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Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Independent Living Program & Tribal Consultation

Division of Child and Family Services, FPO

Facilitated By Katie Siemon, Independent Living Program Specialist



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Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.

The Independent Living (IL) Program

- Available everywhere in the U.S. to any eligible youth.
- Designed to provide youth the education and practical experience needed to successfully transition to adulthood.
- Hopes to match youth with positive adult permanent connections before they leave care.
- Provides up to \$5,000 per year, to a lifetime maximum of \$25,000, for post-secondary education and training.
- Provides medical insurance for youth who aged-out of foster care to age 26.



The Independent Living (IL) Program

- Every year, youth are supported in making a plan to achieve goals in the following areas:
 - Education (High School Education (HSE) and post-secondary)
 - Obtaining employment
 - Managing their physical, mental and emotional health
 - Learning to drive
 - Learning how to find safe and stable housing, and keep themselves in their home
 - Communicating their needs and advocating for themselves as adults



Who Is Eligible for IL?

Youth who are in foster care, and over age 14. This includes foster care with a Tribal child welfare agency.

Youth who left foster care for any other reason than reunification after age 16, and are under age 21. This includes:

- **adopted youth;**
- **youth who aged out of foster care at age 18 or older;**
- **youth who exited care due to a guardianship or KINGAP;**
- **all those youth who left care for these reasons from another state and then moved to Nevada before age 21.**



ILP in Nevada – Who's Who

There are five child welfare jurisdictions in Nevada. Some work with a partner provider agency to deliver IL programming and services, all serve Nevada's youth with a specialized IL Worker.

[DCFS Rural Region](#) administers child welfare services in 15/17 counties, divided into 4 districts. In all 4 Districts, the [Ron Wood Family Resource Center](#) provides IL programming.

[Clark County Department of Family Services](#) works with [Step UP](#) in several areas of IL, especially for youth 18+.

[Washoe County Human Services Agency](#) performs its IL programming in-house.

The [Children's Cabinet](#) oversees the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program for the State of NV.





Tribal Youth and the IL Program

Stepping Stones, of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, formerly managed the ILP on behalf of Nevada's Federally-recognized Tribes statewide.

Stepping Stones accepted referrals from Tribal child welfare agencies, and provided services to youth.

As of October 2019, there is nobody fulfilling this role.



Tribal Youth and the IL Program

Items for Discussion:

- How do we best support Tribal child welfare agencies in providing IL Services?
- Is another agency providing services preferable? Or is it preferable to provide IL services through the Tribal child welfare agencies?
- What is culturally expected for a youth of a particular Tribe to know as they become an adult, and what traditions are important?
- How can the State support Tribes in these areas?



IL Program Contact Information

I am currently seeking consultation from Members of all Federally-recognized Tribes in Nevada – please share!

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