

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This Directory is primarily intended for use by transition-age young adults and their advocates to assist them in areas of employment, housing, life skills training, education, legal assistance, reproductive health, dating and violence, advocacy, and mentoring. The Directory was developed through the collaborative efforts of staff from the Los Angeles County, Department of Children Services, Probation Department and community partners.

One disadvantage of a printed Directory is that some resource listings become outdated soon after printing. Youth should consult those adults in their lives who are knowledgeable about these services for updates. It may be useful to use this Directory to cross reference information that is also on the Youth Development Services website (www.ilponline.org).

Both the terms “young adults” and “youth” are used throughout this Directory. The goal is to be sensitive to how youth wish to be referred and to provide a resource directory for a large age-range of youth.

Services for transition-age youth are provided by the **Youth Development Services (YDS)** division within Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

If there are any further additions or changes to the Directory that you would like to see, please contact LaSonya Gibbs (213) 351-0238 or by e-mail gibbsle@dcsf.lacounty.gov.

Eligibility for Resources and Services

Services are based on need and availability

For a youth to be eligible for many of the services listed in this Directory, he/she needs to be identified as ‘Independent Living Program-eligible’. This means that the youth meets the California Department of Social Services guidelines for eligibility. These regulations state:

Youth shall be eligible for Independent Living Program (ILP) services up to their 21st birthday provided one of the following criteria is met:

- *Were/are in foster care at any time from their 16th to their 19th birthday. This does not include youth placed in detention facilities, locked facilities, forestry camps, training schools, facilities that are primarily for the detention of youth who are adjudicated delinquent, medical and psychiatric facilities, voluntary placements, wraparound program participants, youth placed pursuant to an individualized education program and guardianship placements in which the youth is not a dependent or ward of the court.*

- *Were/are 16 years of age up to 18 years of age and in receipt of the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (KinGap) assistance.*

Eligible youth younger than 16 years of age may participate in an ILP for younger youth if the county of jurisdiction has a county plan that includes such a program. Youth younger than 16 years of age placed outside their county of jurisdiction may participate in an ILP for younger youth only with prior approval of the county of jurisdiction. Participation in an ILP for younger youth prior to age 16 does not qualify a youth for ILP eligibility.

ILP participation is deferred only if the youth is physically or mentally unable to benefit from the ILP as determined by the youth's primary care physician or health/mental health care professional or if the youth declines to participate in the ILP. If ILP participation is deferred, the social worker/probation officer on behalf of youth in foster care or the ILP coordinator on behalf of KinGap youth and other eligible youth shall document, in the Transition Independent Living Plan (TILP) the reason(s) for the deferment. A redetermination of deferment shall be made at least every six months and documented in the TILP.

Eligibility for the ILP shall not be determined by outside agencies such as contractors or vendors. (See ILP Quick Notes in Appendix/Forms section)

There are many other services and programs listed in this Directory that a non-ILP eligible youth can access and this Directory attempts to identify those services and programs.

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

One of the important documents in the planning and assessment process for transitioning age youth is the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). In-care youth work with their Children's Social Work (CSW) / Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) and caregiver to identify their needs and planned activities on this document. Emancipated youth work with their Transition Coordinator using an Emancipated Living Plan document.

Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee Act)

In 1999, The Foster Care Independence Act was passed by the Congress of the United States. This Act established the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, (replacing the former Independent Living Program). It was named in honor of the late Senator John H. Chafee of Rhode Island, one of the original Senate sponsors of the Act and a long time champion for abused and neglected children. The Act provided for several changes and it required that states facilitate the development of transition plans for youth and that the youth participate in the planning of her/his services. By actively participating in this plan, youth begin to recognize and accept personal responsibility for their role in making the transition from adolescence to adulthood. The completion of the

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) is the first step in making this transition.

For more information about this Act and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the Casey Family Programs website at: www.casey.org or, for a full text of the Act, visit: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

The resources in this Directory are listed as a service to young adults and their advocates. Inclusion is by no means an endorsement or measure of quality. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information contained within this Directory. Those who developed this Directory and their employers assume no responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions or inconsistencies herein.