

Youth Policy Guide: Transitional Independent Living Planning (TILP)



What is a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)?

"I.N.D.E.P.E.N.D.E.N.T. Do you know what that mean?!"

- The TILP is a goal-setting document that you fill out with your social worker to get you ready for independence and determine what is needed for you to reach your goals.
- Independence and self-sufficiency pretty much mean that you are expected to do things on your own.
 - Your medical, educational, and social needs all start with you. The TILP is designed to get you ready to navigate these areas on your own after you exit foster care.
- If you're 16 years old or older, you should start the TILP and update it with your social worker every 6 months.

How do I know if I'm ready to be independent?

- DCFS uses the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA): determines a youths level of independence.
- You can fill it out with your social worker in-person or online
- Your score helps create the goals for your TILP

What does the TILP look like?

**SAMPLE
TILP**

Goal	Activities	Responsible Party	Planned Completion Date
Apply to College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with school counselor to strategize on finishing A-G requirements • Take SAT prep class and take SAT exam • Apply to college 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • CSW will assist locating SAT class if not offered at school • CSW will refer youth to Education Consultant if additional assistance is needed ILP will fund SAT class and assist with college applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09/10/2012 to meet counselor • 10/9/2012 (date of next SAT exam, deadline to register is 9/10/2012.) <p>No later than 11/30/2012 for college applications (follow specific college application deadlines)</p>
Obtain funding for college	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend ILP financial aid workshop • Apply for scholarships, grants, and financial aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • ILP will hold workshop and assist with financial aid applications • CSW will refer youth to Education Consultant if additional assistance is needed 	03/15/2013
Learn to drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take driver's training class • Take driving exam • Obtain driver's insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • Caretaker • ILP/DCFS will provide funding for training and insurance 	12/30/2012
Obtain part-time employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit school's career center • Obtain work permit • Register at local OneSource Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • Caretaker • CSW will take youth to register at OneSource • ILP will provide funding for job transportation and job clothing 	02/30/2012
Establish permanent connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find mentor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSW/ILP will refer to mentoring program 	02/30/2012

My social worker keeps mentioning the Independent Living Program (ILP). What is ILP?

- If you were in foster care at any time between the ages of 16 and 18 you are eligible for ILP services until you are 21 years old.
- ILP services are meant to help foster youth live independently. Services include:
 - Education - Scholarships, tutoring, and GED completion, college skills
 - Career Development - work readiness trainings, employment experience, JobSource/YouthSource Center
 - Mentorships - ILP referrals/ self referrals(supportive adults), Individualized Transitional Skills Program (ITSP)
 - Daily Living Skills - information on and training in, money management, budgeting, personal/professional skills, self-advocacy, household skills, etc.
 - Financial Resources - financial support such as, clothing allowance, money for books and school supplies, transportation, and food.
 - Housing Information - Information and referrals about transitional housing and other housing programs, including Section 8 and low income.

What if I am not eligible for ILP because I exited foster care before I turned 16?

- There are additional programs/services however, if you were NOT in foster care between the ages of 16 and 18 you are not eligible for ILP services.
- Your social worker connects you with other services that you are eligible for.

Who supports me while I transition towards independence?

- You have a wide support network made up of two teams. (1) Your Core Team and (2) Your Support Team

1. **Core Team:** Ideally, made up of foundational relationships to help you reach your goals.

- a. Youth
- b. Social Worker (CSW)
- c. Foster/ Kinship Parent or Agency
- d. Group Home
- e. ILP Coordinator

2. **Support Team:** Made up of service providers and professionals who can further support you and your core team.

- a. DCFS Staff (ex: juvenile court staff, wrap-around, etc)
- b. ILP service provider
- c. School
- d. County Counsel

What happens after the TILP and I'm accepted for ILP?

- Your TILP gets updated every 6 months
- Your Social Worker, LP coordinator, and the YDS Division should provide follow-up services