



El Dorado County Department of Human Services

Independent Living Program
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Program Manager II



The Independent Living Program (ILP)

- The Independent Living Program or ILP was authorized by the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169)
- The Program is both State and Federally Funded

ILP's Goals

- ILP's Goals are:
 - to assist and prepare youth to make a successful transition from foster care to independent living
 - to achieve self-sufficiency prior to and after leaving the foster care system

ILP Program Basics

- During FY 2009-2010 EDC ILP served an average of 105 youth per month including:
 - Foster youth from other counties placed on western slope and SLT
 - Emancipated EDC foster youth ages 18-21 living in EDC or relocated to other CA counties or out of state
 - Emancipated foster youth from other counties living in EDC

Our Clients

- The ILP program serves youth age 16 or older who are in Foster Care or Probation.
- Youth are eligible to participate up to their 21st birthday if they emancipated from the system.
- Client services are selected based on the needs, services and goals identified in the most recently completed Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP).

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

- TILP's are developed for each youth by the Social Worker or Probation Officer with the youth upon turning age 15 ½ or prior to the Disposition Hearing when a youth has entered foster care after age 16.
- TILP's describe the youth's current level of functioning, emancipation goals, progress toward achieving TILP goals, programs and services needed and identifies the youth's support system.
- TILP's are reviewed, updated, approved and signed by the Social Worker or Probation Officer and youth every six months.



Services Provided

- Group Services such as Life Skills Classes
- Individual Services



Sample Life Skill Class Topics

- College and Financial Aid
- Consumer Skills
- Health/Parenting
- Housing Part I – Housing Options & Costs
- Housing Part II – Setting Up Your First Place
- Driver's license, Insurance & Cars
- Career Exploration and Vocational Testing
- Banking, Credit, and taxes
- OneStop/Connections
- Connections to Local Vocational and Employment Services.



Individual Services

- The ILP social worker attempts to make contact with each ILP eligible youth at least monthly either in person, by phone, by email or by written correspondence.
- Services delivered individually to ILP youth include:

Referral to ILP Services

- Ensuring that all El Dorado County youth placed in other counties are referred to local ILP services
- Payment of ILP related costs for youth participating in other counties
- Connecting emancipated youth to ILP & THP Plus programs where they are living

Needs Assessment

- Administer state-approved life skills assessments to be incorporated into ILP plans
- Schedule emancipation preparation meetings for current foster youth to work on emancipation plans
- Participate in team meetings for THPP & THP Plus participants to establish goals, monitor progress and assist with transitions

Case Management

- Work with youth, social worker & CASA on ILP plan goals & planning for emancipation
- Communicate information on ILP progress to El Dorado County social workers and document in CWS/CMS system.
- Provide Quarterly progress reports to Probation Officers and social workers from other counties on their youths' progress
- Serve as on-going ILP social worker to eligible youth either after emancipation or when returned home to parents through age 21

Mentoring

- Encourage youth to engage with CASAs or other appropriate mentors
- Engage mentors in working on emancipation goals with their youth

Room & Board Financial Assistance

- Assisting emancipated youth with move-in costs
- Connecting youth to energy assistance programs
- Emergency help with groceries, rent, or utility costs due to job loss or other crisis
- Budget counseling to prevent future financial problems

Transitional Housing

- Provide information and guidance regarding application and/or participation with THPP & THP Plus programs
- Connect youth with training programs or community colleges that provide housing
- Provide on-going support and services to youth living in local THPP & THP Plus

Money Management

- Direct assistance with budgeting & banking issues
- Assistance obtaining credit reports and credit counseling
- Referrals to community members for financial mentoring

Education

- Connection with foster youth services liaison
- Counseling regarding college requirements for enrollment
- Payment for education costs associated with ROP or college classes taken while in high school

Education – Post Secondary

- Assist youth in college selection process, application, and costs of applying
- Work directly with youth to apply for financial aid and scholarships
- Connect youth with college support services to increase successful progress
- Payment of costs for housing deposits or books when financial aid has not yet been received

Employment / Vocational Training

- Assisting with job search, applications, resumes
- Connection with OneStop & WIA services
- Information and application assistance for ROP, Job Corps, California Conservation Corps, and other vocational training options
- Assistance in obtaining financial aid when available and/or assistance with fee/supply costs

Career / Job guidance

- Connecting youth to OneStop & WIA services
- Career testing & career education
- Connection to colleges & vocational education

Transportation

- Assist with costs of obtaining driver's license
- Information on purchasing a car, purchasing car insurance, and getting car repairs
- Educating youth how to use local transit services
- Provide youth with monthly bus passes as needed to work or attend vocational training

Consumer Skills

- Education on obtaining credit report, costs of credit & repairing poor credit
- Assistance with budgeting, smart shopping and avoiding scams
- Assisting emancipated youth with budgeting for and purchasing of basic home goods for their first apartment

Home Management

- Educating youth on home care basics & cooking
- Assisting youth get hands-on experience with these skills through ILP classes and encouragement to practice these skills in their foster placements

Health Care

- Assisting emancipated youth with Medical issues
- Educating youth on connecting with health services including local providers & Public Health nurse
- Referrals and support regarding AOD issues/services

Connecting with Community Resources

- Educating and connecting youth with needed services in their local community
- Information & assistance in obtaining birth certificates, social security cards, and identification documents

Parenting Skills

- Education through ILP classes and classes available in the community
- Referrals to parenting and peri-natal services including Early Head Start, WIC, Family Connections, Marshall Hospital & Public Health Nursing
- Assistance with payment for parenting classes, car seats, childcare and other child-related costs for parenting youth

Wrap Up

