

# SFCASA News

February 2021



## It's Black History Month!

February is a month to celebrate the immense legacy of the African diaspora in the United States, and offers an exceptional opportunity to engage and learn with the youth you serve.

San Francisco County will celebrate Black History Month with an exciting slate of virtual and outdoor events to commemorate the contributions of African-Americans within the city, across our nation, and throughout our history. The list of events can be found [here](#), and events specifically tailored towards younger children can be found [here](#).

SFCASA wishes you another month of creative engagement with your youth, and encourages you to indulge in these rich resources to celebrate Black history, resilience, and joy!

## COVID-19 Vaccine Now Available to CASA Volunteers

As community health workers, advocates are eligible for the vaccine in Phase 1a. Please contact your own healthcare provider to make an appointment.

Once you have an appointment, contact your case supervisor for the letter you will need verifying your status as a "healthcare worker."

## SFCASA Recruiting Men for April CASA Training

We are actively recruiting potential advocates for our April 13th training class. We are particularly looking for men to join us, as well as people who are bilingual English-Spanish. Please refer your contacts to [www.sfcasa.org/volunteer](http://www.sfcasa.org/volunteer) and spread the word by sharing our social media posts.

## Upcoming CE Opportunities

**Why should you attend SFCASA Continuing Education (CE) trainings?**

- **Brainstorm and build community with your fellow CASAs**
- **Get new ideas and fresh perspectives to enhance and rejuvenate your Advocacy**
- **Continue with your own personal development**
- **Meet your commitment of 12 CE hours per year.**

To receive CE credit, send your [reflection responses](#) to [training@sfcasa.org](mailto:training@sfcasa.org)!

### **Juvenile Justice: Pulling It All Together and Getting Started on Wednesday, February 3rd** from 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits)

This training, focused on practical learning, will give the CASA a deeper understanding of the expectations of the role. SFCASA's Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Gabriela Bayol, will cover getting started, tips around engagement, court report writing, what to expect from JJ status review report and using Advocate Link. SFCASA's Educational Advocacy Specialist, Mia Ragent, will also go over how best to advocate for education and strategies that may be useful for CASA's working with JJ youth. Contact [training@sfcasa.org](mailto:training@sfcasa.org) to register!

### **Supporting English-Language Learning Youth & Families on Tuesday, February 9th** from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits)

This session, presented by Caitlin Mehra of the Jewish Coalition for Literacy, is designed to help CASAs develop an asset-based approach to working with young people and their families who do not speak English as a first language. The training will cover the basics on language acquisition, and the social-emotional factors that promote or inhibit the process of learning a new language. While it is not the role of a CASA to teach English, CASAs can still support and enhance the process through every day conversations, questions and attitudes. All are welcome! Contact [training@sfcasa.org](mailto:training@sfcasa.org) to register!

### **CASA Huddle on Wednesday, February 10th** from 6:00 - 7:00 PM on Zoom (1 CE Credit)

Would you like to spend time learning from your colleagues? Would you like an opportunity to share informally with other CASAs? Do you sometimes feel that being a CASA is a lonely job? Would you like to connect and build a network with your peers?

Join us to share your experiences and learn from other CASAs working with a youth in a similar age group. We will join together for a zoom meeting and break-out into small groups to share success and challenges. Contact [training@sfcasa.org](mailto:training@sfcasa.org) to register!

### **The Path to Racial Equity in Child Welfare Virtual Summit on Friday, February 26th, 2021** at 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits)

The Alliance for Children's Rights, Children's Law Center of California, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, and UCLA Pritzker Center for Strengthening Children and Families will be co-hosting a virtual summit on **February 26<sup>th</sup>** from 11 AM to 3 PM. The summit will bring together a diverse group of practitioners, advocates, and people with lived experience to consider racial inequities in the child welfare system and chart a path towards equity and justice.

Summit participants will discuss the impacts of the racial disproportionality and disparities occurring at each stage of the child welfare process, including

maltreatment reports, removal and placement decisions, and the transition out of foster care. Participants will actively collaborate in evaluating a set of policy recommendations for proactively engaging with families in crisis; empowering the family network and connecting youth to their community; and valuing and adhering to family preference when considering permanency and reunification. RSVP [here](#).

## City Youth Now's Higher Education and Vocational Expenses Scholarship

City Youth Now is currently accepting applications from foster and juvenile justice-involved youth who intend to enroll in higher education or vocational training programs. Recipients receive \$1,000 to \$3,000 scholarships to help pay for related expenses.

Many of our youth have received funds, invitations to award ceremonies, and more! You can find the application, instructions, and eligibility information [here](#). Scholarship applications are **due by Thursday, April 1, 2021**.

## New Door Ventures' Remote Internships

New Door Ventures now offers a fully remote internship and employment program for low-income young adults ages 16-24. Participants will receive employment education and preparation in the form of Zoom workshops, remote case management, and remote computer-based jobs with New Door Ventures' business partners. Apply [here](#)!

Now accepting applications for a cohort beginning on **February 9<sup>th</sup>**, cohorts will each be 14 weeks long, offering up to 12 hours a week employment, compensated at \$16.50 an hour. The program will also host weekly employment readiness workshops on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4 PM, running from 03/02/2021-05/18/2021.

## Young Thespian's Theatre Lab Free Workshop

The Young Thespian's Lab presents a free Online Audio Drama Workshop, hosted by The San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Co. and the Mission Academy of the Arts @BRAVA, for aspiring performers of middle and high school age, intended to give students pre-professional experience in the performing arts.

In the Original Audio Drama Workshop students will collectively write and perform in an original radio play over the course of 13 weeks. Students will encounter the fundamentals of scene study, dramatic writing, acting and voice over performance in a fun, holistic, team styled creative class. Students will discuss current events, complete writing and acting exercises and use what they learn in the process of generating, editing and performing their script.

The program runs from **January 18<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>**, Monday and Wednesday evenings from 4:30- 6:00 PM on Zoom. Enroll [here](#)!

## Young Women's Freedom Center Winter COVID-19 Systems-Involved Young Adult Survey

The Young Women's Freedom Center (YWFC) is conducting a survey of young adults in California to see how folks are doing since the COVID-19 pandemic. YWFC will take your voices and work with local stakeholders in your county to better meet our communities' needs.

YWFC is asking any youth to take the survey if they identify as: a young woman, transgender young woman, transgender young man, or gender expansive person, 15 through 25 years old, and have had one of the following experiences: juvenile justice system, foster care system, adult justice system, or has hustled to make money or struggled with homelessness or struggled to put a roof over your head.

Participants will earn \$10 when they complete the survey. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

