



**SHASTA COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
LIVING PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM BULLETIN
January 2009**

Experiential Group: The experiential group will be held at Shasta College this month on January 13th from 3pm-4:45pm, in room 2206. You may show up at anytime during that time frame and be assisted in doing your FAFSA, Chafee, and college applications. We recommend that foster youth come to this class and do all of their financial aid at once. Some high schools offer help for filling out financial aid paperwork; however, there are several questions that foster youth need to answer about court dependency to make them automatically eligible for financial aid. We have had outside counselors not understand this and complicate the process for foster youth. There are also specific ways to answer the residency questions on college applications to make the process smoother for foster youth. The ILP Coordinator will also verify the Chafee to make sure it is processed quickly.

Foster Youth Garden: Due to budget cuts the Foster Youth Garden has been in jeopardy of being cut. The ILP program was heavily cut by the state and we also lost all of our EYS funding. We are currently applying for a grant that may help us continue the garden. We are also talking to a couple of property owners who have better access to water that may save us money. The garden provides food for our aftercare youth, transitional housing youth, and the extra is donated to People of Progress or the Homeless Shelter. We do not start our seedlings until late March and do not directly plant in the ground until the end of April. We hope to have enough donations or grant money to run the program.

YESS GRANT: Shasta County ILP has coordinated with Shasta College on the YESS Grant. This grant will offer mentoring to foster youth who are freshman at the college. The mentors will be former foster youth who are established at the college and are doing well. The mentors will work with the freshman and help them learn the campus, find and connect with services and give the youth a peer to talk to about college issues.

The grant will also offer 2 classes specifically geared toward foster youth. The first will be Life Management and the second will be Personal Finance. The college is working to block these classes together, on two days, back to back with another class, College Success. This would enable foster youth to take 6 or 7 units in one block of time.

Foster Youth who are seniors in high school will also be able to take the classes as concurrent enrollment. At least one of the classes will be offered after the regular high school day is completed. High school students earn more than the basic 3 units for successfully completing the class.

To learn more about the classes contact Sheri Wiggins or Barbara Stufflebeam at Shasta College or Lisa Hanaway at Shasta County ILP.

THPP+: We are happy to say that THPP+ was saved for our youth who are ages 18-24. The program serves 7-8 youth in Shasta County and always has a waiting list. Currently all of the youth enrolled in the program are working part-time and going to college or going to college fulltime.

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