









CalKIDS: Empowering the Future of Homeless Youth

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What We Know About College Savings

Children with a college savings account are

3X more likely to attend college.

Children with a college savings account are

4X more likely to graduate from college.



Source: (Elliott, W., Song, H-a, & Nam, I. (2013). Small-dollar children's saving accounts and children's college outcomes by income level. Children and Youth Services Review, 35 (3), p. 560-571).











Who is Eligible for CalKIDS?



All California newborns

(born on or after July 1, 2022)



Low-income students

- ✓ All low-income students
- Foster youth
- Students experiencing homelessness









Todays Purpose:



Explore how CalKIDS can **empower** youth facing housing instability.



Share **strategies to connect** students with their accounts.



Address barriers — and how to overcome them.











Why it Matters?

Homeless youth deserve equal opportunities.

Small investments today = huge impacts tomorrow.













What is CalKIDS?



Automatic college scholarship accounts funded by the State of California.

No application needed.

Up to \$1,500 per eligible student.









California Kids Investment and

Focus on Homeless Youth

- Homelessness creates major educational and financial barriers.
- CalKIDS offers real financial empowerment at a critical time.
- Current engagement with homeless youth needs expanded.











CalKIDS Award Breakdown



\$500 for eligible students



\$500 extra for foster youth



\$500 extra for homeless youth



Potential total: \$1,500 per student











How Eligibility is Determined

LCFF Data through schools



Fall Academic Census Day snapshot

No separate application needed by students or families



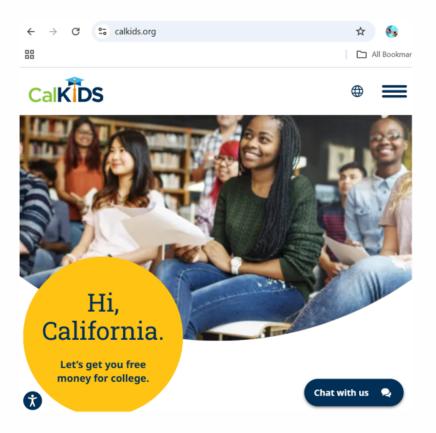






California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program

How Students Access Their Funds



Visit CalKIDS.org



Enter:

Statewide Student Identifier (SSID)

Date of birth

County of school enrollment











Distribution and Use of Funds

Available starting at age 17

Valid through age 26

Pays for tuition, books, housing, tech equipment











Real Impact for Students

Students with even small savings accounts are 3x more likely to attend and complete college.

Even small accounts change expectations and mindsets.













Barriers Homeless Youth Face

- Lack of consistent contact info
- Trauma and distrust of systems
- Limited adult support
- Transportation or internet barriers











Best Practices for Overcoming Barriers

- Proactive outreach via shelters, schools, youth services
- Gentle, persistent messaging
- Trusted Messenger led sign-up events











Outreach Strategies for Schools and Programs

- Flyers and posters in shelters, motels, community centers
- Direct outreach by trusted adults
- Include CalKIDS info in enrollment/registration packets
- Outreach during youth advisory groups or case management sessions









Development Savings Program

Educators' Role: Becoming CalKIDS Champions

- Inform talk to students about their accounts.
- Assist help them claim accounts early.
- Empower reinforce their right to dream big









Thank you!

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