

**Child Family Services Plan  
Independent Living Work Plan 2010-2014**

ACTIVITY		STAFF RESPONSIBLE	START	FINISH	STATUS UPDATE
OBJECTIVE 1: Address how the state will design, conduct, and/or strengthen programs to achieve the purposes of section 477(a)(1-7) of the Act.					
1. Identify youth who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and help these youth make the transition to self-sufficiency by providing services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention).					
A	Maintain current staffing of a Regional Independent Living Specialist in each region to ensure that youth likely to remain in foster care until the age of 18 years are identified, and that the transitional needs of these youth in custody are addressed prior to their release from custody.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	6/2010 - Legislature appropriated \$160,500 for two (2) additional staff for the IL Program.
B	Maintain grant with Covenant House Alaska in Anchorage to provide Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) life skills training to youth throughout the state of Alaska.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	5/2010 - Continuation grant approved for Covenant House.
C	Work with other agencies to identify job skills training and employment opportunities for youth in state custody.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	5/2010 - Met with DOLWD to discuss Youth Job Fair in Spring 2011.
D	Work with youth, caseworkers, foster parents, and other case participants to encourage youth to obtain their high school diploma or GED prior to release from state custody.	Regional Independent Living Specialists (RILS)	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	4/2010 - Anchorage RIL collaborated with the Anchorage School district to provide joint case management services for IL youth.
2. Help youth who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment.					
A	Covenant House Alaska will provide PAL training to IL eligible youth in state custody.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	PAL training provided to Youth residing in the Anchorage area. Continuation grant for FY 11 approved in 5/2010.
B	Chafee funds will be available for youth to access for purposes of tutoring, extra-curricular activities, clothing that is job related, and transportation to and from employment.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	In 2010, Anchorage RIL used funds to provide tutoring services for youth. RILS in other regions to implement plan to assess educational level and refer youth for tutoring services as needed.

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C	Detailed educational progress will be noted in the administrative reviews, stipends will be given for completion of PAL and Life Skills classes, and a stipend will be given to youth who obtain a high school diploma or a GED.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	In 2010, youth who attained their GED/HS diploma, or completed the PAL and/or Life Skills classes were provided a stipend.
3. Help youth who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions.					
A	Hold an annual educational conference for youth due to graduate the following year or who have already graduated from high school or with their GED. The conference will expose youth to life on a college campus, financial aid opportunities, vocational training options, and information about the Job Corps.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	in August, 2009 the Educational Conference was held at the University of Alaska, Anchorage campus. FY 11 Educational Conference scheduled for July 2010.
B	RILS will meet with youth in custody through exit plan meetings or PAL or other group settings prior to their release and discuss the resources available to them. <b>RILS will also be available to assist youth in completing college or vocational training registration and completion of the FAFSA for financial aid.</b>	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	RILS met with youth to discuss resources available to them. RILS assisted youth in completing college or vocational training forms.
C	Collaborate with the Youth Employment Program and refer youth to their grantees to expose youth in custody to vocational training and apprenticeship programs in the state.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	5/2010 - Met with DOLWD to discuss apprenticeship program opportunities in 2011.
D	Create a newsletter and enter information on the Facing Foster Care in Alaska face book page informing youth of upcoming deadlines for college registration and FAFSA applications.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Meeting schedule with FFCA in 6/2010 to discuss displaying ETV-PTW info on website in 2011.
4. Provide personal and emotional support to youth aging out of foster care through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults.					
A	Work with other community resource providers to create mentoring programs in Alaska and write letters of support for those trying to obtain grants for this purpose.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	6/2010 - Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to match volunteer mentors with foster youth. Anticipated release 8/2010.
B	RILS will be available to advocate for youth while they are in custody and available to consult with foster care alumni to provide funds and referrals to needed resources.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	RILS advocated and provided funds for both youth in custody and alumni.

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C	Exit plans will be developed with all IL eligible youth. The plans will identify the adults that are meaningful in the youth's life and specify to what extent the individual will be able to assist the youth as they transition to adulthood and will document contact information for the identified adults.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Exit/transition plans developed with youth throughout 2010. Process in draft to ensure transition plans are updated 90 prior to discharge.
D	Advocate that older youth have the opportunity to maintain contact with birth families, relatives, and past foster parents or other identified supportive adults as this population may provide support to the youth when they are no longer in state custody.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	6/2010 - Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to match volunteer mentors with foster youth. Anticipated release 8/2010.
5. Provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their person responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood.					
A	Ensure that youth in custody are aware of the ILP prior to their release from custody and that they know their RILS will be available to meet with and assist them when they are no longer in state custody.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	RILS met with Youth and discuss IL program and funds availability after discharge.
B	Work with foster care alumni to ensure that Chafee money available for their transition is available to them and that it is used wisely.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	RILS worked with foster care alumni to ensure funds were used wisely.
C	Fund a grant to assist foster care alumni. The grant will be able to provide referrals to local resources and provide funding for housing and other necessities when appropriate.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	6/2010 - Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for housing assistance for youth facing prospects of homelessness.
D	Collaborate with the state's Youth Employment Program to obtain additional funding for the Covenant House grant in order to fund programs that would assist youth in obtaining job skills, seeking employment, and maintaining employment.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	In 10/2009, OSC collaborate with DOLWD to provide WIA funds to Covenant house. Continuation grant pending as of 6/28/2010.
6. Make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary training and education to youths who have aged out of foster care					
A	All eligible youth will receive access to ETV funds to pay for college and vocational training programs.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Flyers and information provided to youth regarding the availability of ETV funds.

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B	Eligible youth will receive assistance when they apply for ETV funding and notification of when the deadlines are for the application.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	In 5/2010, alumni youth attending post secondary ed. received notification of application deadline for Fall 2010. RILS assisted youth in 5/2010 with completing applications for ETV-PTW.
7. Provide the services referred to in the subsection of youth who after attaining 16 years of age and have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption.					
A	Ensure that all eligible youth are aware of the IL program prior to their release from custody and informed that they are eligible for the funds whether they age out or are released to guardianship or adoption.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	RILS received training related to process in 4/2010.
B	Ensure that the guardian or adoptive parents are aware of the funding available to youth who leave custody after age 16.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Procedures are in process to ensure guardian or adoptive parents are aware of the funding
Objective 2: Ensure that all political subdivisions in the State are appropriately served by the program.					
A	Bring PAL life skills training to the rural areas by collaborating with the Youth Employment Program to address the financial challenges.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Procedures are in process to provide life skills training for youth in the rural areas, in FY 2011.
B	ILP funding will be made available to foster youth and alumni equally throughout the state on an as needed basis.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Flyers distributed regarding the ILP funding availability to foster youth and alumni.
C	Meet with Tribes who have IL aged youth in tribal custody to discuss ways of providing IL funds and services to those youth on an annual basis.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	IL Coordinator scheduled to participate in Feb 2011 conference.
Objective 3: Describe how youth of various ages and at various states of achieving independence are to be served. Describe how the State is serving specific age groups. Identify any State statutory or administrative barriers which need to be eliminated or amended to allow the State to serve a broader range of eligible youth.					
A	Participate in reviews and make recommendations that special needs youth remain in state custody until housing, finance, and mental health issues are addressed.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	In 2010, IL Coordinator participated in placement and quarterly reviews for psychiatric out of state placements. Also both SERO and NERO RILS participated in reviews.

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B	Review the cost of allowing alumni of the foster care system the ability to access Medicaid until the age of 21 and make recommendations to the legislature.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	6-2010 IL Coordinator is participating in Medicare workgroup specific to this population for 2011.
C	Review the cost of maintaining youth in foster care until age 21 and provide information to the legislature.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	June, 2010 - HB 126 signed by the Governor. Bill allows reentry and extends foster care for youth to age 21. OCS staff drafting regulations and policies.
D	Contact all youth when they turn age 16 and begin the process of developing an exit plan with them and inform them of the funds and resources available to them from the ILP.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	6/2010 - RILS and management met to discuss the streamline of IL processes.
E	Refer alumni to community services, assist them when applications are required, and provide funding to eligible youth for housing, food, and transportation when appropriate.	RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	4/2010 Request for funding procedures and service delivery process for alumni youth reviewed by IL Coordinator.
<b>Objective 4: Consultation with the stakeholders including youth, federal and state programs for youth, and Tribes</b>					
A	Hold annual teleconferences with Tribal organizations that have adolescent youth in Tribal custody and work to improve the current process that allows youth in tribal custody to access Chafee funding.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	IL Coordinator scheduled to participate in Feb 2011 conference.
B	Meet with the State's Youth Advisory Group (FFCA) on a quarterly basis to seek their input regarding the implementation of the CFCIP in Alaska	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	RILS, Youth and Program Coordinator participated in Quarterly retreats. Alumni youth to provide input to the CFCIP process in 2011.
C	Meet quarterly with Transitional Living Program grantees and monthly with the State's Youth Employment Program to discuss the CFCIP and to gain their input and support for foster youth and alumni of the foster care system.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	5/2010 - IL Program Coordinator met with the State's Youth Employment Program to discuss the CFCIP and providing services to youth.
<b>Objective 5: Prepare for the National Youth in Transition Database implementation in October of 2010.</b>					
A	The RILS will be responsible for conducting the interviews with the youth who turn 17 in October of 2010 and will also be responsible for ensuring that surveys are completed in 2012 and 2014.	Program Coordinator and RILS	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Determined baseline population, and met with RILS to discuss survey format and procedures in 6/2010.

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B	Work with IT staff to ensure that information needed by NYTD is entered into the State's MIS, ORCA.	Program Coordinator	7/1/2009	9/30/2014	Met with contractor biweekly to discuss progress and field lay-out in ORCA.