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## Computers, Internet Available for Low-Income Families



From left to right: iFoster Co-Founder Reid Cox; Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia (District 1); Bernard Naquin; Mounir Tyler, Contra Costa County Program Manager for First Place for Youth, California Emerging Technology Fund President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak.

The California Emerging Technology Fund and iFoster is launching a new partnership in Contra Costa County to help improve the lives of vulnerable children and youth, particularly those in the foster care community.

During s kick-off event held Monday, iFoster presented a laptop computer to Bernard Naquin, a 19-year-old Richmond youth who emancipated from the Contra Costa County foster care system and now attends Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill.

Through the iFoster program, families in the foster, adoptive and kinship systems, as well as students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch, can receive affordable

broadband Internet service and purchase laptop and desktop computers from \$120 to \$250. iFoster recently received a \$300,000 grant from the technology fund to expand its program in seven California counties.

In Contra Costa County, iFoster will provide youth and families affordable computers and high-speed Internet, and work with county agencies and community partners to develop local solutions that address barriers to academic success for vulnerable youth. There are about 1,000 children and youth in the Contra Costa County foster care system, many of whom will benefit from the program.

“Contra Costa County is proud to partner with iFoster and California Emerging Technology Fund to provide affordable computers and Internet access to our youth. Many of us take for granted our ability to find resources and information at the tip of our fingers,” said Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia.

For more information on how to get discounted computers, please go to [iFoster.org](http://iFoster.org)

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