



**Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Transitional Housing Program (THP)
For Homeless Young People**

The DCFS Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Young People provides housing and supportive services to emancipated foster youth age 18 to 21 years old that are homeless or have the potential of being homeless due to living in temporary unstable housing. The Transitional Living Model is a combination of both scattered site apartments and multi-unit apartment buildings. Apartments are leased in areas with easy access to public transportation, colleges, shopping centers and grocery stores.

GOALS

- Prevent emancipated foster youth that do not have stable housing from becoming homeless
- Provide youth with the necessary life skills to assist them in becoming self-supporting
- Provide follow-up services for six months after participants exit the program.
- Serve as a national model for transitional housing programs serving former foster youth

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Each youth is assigned a social worker who assists with job search, school enrollment, and use of community resources. The worker also helps the youth develop independent living skills in the areas of job readiness skills, money management, food purchase, food preparation, laundry, housecleaning, and finding affordable medical and dental care through conducting life skill's classes.

SERVICES

- Furnished apartments and paid utilities
- Services – weekly face to face contacts by a social worker
- Educational guidance and counseling
- Food stipend monthly (including an additional allotment for minor children of teen mothers)
- Assistance to secure medical coverage and care
- Career guidance and counseling
- Independent Living skills training
- Assistance with locating permanent housing upon exit from the program
- Follow-up supportive services with emancipated youth who have completed the program
- Transportation Resources – bus passes and/or tokens
- Transition Resource Center (TRC) services
- Independent Transitional Housing or Referral to Special Needs Transitional Housing
- Child Care Services – (for teen moms working and/or attending school)
- Public Health Nurse - providing medical consultations, health care training and resources for youth and minor children of teen mothers
- Individual Counseling

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. 18-21 years of age
2. Prior Dept. Children and Family Services or Probation Youth
3. Homeless (no stable place of permanent residency)
4. Personal motivation to achieve independence
5. Willingness to follow program rules and regulations.
6. Willingness to participate in the **WINGS** Program (*Welcoming Independence, New Growth and Self-sufficiency*) through selection of one of the following program tracks:

A. Work/Save Track

- Requires full-time employment
- Expected outcome: Save 50% or more of net earnings in an interest bearing trust fund account. The saved funds will be released to youth upon completion or departure from the program

B. Work/Study Track

- Requires part-time employment (at least 20 hours per week) and full or part-time school attendance. Youth may attend a 2-year junior college, vocational/certificate program or any other academically oriented or job training program. On a case-by-case basis, some youth attending a vocational program or school may be allowed to work less than 20 hours with the approval of the supervisor and program manager
- Outcome: AA degree from a community college or certificate of completion from a trade or vocational job training program
- Willingness to participate in program activities, special events, workshops, conferences, seminars, training's, etc
- Willingness to meet with Transitioning Youth Social Workers (TYSW) on a weekly basis
- Willingness to **Welcome, Independence, New Growth and Self-sufficiency**

LENGTH OF ASSISTANCE

The estimated average length of time a youth will receive housing assistance is one year with a maximum allowable assistance up to 18 months. Six months follow-up services are provided. All residents are required to work and/or attend school or vocational training. No resident receives public assistance.

REFERRALS

Social workers, group home operations, and community agencies can make referrals. Youth can also self-refer if already emancipated from foster care.

For referral information, please contact (213) 351-0190.