

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

The Individualized Transition Skills Program (ITSP) was derived from the enacted federal legislation, Public Law 99-272 (1986) and Public Law 106-169 (December 14, 1999). The Public Laws require that an Independent Living Program (ILP) for youth be implemented 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.

Consequently, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) released a Request for Proposal to acquire new contractors to provide the required life skills training. This enhanced approach is different from the current classroom setting providing individualized/one-on-one teaching and demonstration for Transition Age Youth (TAY) and/or caregivers in the home. In the new model, ITSP will provide TAY with experience, and assistance to become productive and self-sufficient adults.

ITSP was developed to enhance daily life skills and to promote Self-Sufficiency of the TAY served. 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 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. ITSP will also promote permanent connections/relationships.

ITSP will begin January 2014 with service provision to eligible TAY countywide. Below are some key points about ITSP:

- ITSP is voluntary and designed as a 2-year program;
- Will serve 900 TAY, who are ILP eligible ages 16 through 20;
- TAY may have an open DCFS/Probation case or a closed case to participate;
- ITSP offers individualized/one-on-one services, primarily in the home/placement;
- The case carrying Children Social Workers (CSW) or Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) will be required to submit a current Transition Independent Living Plan (TILP) and the DCFS 5557/Referral form to the ILP Transition Coordinator in the region/area offices for screening and referring to the appropriate Contractor servicing the area where the TAY resides. If the case is closed a Transition Age Youth Living Plan (TAYLP) is completed by the Coordinator;
- TAY must reside in Los Angeles County and referred before their 19th Birthday;
- The two contractors are: The Community College Foundation (TCCF) for Service Planning Areas (SPA) one through four and Children Institute Incorporated (CII) for SPAs five through eight;
- The Contractor will match the TAY to a Transition Development Specialist (TDS);
- 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 with the TAY minimum twice per month to implement ITSP; and
- TDS may host group activities to promote socialization and meet ITSP goals.

For program information please contact Charlotte Lewis, County Program Manager at lewich@dcfs.lacounty.gov. All referrals to ITSP must come from the TAYs case carrying CSW/CPO to the ILP Transition Coordinator before services can begin.