



**SHASTA COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
LIVING PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM BULLETIN
February 2007**

If you are preparing to go to college in the fall of 2007 you need to remember these important dates:
January/February

- Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible
- Make sure you get a GPA verification form if you are applying for the Cal Grant. Some schools automatically download your GPA to the state office; contact your school counselor for this information. If your school doesn't download the information, ask your counselor for a form. You can also contact your ILP Worker for help in downloading the forms.

March 2:

- If you haven't done it by now, today is the deadline for submitting the FAFSA and the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form! If you already submitted your forms sit back and watch your friends scramble around at the last minute while you say, "I told you so" and feel smug.
- **Reminder:** Many people get mixed up when applying for the Chafee Grant. The Chafee Grant application, for the 2007/2008 school year, will not be available until August 2007. The application time is different from regular financial aid applications.

Your ILP Caseworker can help you with all of your forms for college. The forms can be filled out on our computer, at our office, so they go right to the appropriate destination quickly. Contact your ILP Caseworker for assistance.

**** Beware: Please beware of any sites that ask for money for filing your FAFSA, Cal Grant, or Scholarships. None of the above mentioned grants should cost you money to apply for. If you have problems in this area contact your ILP Caseworker to help you straighten them out.**

Are You Prepared to Transition? We don't want to scare you but we want to make sure that you start seriously thinking about transitioning. It's never too early to start preparing! **Focus – Education, Job Skills, Money Management, Relationship skills, Early Responsible Independence!!!** Here are a few facts about foster youth and transitioning:

- More than half of youth aging out of foster care have not graduated from high school
- Twelve to 18 months after leaving the system, only about 38% are employed, and fewer than half have ever held a full-time job.
- Of those who have been employed, their median salary is less than the wages of a full-time worker receiving minimum wage.
- Approximately 25% of young men and young women experience homelessness at least once after leaving care.

(Information provided by the California Department of Social Services, the County Welfare Director's Association and private philanthropy)

February Experiential Group: We will not be having an ILP Pizza Night this month. We will be running 2 experiential groups this month. As we approach June many youth will be transitioning out of foster care. The first year after leaving foster care seems to be the hardest for most teens. Many teens end up unemployed, homeless, or couch surfing. We will be having an Introduction to Transitioning group this month on February 7th from 4-6pm at Howell Hall. Our second group, Your First Place after Leaving Care,

will be held on February 21st from 4-6pm at Howell Hall. We are hoping to have these classes taught by aftercare youth who have been on their own for 1 year or more. We will be serving pizza at our group on the 21st.

WHAT IS A TILP? A Transitional Independent Living Plan or TILP is a document required by the state that is to be completed by a foster youth and his or her county social worker or probation officer. According to California Department of Social Services regulations, the initial TILP is to be completed when a youth is between the ages of 15.5 and 16. A new TILP is to be completed at least every six months until the youth's dependency is dismissed. The TILP becomes part of the case plan and steers plans for self-sufficiency preparation. A valid TILP must be in place for a youth to be referred to ILP.

Teens 16 and up that are in placement are entitled to ILP services. If you know of a youth that has not been referred aged sixteen or up, who lives in a foster home or group home please contact ILP. ILP serves teens placed from other counties as well as Shasta County teens. In order for ILP to serve foster care youth, ILP requires a current Transitional Independent Living Plan completed by the youth with his or her county social worker or probation officer. The TILP is the responsibility of the county social worker or probation officer and should be completed every 6 months, starting at age 15.5. Former foster youth aged 16 to 21, who were in placement at 16 or older, can call Shasta County ILP for support in the areas of employment, housing, connecting with community resources and more. Contact ILP to determine eligibility

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