

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 permanently authorized the Independent Living Program (ILP) which offers training, services and programs to assist current and former foster youth achieve self-sufficiency prior to and after leaving the foster care system. The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169), amended Section 477 of the Social Security Act providing more flexibility in the use of ILP funding (See 42 USC 677).

In California, County Welfare Departments have the flexibility to design services to meet a wide range of individual needs and circumstances for current and former foster youth. Every California county operates an ILP. Youth participation is voluntary.

SERVICES OFFERED

The core services are based on the youth's individual needs and goals as described in their Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). Services are designed to assist youth with: education, career development, financial budgeting skills, health, safety, housing and permanency.

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED

- Daily living skills
- Money management
- Decision making
- Safety Skills
- Career Development
- Employment resources
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Educational Resources
- Help with accessing financial assistance for college or vocational schools
- Housing referrals

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility is determined by county social workers/probation officers. Youth are eligible for ILP services at age 16 up to their 21st birthday provided one of the following criteria is met:

- Youth are/were a dependent or ward in foster care at any time between their 16th and 19th birthdays.
- Youth placed in out-of-home care by a tribe or tribal organization between their 16th and 19th birthdays.
- Youth is/was a former dependent who entered into a kinship guardianship at any age and received a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) after the age of 16.
- Youth is/was a former dependent who entered into a non-related legal guardianship after attaining age 8 and is receiving permanent placement services.

HOW TO REQUEST SERVICES?

For current foster youth, the youth's social worker or probation officer will refer them to the county ILP coordinator. Former foster youth can contact the child welfare or probation office in the county they are residing in, the county they exited from or the CDSS Transitional Age Youth Policy Unit at TAYPolicy@dss.ca.gov or (916) 651-7465 for assistance.

WHERE TO GO FOR CLASSES AND SERVICES?

The county ILP Coordinator will help youth find the nearest location. Many programs are held at local community colleges. Some of the partners providing services are: Foster Care Ombudsman Office, California Youth Connection, America's Job Centers and Workforce Investment Act Programs.

ANNUAL STATE ALLOCATION

Federal Funding for ILP for Fiscal Year 2015/16 is 16,765,969 million.