

WASHINGTON STATE

Programs for Foster Youth

*Helpful Information for Youth
and Young Adults*



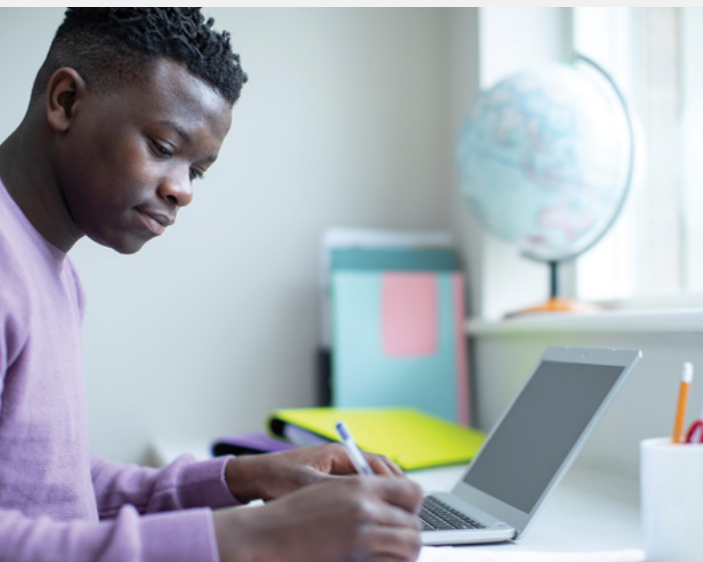
Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Transitional Living

Transitional Living (TL) services are for current and former foster youth ages 18 to 23 entering adulthood. The program is voluntary and you can self-refer to a local provider.

The TL program provides services to help you succeed when you are becoming self-sufficient:

- Educational services that can help with everything from learning to read, to preparing for and getting into a college or training program
- Financial assistance
- Locating housing resources
- How to find a job, apply and prepare for interviews
- One-on-one coaching and help with skills needed to live on your own such as:
 - How to manage your money
 - How to find and keep safe housing
 - How to make smart spending decisions and what to do if you get into money trouble
 - Parenting skills
 - How to find a doctor or dentist
 - Where to go in your community to socialize and find support





Independent Living

The Independent Living (IL) program is available if you are age 15 (up to your 18th birthday) and you are or were in the legal custody and care of DCYF or tribal out-of-home care at the age of 15 years or older. Your caseworker will make a referral on your behalf to a local IL provider beginning at age 15.

- The IL program helps you get ready to live on your own by providing information and assistance on:
 - How to manage your money
 - How to obtain and keep a job
 - Daily living skills
 - How to get along with others and build valuable relationships and a network of support
 - How to find and maintain a safe place to live
 - How to do well in high school or get into a high school equivalency program
 - How to prepare for education or training past high school
 - How to speak up for yourself and get your needs met

“When I lost my job due to unfortunate circumstances my Independent Living worker was there for me, helping cover my monthly bills and doing everything possible to help me attain another job. I would have been lost without her support!” – Merissa, age 19

Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

The ETV program can help pay for school and living costs to current and former foster youth up to age 26 who are seeking education and training beyond high school. Students who receive funds before turning 21 and are continuing to meet ETV requirements may be eligible up to age 26. The maximum ETV award is \$5,000 per academic year or 20 quarters or 15 semesters. ETV awards are unique to each student and are based on the college or university's Cost of Attendance (COA), financial aid award and student's unmet need.

Foster youth who are Running Start students may receive \$2,000 per academic year to help cover educational costs such as books, transportation fees and school supplies/materials.

“With the help of ETV I have been able to worry less about buying textbooks and instead spend time reading them.” – William M., age 22



ETV can be used for:

- School tuition fees and on-campus or off-campus housing allowance
- Books, supplies and class fees
- Day care, if you have a child
- Costs relating to a disability such as tutoring or adaptive software
- Miscellaneous expenses, including purchase of a personal computer, internet service, phone service and transportation costs.

“ETV was a blessing, helping me get through college with little to no stress.” – Leanna, age 19

Useful Information

Washington State Foster Youth Website

www.independence.wa.gov

ETV INFORMATION

ETV Program

PO BOX 40983

Olympia, WA 98504-5710

Email: ETVWASH@dcyf.wa.gov

Toll-Free Number: 1-877-433-8388

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FOSTER CARE TO COLLEGE

www.readysetgrad.org/fostercare

PASSPORT TO CAREERS

<https://wsac.wa.gov/passport-to-careers>

SUPPORTS

TRIO

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

College Success Foundation

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org

FosterClub

www.fosterclub.com

Foster Care Alumni of America

www.fostercarealumni.org

Orphan Foundation
of America

www.orphan.org

Casey Family Programs

www.Casey.org

www.Caseylifeskills.org

OTHER EDUCATION/VOCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Americorps

www.americorps.org

Year Up

www.yearup.org

JobCorps

www.jobcorps.gov

You can get Independent Living and Transitional Living Services through workshops, classes, individual sessions and/or community experiences all tailored to meet your needs.

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).