



National Edition 6

# MARCH into Financial Freedom

March Edition 2023

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Show me the money!! This month we are here to help MAKE, GET and SAVE \$\$? Need a job or to start your career? Get all the best tax credits for youth and families? Or learn how to manage your money better? We've got you covered! We are also hiring! Let's start March with financial freedom and focus on creating a portfolio that helps you improve your financial health and wealth!

## Resources for You

**Employment Support—  
Every Step of the Way!**



Do you want to learn more about the skills you need to succeed in a job, even if you're not yet ready to apply for one? We can help. Our revolutionary online curriculum is designed by experts and tested by iFoster's Peer Navigators to help you discover who you are, build your confidence and become an asset to any team!

Don't just show up for an interview—GET THE JOB & KEEP THE JOB!

[Increase Your Chances of Employment](#)

**It's Tax Time - Foster Youth GET PAID!**

**FREE Career Planning Tool**



Do you want a job that is you? Try out Career Cruising! It is an interactive tool designed to help you discover your career interests while developing an educational plan to achieve your career goals. Explore thousands of careers and build your path to achievement, including finding the post-secondary education you need, while exploring nationwide schools with the programs you want to achieve your dreams. Click below to contact iFoster to set up your FREE Career Cruising account.

[Start Exploring Careers Today](#)

**Tax Credit for Caregivers are a Thing!**

**Find a Youth Source Center Near You!**



Youth Source Centers are great places to receive excellent access to employment development. Including paid and unpaid work experiences, which have: summer and year-round employment opportunities, pre-apprenticeship programs, internships and job shadowing, on-the-job training, occupational skill training, leadership development opportunities, and a list of other resources.

This cool program serves youth ages 14-24.

[Find a Youth Source Center Near You!](#)

**Learn the Basics of Money Management with MoneySmart 101**



Did you know...if you file taxes, you could be given \$\$ through a refund?? Filing your taxes is an excellent way to put extra money in your pockets. Most current and former young people qualify for tax credits even if they haven't earned the minimum income required to file taxes. If you are a CA foster youth between 18 to 25, this year, you can get a \$1,000 tax-refundable FOSTER YOUTH TAX CREDIT!

Don't lose out on FREE \$\$; file your taxes! You've earned it!

If you are looking for FREE face-to-face, help with your taxes, [find a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\) program near you.](#)

iFoster is here to answer any questions and help connect you to trained tax preparers who can help you file your taxes for FREE.

As a Foster, Kinship, Adoptive, Legal Guardian, and Bio caregiver, you're doing the hard work of raising your children—especially if they are young. And families can STILL claim the 2021 expanded Child Tax Credit until April 15, 2025. Every penny counts!

The Child Tax Credit can amount to up to \$2,000 per child and helps offset the cost of daycare, diapers, food and other necessities your kids require. The Young Child Tax Credit added an additional \$1,083 in 2022 for parents who have a young child under 6 years old.

If you are looking for FREE face-to-face, help with your taxes, [find a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\) program near you.](#)

If money doesn't grow on trees, where does it grow? In a bank! Start making your money and spending habits work for you. MoneySmart is a self-directed course we developed at iFoster, which covers finance fundamentals and strategies for making good MoneySmart decisions.

Get the Tax Help Now Today!

Find Out if You are Eligible Today

Achieve Money Mastery

## Calling All Kinship Caregivers and Supporters - Now is Your Time to be Heard!



A potentially historic reform almost snuck by! Embedded in a dense set of [proposed regulations released](#) last month, KINSHIP families might finally be getting EQUITY. If approved, the rules confirm states have the option to make foster care licensing easier for a child's kin, allowing them to receive the same financial help as foster parents.

This new proposed rule has been in the works for over a decade and is the first major update in kinship care policy since 1974. Not only does the Biden Administration propose to remove foster care licensing barriers for kinship caregivers, but also to dramatically increase the financial support they receive—allowing states to make kinship care payments the same as foster care payments.

***This is NOT a done deal! Your voice needs to be heard!***

This rule change is only being proposed. It's not confirmed yet! BUT you can tell them what you think. The Biden Administration wants to hear from YOU! The proposed rule is currently open for Comments until April 17, 2023. If this matters to you - submit your [COMMENT HERE](#). You don't have to be a child welfare expert to do this - speak from the heart and tell it like it is!

Submit a Comment Now

Learn more about this proposed rule change from our friends at The Imprint [Biden Administration Proposes Easing Foster Care Licensing Barriers for Relatives.](#)

Seriously! When was the last time someone listened to what you had to say? We don't often have a chance to have our voices heard, especially by national policymakers. But now is our chance, and we're excited about this opportunity!

## Youth Opportunity Spotlight

Spring into Service this month! Youth Service America (YSA) is launching a NEW round of mini-grants to be awarded in amounts of \$100, \$250, and \$500 for Global Youth Service Day (April 28-30, 2023) projects. These grants directly put money in the hands of young people between the ages of 5-25 to be the change they want to see in their community. The project ideas must be built around fostering meaningful connections, promoting inclusion, and or teaching empathy.

Bring your community improvement idea to Bloom this spring with a YSA Heartwarming Young Heroes grant.

**the heart warming project.**  
**YOUNG HEROES GYSD GRANTS**  
*\$100, \$250, or \$500 grants for Youth-Led Service and Community Building Activities*  
**Apply by March 5**  
**YSA.org/Hershey**

Apply Today!

## Did You Know?

### iFoster is Hiring!

iFoster is growing, and we are looking for passionate community members to join our team! We've just hired 5 new team members in 2023, and we're looking for more—Regional Leads in NYC and WA! [Please read our job descriptions](#), download, share and or APPLY!

**Need a FREE Intern? If you have an agency serving foster youth in CA, KY, OH, NV or NYC, iFoster can provide some bench strength.**



Are you an agency/organization looking to expand your capacity (at no cost to you!) while providing a meaningful work experience—for foster youth? If so, then apply to become a TAY AmeriCorps host site! iFoster trains over 200 TAY AmeriCorps Peer Navigators annually, but we need host sites for these internships. Since its launch in 2019, iFoster's TAY AmeriCorps has helped connect over 30,000 transitional-age foster youth to vital resources. The program won [the Best New AmeriCorps program](#) and has expanded to 6 states this year.

[Complete this interest form](#) if you are a program or agency serving foster youth and are interested in having interns help connect your clients to resources.



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

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