

Los Angeles county Departments of Children and Family Services/Probation, Youth Development Services (YDS) Individualized Transition Skills Program (ITSP) Fact Sheet

The Individualized Transition Skills Program (ITSP) is the life skills training design for Transition Age Youth (TAY), ages 16-21 of Los Angeles County DCFS. ITSP provides a one-on-one life coaching model derived from the enacted federal legislation, Public Law 99-272 (1986) and Public Law 106-169 (1999). The Public Laws require that an Independent Living Program (ILP) be implemented for youth in the Child Welfare and Probation systems. On March 2, 2010, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion to add self-sufficiency as an additional Child Welfare Outcome Goal.

The ITSP approach has been active since March of 2014 developed to enhance the daily life skills, and promote self-sufficiency of the population served. This enhanced approach is different from the former classroom setting providing individualized teaching and demonstration for TAY and caregivers in the home or community. In this model, ITSP will provide TAY with experience and assistance to become productive and self-sufficient adults. The ITSP goals are consistent with the requirements created to fulfill the Foster Care Independence Act (Chafee Act), and the eight Chafee outcome measures which are: 1) Receiving a high school diploma; 2) Educational attainment; 3) Employment; 4) Avoidance of dependency; 5) Avoiding homelessness; 6) Avoiding non-marital childbirth; 7) Avoiding incarceration; and 8) Avoiding high-risk behaviors. Additionally, ITSP is expected to promote permanent connections/relationships for some youth.

ITSP will provide these services to eligible TAY Countywide. Below are some key points about ITSP:

- ITSP is voluntary and designed as a two-year program although some youth can receive a certificate of completion after one year;
- Will serve up to 800 TAY who are ILP eligible ages 16 to 21;
- TAY may have an open or closed case DCFS/Probation case to participate;
- ITSP offers individualized/one-on-one services, primarily in the home/placement, but services can take place in the TAYs community when necessary;
- The case carrying Children's Social Worker (CSW), or Deputy Probation Officer (DPO), will be required to submit a current Transition Independent Living Plan (TILP), and the DCFS 5557 referral form to the ILP Transition Coordinator (TC), in the Service Planning Area (SPA), offices for screening and referring to the appropriate Contractor servicing the SPA where the TAY resides. In the case of closed cases, a TILP is completed by the TC;
- TAY must reside in Los Angeles County and be referred no later than their 20th birthday;
- The two Contractors are: The Community College Foundation (TCCF), for SPAs one through four and Children's Institute Incorporated (CII), for SPAs five through eight;
- The Contractor will match the TAY to a Transition Development Specialist (TDS) to provide the services;
- The TDS will administer a life skills assessment to initiate services and determine progress;
- A TAY can receive up to four monetary incentives at \$75 each, totaling \$300 for completion of ITSP goals;
- TDS will meet face to face with TAY each month;
- The Contractor will host group activities to promote socialization and meet ITSP goals.

For program information please contact Michael S. Darajorn, County Program Manager at darajm@dcfs.lacounty.gov. All referrals to ITSP must come from the TAY's case carrying CSW/DPO to the ILP TC before services can begin.