

Los Angeles County, Department of Children and Family Services
Los Angeles County, Probation Department
Emancipation Program Information Bulletin

One-Page Summary of Services

On December 14, 1999 the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program amended part of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide States with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to help youth make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. Foster youth between the ages of 16 and 21 years old are eligible for a full range of Independent Living Program services and funds (Youth ages 14-15 are eligible for some services). **The youth's eligibility is based on the documented need on his/her Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). Some of these resources, due to limited funding, may not be available.** The resources include:

- Education-related costs, including: tuition, books, supplies, clothing, transportation fees (includes parking), computers, tutoring and scholarships
- High school graduation expenses
- Work-related costs, including: clothing, tools, professional/union dues, vocational and educational assessments, and costs incurred due to the job interview process. Linkage services provided to job training/hiring programs.
- Payment for transportation costs related to job search, work or school (public or private)
- Existing housing programs for emancipated youth includes DCFS/United Friends of the Children transitional housing and other community-based programs
- Room and Board for emancipated youth [Apartment start-up expenses; payments to caregivers (foster and relative) who wish to continue care after emancipation, etc.] (Note: Subleasing will not be funded.)
- ILP life skills training classes, financial aid workshops, computer classes, mentoring and youth conferences
- ~~Starting lessons of [redacted] youth~~
- Assistance with car insurance premiums for emancipated youth
- Emancipated youth Aftercare services and costs, including: supportive counseling and linkages, as needed, legal assistance, and job placement and retention training
- ~~Reimbursement for health services costs (physical and/or mental) that are not funded by Medi-Cal and beyond the financial means of the emancipated youth. Included are costs for classes or services related to parenting skills, nutrition, drug/alcohol use, etc.~~
- Participation in youth events (Celebration I, II and Success is Our Future)
- Miscellaneous expenses related to mentoring, youth conferences, and other activities

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Emancipation Program staff at (213) 351-0100/0101 or visit www.ilponline.org

EMANCIPATION GOAL GUIDELINES

By the time I transition out of foster care I will.....

Career/Job Guidance

Be ready to look for, get and keep a job

- Have my Social Security card and Work Permit
- Have job or volunteer work experience
- Know where to look for work and how to apply
- Understand appropriate work habits

Consumer Skills

Able to purchase and prepare nutritious foods

Education

Have completed my educational plan

- Have good attendance
- Have good homework and study skills
- Have passing grades
- Have passed the English and Math parts of California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)
- Have taken and passed all the classes required to meet the graduation requirements
- Have met with school counselor
- Have taken SAT or ACT college admission tests
- Have applied for higher education or vocational training
- Have a library card and know how to access Homework Helps and other resources

Health Care

Be able to care for my health

- Understand how to take care of my medical, dental and vision care
- Know how to take care of my mental health needs
- Know how to locate health care providers
- Make appointments at recommended intervals
- Understand how to use Medi-cal via the FFCC program
- Have had sex education and understand how to prevent unwanted pregnancy and STI's

Home Management

Be able to maintain a safe and stable home

- Can plan and prepare meals
- Can perform household chores to maintain a clean and healthy environment
- Able to use laundry equipment
- Know how to get emergency assistance
- Have obtained and know how to safeguard personal documents

Housing Options/Locations

Know where I will live

- Have explored possibilities
- Have considered a roommate versus living alone
- Have checked ILP resources
- Have considered expenses

Interpersonal/Social Skills

Have appropriate social skills

- Know how to make and keep friends
- Know how to be a friend to others
- Respect the property of others
- Behave in a respectful and polite manner
- Have problem-solving skills
- Can delay gratification
- Keep myself clean
- Dress appropriately
- Practice good dental care

Money Management

Understand the basics of money management

- Know how to earn money
- Know how to save money
- Know how to budget
- Know how to open and use a bank account
- Know how to establish credit and use it responsibly
- Understand the value of things

Parenting Skills

Have completed child development and/or parenting classes

Time Management

Know how to prioritize and allow enough time to complete necessary tasks to reach goals

Transitional Housing

Understand how to access transitional housing resources

Transportation

Can use public transportation

Other

Have survival skills

- Able to look at a problem, think of some ways to solve the problem and decide what action to take
- Able to seek help when needed
- Able to take responsibility for my own actions
- Have a personal support system
- Know how to avoid peer pressure
- Understand that my choices have consequences
- Understand how to connect to community spiritual centers