>Total Direct Costs each Quarter</b>	<b>\$12,547</b>	