

Department of Family and Children Services Administration Policies and Procedures Manual	Section: Administration Part: 2306 Page: 1 of 3 Date: October 2005
Title: Independent Living Plan (ILP)	

2306. Independent Living Plan (ILP)

- A. The purpose of the Independent Living Program (ILP) is to increase the transitional living skills and career opportunities for eligible youth to assure their greatest productivity and self-sufficiency as adults.
- B. All youth in the foster care and placement system age 14 and up are eligible for Independent Living Services. A Written Transitional Living Plan (Form 391) should be in place for each child.
- C. The Division offers assistance through several programs and funding sources. Program 350 is the program in which salaries for ILP staff are loaded and Program 360 covers various regular operating items to assist the ILP Coordinators.
- D. All County expenditures allocated and paid for foster children age 14 and up are charged to Program 460. Some of the items that can be reported in this program are allowances, Christmas and birthday gifts, clothing supplements, high school graduations needs, summer camp or sporting program needs. Per Diem cannot be reported under program 460.
- E. County Department may request waivers to allow ILP children's Restricted Funds not be applied to per diem if the county can justify how the funds will be used to assist the youth in meeting his/hers Written Transitional Living Plan. The specific amount requested must be reasonable and may not exceed the programmatic resource limit for the services they receive. Accounting should retain and file a copy of the waiver.
- F. The Independent Living Programs listed below are loaded in one county per region, usually the lead county for the region, and all Urban County Departments.
 - 1. Program 583 (Educational Related Expenses for Youth ages 21-25) funds are used to pay for post-secondary education and/or training related expenses for former foster care youth who were eligible for ILP services when state custody was terminated. These funds are limited to the pursuit of an undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate and can be used for such things as tuition, fees, required books and transportation assistance.
 - 2. Program 584 (College/Vocational Related Expenses for Youth up to 21) funds are used to pay for post secondary education and training. However, these funds are for youth currently in foster care or former foster care youth who were eligible for ILP services when custody was terminated.

Department of Family and Children Services Administration Policies and Procedures Manual	Section: Administration Part: 2306 Page: 2 of 3 Date: October 2005
Title: Independent Living Plan (ILP)	

3. Program 585 (Educational and Enrichment Expenses) was designed to help cover expenses for secondary education and training for youth currently in foster care or former foster care youth who were eligible for ILP services when custody was terminated. These funds can pay for things such as books, uniforms, graduation fees, driver's education and other items detailed in the COSTAR manual.
4. Program 586 (Transitional Living Program for Youth ages 18-21) is used only for youths who remain in foster care until age 18 and are not yet 21. This program is designed to help youth transition from foster care to self sufficient adults. Rent deposits, basic furniture, cooking/cleaning supplies and adolescent assessments are all expenses that can be paid out of these funds.
5. Program 591 (Education and Training Vouchers) is the newest ILP program and is 100% federally funded. This program is designed to assist with post secondary education expenses and should be used before 583 and 584. This program is limited to \$5,000 per youth, per federal fiscal year. Once the \$5,000 cap is reached the expenses can be covered by 583 or 584(unless attending college outside Georgia-it then depends on when the child started college). Additionally, these are the only funds available for students who choose to attend a college outside the state of Georgia.

Note: See COSTAR for complete program purposes and guidelines.

Department of Family and Children Services Administration Policies and Procedures Manual Title: Independent Living Plan (ILP)	Section: Administration Part: 2306 Page: 3 of 3 Date: October 2005
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