Independent Living Power Point Slides

Slide 1

Independent Living

Slide 2

Module 1: Independent Living

OBJECTIVES

• Define “Independent Living.”

• Determine State and Federal Funding.

Slide 3


Definition: A comprehensive array of services available to adolescents in the custody of the department.

Goal: assist older children in foster care and young adults who were formerly in foster care obtain life skills and education for IL and employment have a quality of life appropriate for age assume personal responsibility for becoming self-sufficient adults
State & Federal Funds

Federal Funding Sources
P.L. 106-169

- Chaffee Funds
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds

State funds for foster care or Federal fund are used to establish the continuum of services for eligible children.

Slide 5

Federal Funds

- Education and Training Voucher Funds (ETV)
  - Used for eligible students as the first option
  - Used for eligible students attending a postsecondary (college, university or vocational) school either part-time or full time.
- Chafee Funds
  - used for young adults under 21 years of age

Slide 6

State Funds

- Must be used for young adults age 21 and 22 if they are not eligible for ETV funds.
Slide 7

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

Provides states with flexible funds for youth to transition out of foster care

Requires (ACF) Administration of Children and Families to develop:
- a data collection system to track provision of IL services
- outcomes that measure states’ success in preparing youth

Slide 8

Transition to Independent Services

- Pre-Transition (age 13 to 18)
  - Pre-Independent Living
  - Life Skills
  - Subsidized Independent Living
- Transition (age 18 to 23)
  - Aftercare Support Services
  - Road to Independence
  - Transitional Support Services

Slide 9

Module 2: Independent Living Services for Children in Foster Care

Objectives

1. Identify transitional services for children in foster care
2. Examine the transitional services eligibility requirements for children in foster care
Slide 10

Pre-Independent Living Services

Eligibility
Youth 13 – 15 in licensed out of home care

Services
Life skills training
Educational Field Trips
Conferences
Pre-Independent Living Assessment

Slide 11

Pre-Independent Living Services

Annual Staffing
Case Plan – IL Tasks and Services
Written report signed by child

Slide 12

Life Skills Services

Eligibility
• Youth 15 - 18
• Licensed Care

Services
• Independent living skills training
• Educational support
• Employment training
• Counseling
Slide 13

Life Skills Services
- Assessment to identify services
- Staffing every 6 months
- Independent living assessment post 17th birthday
- Written report signed by child

Slide 14

Driver’s License for Youth
- Application for learner’s permit can be signed for youth 15-18 in licensed out-of-home care
- Not held liable for damages caused by the minor
- Prior to signing must notify the foster parent/other responsible party

Slide 15

Disability of Nonage of Minor
- To ensure foster care youth can secure checking and saving accounts, the disability of nonage of minors is removed provided the youth:
  - Is 16 years of age
  - Is adjudicated dependent
  - Resides in an out-of-home placement
Slide 16

Disability of Nonage of Minor

- Complete a financial literacy class
- Court order removing the disability on nonage

Slide 17

Subsidized Independent Living Services

- Living arrangements that allow the child to live independently of the daily care/supervision of an adult in a setting not required to be licensed.
- Services are part of an overall plan leading to total independence of the child from the agency’s care.
- Subsidy payments may be made directly to the child or other responsible adult approved by DCF

Slide 18

Subsidized Independent Living

All 16 year olds in out-of-home licensed care must be formally evaluated.

SIL Eligibility

- Youth between 16 - 18
- Adjudicated Dependent
**Slide 19**

- Placed in licensed out-of-home care at least 6 months prior
- Permanency goal of adoption or another planned permanent living arrangement
- IL is permanency goal
- Youth can demonstrate IL skills

**Slide 20**

**SIL Finances**
- Board rate – maximum $1,126 monthly (RTI amount)
- Determined by youth’s expenses and cost of living
- Negotiated with youth
- Annual clothing allowance
- May receive additional incentives, not greater than $50 each

**Slide 21**

**SIL Living Arrangements**
- Live alone
- Roommate in dorm (no cohabitation)
- Rent a room from a family

Background checks per 65C-28.009(7)(e), F.A.C.
- Important for youth 16-18 who have found placement with unlicensed relatives/other adults to qualify for all possible post 18 IL programs.
Slide 22

Case Manager Contact

First 3 Months
- Twice weekly contact
- One contact in youth's residence
- One weekly contact with IL coordinator

After
- Every 30 days, in the youth's residence
- Monthly contact with IL coordinator

Slide 23

Judicial Reviews
Every 6 months
- 90 days after child's 17th birthday
- 6 months prior to youth's 18th birthday

Slide 24

Fostering Connections Act
Must assist and support youth in developing a transition plan as they age out of care
At age 17½ (during 90 day period before youth's 18th birthday)
List personalized goals and activities to be achieved
Must detail specific options re: housing, health insurance, support services
Reviewed, approved, signed by youth 90 days prior to 18th birthday or 90 days prior to date leaving care
Slide 25

*Minor Parents in Foster Care*

- Parent/baby placed together unless baby’s safety is at risk or there is no available home
- Dependency petition filed ONLY if there is an issue independent of the parent’s stats as a dependent child
- Foster home received enhanced board payment to include baby’s needs

Slide 26

*Module 3: Independent Living Services for Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care*

*Objectives:*

- Identify IL services provided to young adults formerly in foster care.
- Examine the IL services eligibility requirements for young adults formerly in care.

Slide 27

*Services for Young Adults Formerly in Care*

- Road to Independence
- Aftercare Support Services
- Transitional Support Services
Slide 28

**Road-to-Independence Program**

- Former foster children who are eligible to receive educational/vocational training
- Award: earnings equal to 40 hr. federal minimum wage job, after grants/scholarships
- Paid from State funds only
- Awards for youth adopted at age 16 or older must be paid out of State funds unless youth attends a post-secondary institution
- May pay up to $6,250 per year from the Education and Training Voucher funds
- After reaching $6,250, funds must be used to support the student's award for the remainder of the year

Slide 29

**Road-to-Independence Eligibility**

- Youth who exited care at age 18
- In care at least 6 months prior to 18th birthday
- Full time student unless disability prevents full time attendance
- Florida resident and meets citizenship requirements
- Between ages of 18 and 23rd birthday

Slide 30

**Transitional Support**

**Eligibility:**

- Young adult in care who has reached 18 but is not yet 23
- Was a dependent child
- Lived in licensed care or in subsidized IL at the time of 18th birthday
- Spent at least 6 months in foster care before that date
Slide 31

**Transitional Support Services**
- Short term funding/services include:
  - Financial assistance
  - Housing resources
  - Counseling
  - Employment/education assistance
  - Services may be received with aftercare support services and/or RTI program
  - Life skills training
  - Educational field trips
  - Pre-independent living assessment to identify other services

Slide 32

**Transitional Support Services Plan**
- Agency must assist in plan development consistent with needs assessment specifying transitional services
- Specific tasks must be identified
- Young adults must be accountable for completion of tasks
- If young adult and agency cannot agree, you adult may access a grievance process to resolve the disagreement

Slide 33

**Aftercare Support Services**
Youth who reached 18 but not yet 23 who leave care at 18 but request services prior to reaching age 23.
Aftercare Support Services

Services include referrals for:
- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Substance abuse counseling
- Life skills classes
- Parenting classes
- Job and career skills training
- Financial assistance
- Financial literacy skills training
- Temporary services to prevent homelessness, up to $1,000 per fiscal year

Payment of Aftercare, Scholarship or Transitional Support Funds

Payments made to recipient unless other request made

Payments of awards, under the RTI Program are made to recipient by direct deposit unless recipient provides written request:
- Payments by check or warrant
- A portion of the payments be made to institutions
- A two-party check to a business/landlord for legitimate expense:
  - Automobile repair/maintenance
  - Education
  - Job or training expense, cost incurred except legal cost fines, penalties
  - Rental agreement to secure a home or evidence

The agency may purchase housing, transportation, or employment services to ensure the availability/affordability of these services, allowing utilization of the services in lieu of direct payment.
Module 4: Independent Living and Case Planning

**Objectives**
- Determine case planning requirements for youth.
- Decide when to conduct IL staffings.
- Determine required documentation for audits.

**Slide 38**

**Case Planning**

65C-28.009 F.A.C.

- Principles
  - Youth centered
  - Staffing to include youth
  - Held in time and place convenient for youth
  - Must include IEP tasks
- All tasks/services including Agency w/Persons w/Disabilities must be coordinated and in case

**Slide 39**

**Independent Living Staffings**

Conducted (at minimum) annually

Mandatory people to invite
- Supervisor
- CLS attorney
- Youth
- GAL
- Youth's attorney
- Adults and family significant to youth
Independent Living Staffings

Mandatory Topics

- Youths educational and work goals
  - Examine youth's progress and any obstacles to goal achievement
- Identify needed life skills and progress towards skills previously identified
- SIL program, including program requirements and benefits

Independent Living Staffings

Mandatory Topics

- Road to Independence Program
  - Requirements and benefits
  - Tuition fee exemption and Bright Futures Program
- Permanency, including the youth's wishes regarding adoption
- Youth age 18, plans for living arrangement after 18 and needed life skills services

Case File Audits

- Pre-Independent Living Services
- Life Skills
- Subsidized Independent Living
- Road To Independence
- Transitional Support Services
- Aftercare Support Services