

Independent Living Services for Tribal Youth

HISTORY

Each year the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) Child and Family Services (CFS) Program applies for federal Title IV-E John Chafee Foster Care Independent Program (CFCIP) funds as provided for in the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. Through doing so, CFS is able to provide a full array of independent living services so as to assist in ensuring a seamless process of case planning and decision making for older youth that addresses both the youth's permanency needs and independent living skills development in preparation for transition to adulthood. The CFCIP provides opportunity for federally recognized tribes to access IL services either through developing their own program or in collaboration with state-run program. Tribal youth must meet the same eligibility criteria as non-tribal youth.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Independent Living services are available to youth between the ages of fourteen (14) to twenty-one (21) and meet all of the following criteria:

- A youth must be, or have been, the responsibility of the State or Indian Tribe through a court order **AND**
- A youth must have resided in an eligible placement setting which includes foster care, group care, an Indian boarding school, or similar foster care placement and excludes extended home visits including extended stays with a non-custodial parent (parental care in iCARE), protective supervision, in-patient hospital stays, detention facilities, forestry camps, or other settings primarily designed for services to delinquent youth;
- A youth must have resided in an eligible foster care setting for ninety (90) cumulative days after his/her 14th birthday; and

SPECIAL NOTES

- Room and board services are available only to IL eligible youth who have aged out of foster care settings upon reaching the age of 18 year, but have not yet reached the age of 21.
- IL eligible youth with legal permanency status of adoption or guardianship on/or after the 16th birthday are eligible for the Education and Training Vouchers (ETV's).

If a youth is found eligible for independent living services and subsequently reaches legal permanency status of adoption or guardianship, the youth remains eligible for independent living services until age 21.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES INCLUDE;

- Completion of an assessment of Independent Living needs through the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA)
- Independent Living Plan Development; The individualized written IL plan for the youth includes the 7 Integrated Transition Practice Framework (ITPF) domains. The domains are as follows:
 - (1) Cultural and personal identity formation

- Value and promote birth family connections. Invest in providing a continuum of information, opportunities and supports that enable youth to connect with birth families as they choose
 - Assess and provide service planning that addresses cultural needs
 - Connect youth to activities that address cultural needs and
 - Provide activities which support youth in developing a positive sense of self, with specific ideas on dealing with racism and discrimination.
- (2) Supportive relationships and community connections
- Connect youth with community resources
 - Connect youth with adult mentors
 - Create job/career opportunities for youth and
 - Create leadership opportunities for youth.
- (3) Physical and mental health
- Arrange comprehensive screenings to assess physical health, mental health and substance abuse before youth leave care
 - Arrange safety training for youth that addresses social relationships, home safety, preventing accidents and violence, reporting unsafe events, and safety response plans
 - Provide information to youth on pregnancy and STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) including HIV infection
 - Assist youth in learning how to manage their own health care needs;
 - Connect youth with appropriate health resources in their own community and
 - Provide youth information about available health care resources, including Medicaid or other insurance options.
- (4) Life skills
- Provide instruction for youth in goal setting and attainment; problem solving and decision-making; and self-advocacy
 - Assess youth's level of self-determination and sense of hope for the future;
 - Provide youth opportunities to practice life skills in a "real world" environment, such as money management and transportation issues
 - Provide youth with information on the responsibilities of parenting and effective parenting skills, including prevention of abuse and neglect and
 - Provide services to help youth face the challenges of forming healthy attachments with others.
- (5) Education
- Structure and coordinate educational advocacy
 - Provide educational case management
 - Involve parents and caregivers along with youth
 - Make basic skill acquisition a priority
 - Recognize the impact of trauma on a youth's ability to develop and learn
 - Coordinate special education services
 - Provide career development, vocational and job training
 - Arrange for post-secondary planning and supports
 - Encourage co-curricular or extracurricular engagement and

- Ensure collection and retrieval of all educational records for youth.
- (6) Employment
- Assist youth in identification of natural skills and abilities
 - Encourage career exploration through experience
 - Support development of job readiness training and employment skills including how to fill out a job application and create a resume
 - Work with job placement agencies and assist youth with job coaching
 - Provide preparation and training in non-traditional careers for young women
 - Teach youth how to save money and accumulate assets and
 - Provide opportunities for internships, volunteer opportunities and paid employment.
- (7) Housing
- Provide life skills classes that teach youth how to live independently such as finding an apartment and paying his or her own bills and maintain their own budget
 - Provide opportunities for youth to practice living on their own
 - Provide information on available resources to accommodate housing needs;
 - Work out landlord/roommates disputes
 - Provide opportunities to learn about assuming a lease or establishing his/her own housing arrangement at exit or at the end of a transitional-living experience and
 - Ensure that youth have a safe, affordable place to live when leaving care.
- **Transition Planning**—
 - **Continued Care** – When a youth turns 18 years of age and the plan is for the youth to continue in a paid licensed placement while the youth completes high school, the youth’s case can remain open and the foster home can continue to receive foster care maintenance payments. The youth can also remain open for Title XIX Foster Care Medicaid.
 - **Medicaid to 26**— The Affordable Care Act includes a provision that allows young people who “aged out” of foster care (turned 18 while in foster care) access to affordable health care coverage through Medicaid up to age 26. Effective January 1, 2014, Medicaid will be available, regardless of income, to former foster youth who were in foster care and receiving Medicaid at age 18 and who have not yet reached the age of 26. ***Youth must reside in Idaho to obtain this coverage and youth from states other than Idaho will not be able to obtain coverage in Idaho.***

ACCESSING SERVICES & FUNDS FROM CFS

- (1) Tribal social worker will complete the application below and send completed application to the state Independent Living Program Specialist.
- (2) Independent Living Program Specialist will contact Tribal youth and his/her placement resource to explain the CLSA purpose and provide link to Regional CLSA login information.
- (3) Once CLSA is received, Independent Living Program Specialist will forward application, CLSA and contact information to regional IL coordinator.
- (4) Regional coordinator will arrange to meet with tribal worker and family to information share: local resources and conjointly develop IL plan.

Tribal Youth Application

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Current Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Social Security Number _____

Current Phone Number () _____ Tribe _____

Tribal Caseworker Information

Name _____ Tribe _____

Agency Name _____ Phone Number () _____

Address _____ Email _____

Eligibility Requirements

1. **JURISDICTION:** Is or was the youth the responsibility of a Tribe and/or the Department of Health & Welfare, Children & Family Services through a court order?

Yes No

2. **AGE:** Is or was the youth in an eligible out-of-home care setting for 90 cumulative days after his/her 15th birthday?

Yes No

3. **ELIGIBLE PLACEMENT SETTING:** Is or has the youth resided in an eligible placement setting?

- **Includes:** non-relative/general foster care, relative foster care, Tribal foster care, group foster care, an Indian boarding school, or similar foster care
- **Excludes:** extended home visits with either the custodial parent or non-custodial parent, protective supervision, in-patient hospital stays, detention facility stays, forestry camps, or other settings primarily designed for services to delinquent youth.

Yes No

4. **ROOM AND BOARD ONLY:** Is this an eligible youth who left alternate care upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) but is not twenty-one (21) years of age?

