

What is the Independent Living Program?

The Independent Living Program (IL) provides services to youth ages 14-23. Typically, eligible youth must be (or have been) in a court ordered out of home placement and adjudicated dependent or delinquent on or after their 14th birthday. The goal of IL services is to provide youth with support, life skills, and assisting youth in the development of skills that allow for a successful adulthood. Participants are eligible to participate until their 23rd birthday (examples of out-of-home placement are foster care, kinship home, and residential facilities).

The Independent Living Program (ILP) is free and voluntary and are designed to meet your individual unique needs. As a participant, you will complete an assessment that will give staff the ability to identify skills that you may need to improve to become successful in your adulthood. They can be provided to you individually or in a group setting to include: assessment, life skills training, and supports related to: education, employment, housing and money management, self-care/daily living and life skills, prevention needs and relations/permanent connections. You and your IL worker will come up with an individualized case plan that will outline what services you will receive.

Contact Us for more Information

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MERCER COUNTY
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES
INDEPENDENT LIVING OFFICE

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<http://www.independentlivingpa.org>
<http://www.pheaa.org>

This program is provided by Mercer County CYS through federal, state, and county funding to promote life skills for young adults ages 14-23.

MERCER COUNTY
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM



Adulthood

Childhood



Transitioning
to Adulthood

Referral Process

Providing services to children, youth, and families in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

CYS & JPO departments are the primary referrals, however; youth who are open with CYS but are not adjudicated or in care may also be referred. This is based on the individual's needs and availability of the IL program. Any youth ages 14-23, particularly youth who have been in out of home placement, that wants to improve their life skills and plan toward a future of independence can be referred.

The IL program is voluntary. Participants may leave and return to the program at any time. The program is youth driven. If you choose to leave the program and decide at a later time you want to reinstate services, you can request to be enrolled back into the program.



Independent Living Skill Areas:

Life Skills Groups Offered

Prevention

Career Goals

**Employment Skills
(job search, resumes, interview skills)**

Budgeting/Money Management

Driver's License/Training/Permit/State ID

Organizational Skills

Effective Communication

Mentoring

Assisting with Transitional and Permanent

Housing

**High School/GED/College/ or other
post-secondary education options**

Transition Planning

Time Management

Health Care Support

**Preparing Youth to live on their own
(successfully)**

Volunteer Opportunities

Stress Reduction

**** We collect data for these services as a means to make quality improvements as needed ****

What are stipends?

Besides gaining valuable knowledge you will be able to use in your everyday life, the Independent Living program offers monetary incentives. These incentives are called stipends. By participating in the program, you may earn stipends to pay for things. Some examples of things we consider paying for: Learner's Permit fee, driving lessons, vehicle car matching stipend, bus passes, interview clothing, work uniforms, apartment security deposits, apartment supplies, tutoring for educational purposes, trade school necessities to name a few. Stipends are subject to change depending on funding available.

