

Independent Living Program

Background Notes

The Department of Human Services offers four programs for helping youth achieve independence. They are the *Independent Living Program (ILP)*, the *Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP)*, the *Chafee Housing Program* and the *Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)*. The **ILP** provides training and classes to prepare youth to live independently.

The **ILSP & Chafee Housing** programs can provide funds to assist youths with room and board expenses, if they qualify. The **ETV** can provide funds to assist youth with post-secondary education or training. The statistics for youth transitioning from foster care is disheartening. The outcomes for youth leaving the foster care system as adults or adolescents is bleak. Read the Child Trends report: <https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/foster-care/>. On the contrary those who are taught to advocate for themselves have improved outcomes.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask your Supervisor to help you set an appointment with your Independent Living Program specialist in your office.
- Find out whom your local ILP provider is in your community and make an appointment to learn about the services they offer the teens in your community.
- Find out the age requirements for the various services Oregon has to offer for teens.
- Review the eligibility requirements as well as your caseload to determine if any of the youth on your caseload are eligible for ILP services. <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/FOSTERCARE/ILP/Pages/index.aspx>
- Attend the ILP computer based training through the DHS Learning Center.

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Discoveries:

- *How are referrals made?*
- *Are there any youth on your caseload that are eligible and should be referred for ILP services?*
- *Is there a waiting list in your community for services?*