
Goal of the Department

It has been the goal of the Department of Children and Families to strengthen its capacity to assist all youth in out-of-home care in their transition toward an independent and productive adult life. To address this goal, the Department has planned and developed a comprehensive, individualized, and coordinated program of services to meet the needs of youth in every facet of out-of-home care.

The Independent Living Program

The continuum of independent living services that comprise the Independent Living Program are:

- Community Life Skills Programs - Community based life skills education and training program for youth in foster care and other community settings.
 - Preparation for Adult Living Settings (PALS) - Transitional Living Group Homes and Transitional Apartment Programs for youth in out-of-home care who are ready for a less restrictive environment, but not yet ready for independence.
 - Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) - A semi-supervised, subsidized, housing component for youth ready for less supervision and more independence.
 - Aftercare- A network of community based helpers to provide assistance to youth who have completed the above programs and are now truly on their own.
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Treatment Planning Process

The Treatment Planning process begins with the Independent Living Plan and Conference that provides the roadmap for independent living service delivery, and ends with the Transitional Living Plan and Conference that serves as the discharge or transition from care plan.

Cross Reference: Please refer to Chapter 42, Adolescent Services for a detailed description of the policy.
