



**CRS** COMMUNITY RESOURCE SERVICES

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*Transitional Services for Foster Youth*  
2011 - 2012



**Supporting  
Children**

**Strengthening  
Families**

**Empowering  
Communities**

**Changing  
Lives**

[www.childguidance.org](http://www.childguidance.org)

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) created the Independent Living Skills Program to assist youth adults who are emancipating from the foster care system. This program provides support services to present and former foster youth, ages 14-21 years. Any youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who is currently in foster care or has been in foster care as a dependent youth (DCFS) or ward of the court (Probation) is eligible. This includes all youth whose case was terminated after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, including youth who were adopted, returned home to guardians/parents, and those living with relatives. The following directory will outline all the services for which these youth are eligible.

Most services that are available for foster youth are offered by the Department of Children and Family Services or other contracted agencies. Foster youth who are interested in accessing these support services should contact their DCFS worker directly. In addition, the Department of Children and Family Services has an Independent Living Program Coordinator assigned to each Region of Los Angeles County. All requests for services are usually initiated through the youth's DCFS worker but are then sent to the Independent Living Program Regional Coordinator. The Regional Coordinator can be contacted at any time with questions regarding program services.

### **Emancipation Services Division**

#### **Independent Living Program**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

**11390 West Olympic Boulevard**

**Los Angeles, CA 90064**

**(213) 351-0111**

### **Amelia Lopez, Independent Living Program Coordinator**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

**Region V: North Hollywood**

**12020 Chandler Blvd.**

**North Hollywood, CA 91607**

**(818) 755-5920**

## II. INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAMS

**The Community College Foundation**  
**Human Development and Youth Services**  
**14156 Magnolia Boulevard, Suite 101**  
**Sherman Oaks, CA 91423**  
**(818) 501-1940**  
**Fax (818) 501-1944**  
[hdys@communitycollege.org](mailto:hdys@communitycollege.org)

**Target Population:** Emancipating foster youth

**Services Available:** The Department of Children and Family Services contracts with the Community College Foundation to offer classes for foster youth ages 14-18 on Independent Living.

- **Early Start to Emancipation Preparation (ESTEP)**

This is an Independent Living Skills class for foster youth ages 14 and 15. It serves as a stepping-stone to the Independent Living Skills program that is offered to 16-18 year olds. It is a monthly class that addresses basic academic skills, school performance, career goals, money management, nutrition, hygiene, drug and alcohol prevention, interpersonal skills and social development. The class is held at Mission College on one Saturday per month. Each class is designed to be taught independent of the others so a youth can join the class at anytime. However, classes begin in September and the best time to sign up would be in August. There is generally not a waiting list for these classes.

The Early Start to Emancipation Preparation's tutorial program provides one-on-one home remedial tutoring to develop basic math and reading skills. Youth that are ages 14-15 and who are 1 to 3 years below grade level in their academic achievement are eligible for tutoring.

- **Independent Living Program**

This program is similar to ESTEP only it is designed for foster youth who are 16-18 years. This is a 10 week Independent Living class that is offered three times per year by the Community College Foundation. The class is held at a local community college and taught by two Outreach Advisors. They receive referrals from the entire San Fernando Valley and choose 25 youth to be in the class. The outreach counselors will prioritize the oldest youth so the 17 and 18 year olds will have a better chance of getting in. Transportation is provided to the class and a meal is provided during the meeting. They address food

preparation, health, financial budgeting, job hunting, and interviewing. They will visit a college campus and learn about financial aid.

### **III. SUPPORT SERVICES**

#### **California Youth Connection**

**Jason Mendez, Emancipation Coordinator**  
**Department of Children and Family Services**  
**12020 Chandler Blvd.**  
**North Hollywood, CA 91607**  
**(818) 755-5229**

**Target Population:** Foster youth between the ages of 15 to 18 years

**Services Available:** This is a monthly support group where foster youth have the opportunity to meet young adults who were once in the Foster Care system. The meetings will provide them with a support network and increase their knowledge of emancipation services. The Emancipation Coordinator is Jason Mendez; he can be reached at (818-755-5229) if they would like more information or if they would like to attend. No referral is necessary.

#### **Foster Youth Info Line**

**(800) 400-9925**

**Target Population:** Any youth in foster placement

**Services Available:** The Foster Youth Information Line provides the foster youth a place to call to discuss anything related to foster care. All calls are confidential. Lines are open between 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. This is an Info Line that was established to provide children and youth in out-of-home care with an avenue to discuss various issues relating to placement. Former foster youth staff the phones and can provide resource information.

#### **Teens on Wheels**

**Department of Children and Family Services**  
**Adolescent Services and Special Programs**  
**(626) 938-1607**

**Target Population:** All Emancipated foster youth (18-21 years).

**Services Available:** This program provides financial assistance with the cost of attending driving school and the fees associated with obtaining a driver's license. To be eligible, the foster youth must be 18 years of age and emancipated for the DCFS system. To obtain services the foster youth should contact their Independent Living Program Coordinator or the Teens on Wheels program directly. Once the foster youth has

obtained their driver's license they can contact their ILP coordinator to request assistance with their car insurance.

**Medi-Cal Assistance**  
**(213) 351-0100**

Medi-Cal eligibility has been extended up to a foster youth's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. When the youth's foster care status ends, the DCFS worker sends Medi-Cal eligibility information to the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the case is assigned to an Eligibility Worker who contacts the youth by letter.

**IV. JOB DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**DCFS Job Development Services**  
**3530 Wilshire Blvd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90010**  
**(213) 738-2667**

**Target Population:** Foster and qualifying Probation Youth, 16-21 years (14 years for summer jobs).

**Services Available:** Youth are assigned to an Employment Specialist who assists them (in person or over the phone) to search for part-time or full-time positions. Available positions are primarily clerical (and some maintenance) positions at county offices, such as Parks and Recreation, Fire Department, Social Services, or Public Works. Other openings include positions at the public libraries. During the summer, youth are recruited for the City's Summer Youth Employment Program.

**Skills Centers**  
**Penny Lane**  
**5317 Rayen Street**  
**North Hills**  
**(818) 892-3423**

**Target Population:** Foster or Qualifying Probation Youth.

**Services Available:** Through a referral from their ILP Coordinator, youth are referred to a 10-week series of classes held at Penny Lane or the HELP Group. Classes focus on job preparation, including interviewing skills, job applications, resumes, and job-seeking strategies. Transportation is provided.

**Los Angeles County DCFS Personnel, Recruitment Division**  
**425 Shatto Place #105**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90020**

**(213) 351-5507**

**Target Population:** Foster youth or emancipated foster youth 16 or older with high school diploma or GED.

**Services Available:** Permanent, full-time employment as a clerical worker (title: “Youth Worker”) with Los Angeles County starting at \$1,171/month plus benefits.

**Internal Services Department Facilities Operations Service**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

**(213) 738-2667**

**(213) 739-7379**

**Target Population:** Foster and qualifying Probation Youth, age 17-21, who possess a high school diploma or GED

**Services Available:** Highly structured, 12 month, paid job-training program developed to train youth in building crafts, such as carpentry, electrical, painting, sheet metal, telecommunications, and other apprenticeship level positions.

**V. CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES**

**Scholarship Program**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

**3530 Wilshire Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Los Angeles, CA 90010**

**(213) 351-0266**

**Target Population:** Foster and Qualifying Probation Youth soon to graduate from high school fill out applications at the beginning of the calendar year to apply.

**Services Available:** Scholarships offered to high school graduates or those earning GED in order to further their educational or vocational goals. Some scholarships require high achievement whereas others do not.

**VI. MULTIPURPOSE RESOURCE CENTERS**

**Pasadena Alumni Support Center**

**1395 East Orange Grove Blvd.**

**Pasadena, CA 91104**

**(626) 296-2641**

**Target Population:** Foster or emancipated foster youth, ages 14-23

**Services Available:** Assists foster youth with future planning following emancipation. Provides job referrals and job preparation. Acts as liaison to access financial assistance for foster youth for colleges or vocational schools, including tuition, books,

transportation, and clothing. This center also offers assistance with a wide range of services, including housing, legal, support groups, social events, and medical care.

**Alumni Resource Center**

**Department of Children and Family Services**  
**3530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 500**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90010**  
**(213) 351-0100**

**Target Population:** Emancipated foster youth, ages 18-21  
**Services Available:** This program provides services to youth who have emancipated from foster care. The drop-in center provides assistance with Medi-Cal, college or vocational school assistance, job referrals, and on-site computer labs for the youth to utilize.

**United Friends of the Children**

**1055 Wilshire Blvd. Suite #1955**  
**L.A., CA, 90017**  
**(213) 580-1850**  
**(213) 580-1845 Amber Brown**

**Target Population:** Emancipating or emancipated foster youth  
**Services Available:** This organization provides many programs for emancipating foster youth. They partner with the Department of Children and Family Services to provide a transitional housing program. They offer a vocational program that provides preparation skills and job placement services for entry-level positions for youth in the transitional living program. In addition, they provide college sponsorships to 25 emancipating foster youth annually who are pursuing higher education and have at least a 3.0 GPA. They also have case management

**VII. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SERVICES**

**Homeless Foster Youth Housing Program**

**Department of Children and Family Services**  
**Lorraine Johnson: Intake Coordinator**  
**(213) 351-0188**

**Target Population:** Homeless Foster Youth  
**Services Available:** The DCFS Emancipation Services Division and the Los Angeles County Probation Department, now offer Room and Board assistance to Independent Living Program eligible emancipated youth ages 18 to 21 years of age. Room and Board Assistance can include:

- Assistance toward rent for dorm bills, campus housing, rent payment to landlords, food, utility deposits and charges, moving expenses, and basic household items.
- Emergency rent and food subsidy to homeless youth or to prevent homelessness

**Department of Children and Family Services**  
**Transitional Housing Program for Emancipated Foster Youth**  
**5721 W. Slauson Ave., Suite #120**  
**Culver City, CA 90230**  
**213-639-4828**

**Target Population:** Foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years.

**Services Available:** The Transitional Housing program is designed to provide support for emancipated foster youth that are at risk of homelessness. Transitional Housing is a one-year program that provides each youth with a shared apartment, food and medical resources. Apartments are located through the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. Each youth is assigned a case manager who visits the apartment once a week to provide independent living skills training. To get more information, please call Lorraine Johnson, Intake Coordinator at 213-639-4828. There is a waiting list so referrals can be made when the youth is still 17 years old.

**Penny Lane Transitional Housing Program**  
**15317 Rayen St.**  
**North Hills, CA 91343**  
**818-892-3423**

**Target Population:** Emancipating youth ages 18 to 21 years.

**Services Available:** This is a transitional housing program that offers foster youth ages 18-21 that are at risk for homelessness. At risk of homelessness is defined as a youth that must leave foster care and has no place to go and lacks the skills necessary to emancipate. It is an intensive, short-term program that provides affordable housing, case management, individual and group counseling. Independent Living Skills classes and employment assistance is provided. Youth share a one-bedroom apartment within a complex that Penny Lane has purchased for this program. Referrals for the program can come from anyone and can be received prior to the youth's 18th birthday. They prioritize based on the youth's ability to successfully complete the program and their level of motivation.

**Covenant House**  
**1325 N. Western Ave.**  
**Hollywood, CA 90027**  
**(323) 957-7455**

**Target Population:** Homeless youth ages 18 to 21 years.

**Services Available:** Covenant House California is a multi-services agency offering comprehensive programs designed to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth. It provides residential services to youth 18-20 years of age. In order to be eligible for this program the youth must agree to enroll in school, vocational training or seek employment.

**Gramercy Housing Group**  
**1824 Fourth Avenue**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90019**  
**(323) 737-7351**

**Target Population:** Homeless young women who are pregnant or have children  
**Services Available:** Gramercy Shelter provides affordable housing. Residents are required to pay rent, participate in parenting classes, counseling and tenant association. The apartments are located at Washington Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The units are furnished with full bathrooms and kitchens. A full time social worker, outreach coordinator, and a residential manager are all on site. Childcare is also provided on site.

**New Economics for Women**  
**375 S. Columbia Ave.**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90017**  
**(213) 483-2058**

**Target Population:** Young mothers (ages 16-21) and their children  
**Services Available:** La Posada is a 60 unit rehabilitated building. The program offers a supportive and nurturing environment for young mothers and their children. Pregnant women are eligible. The units are single room occupancy with individual bathrooms. There is a community kitchen, a childcare center, a learning resource center, community lounges, and a community dining room. There is a two year maximum stay and rent is approximately \$265 per month.

**Hillview Mental Health Center**  
**11150 Eldridge Avenue**  
**Lake View Terrace, CA 91342**  
**(818) 896-1161**

**Target Population:** Emancipating youth, 18 years with a chronic mental illness and eligible for Social Security Disability  
**Services Available:** Transitional housing program for mentally ill youth

**Rancho San Antonio**  
**21000 Plummer Street**  
**Chatsworth, CA 91311**  
**(818) 882-6400**

**Target Population:** Emancipating male foster youth (ages 18-21)

**Services Available:** Transitional housing program that serves up to 20 youth in five, two-bedroom apartments. Youth are expected to work full or part-time and are encouraged to enroll in a vocational training program or community college. The manager lives on site and assists the youth with employment, school and life skills. Program is 18 months.