

# 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. Most do not maintain employment; almost half have become parents within four years of leaving foster care, and almost half do not have a high school diploma and a significant portion have spent time in jail. 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 checklists in the appendix, as well as your caseload to determine if any of the youth on your caseload are eligible for ILP services.
- Attend the ILP NetLink if possible. Go to <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us> to check availability and register.



## 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?*

