

Accessing Independent Living Program Funding for Youth In Tribal Foster Care

The Office of Children's Services, Independent Living Program has funding available for youth in tribal foster care who need services to prepare for the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency.

Who is eligible?

For Youth in Tribal Foster Care: Any youth in out of home care age 16 or over is eligible. It does not matter whether they are in residential care, in a foster home, or in an unlicensed relative placement.

For Youth No Longer In Custody: Any youth who has reached the age of 16 or older while in tribal foster care and has not yet reached the age of 21 is eligible. This includes youth who have been adopted, entered into guardianship, or have returned home after turning age 16.

Independent Living Funds

Independent living funds can be used to provide vocational and life skills training, tutoring, and other programs that will aid a youth with making the transition to adulthood. For foster care alumni, these funds can be used to pay for rent and food on a crisis basis and for other items if it is related to employment and training.

Education and Training Vouchers Funds

The Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) funds can be used to pay for post-secondary education. ETV funds can be used for college or vocational program as long as the programs are accredited.

How to Access Independent Living Program Funds

Tribal/ICWA workers will need to complete necessary documentation to determine that the youth in tribal custody is qualified for Independent Living funds and mail, email or fax the documentation to the Independent Living Program Coordinator listed below.

The Independent Living Program Coordinator will contact the tribal case worker to determine the best way for the youth to receive the funds and when they are available.

Independent Living Program Coordinator

Dee Pearson
Office of Children's Services
130 Seward Street, Room 511
P.O. Box 110630
Juneau, Alaska
Phone: (907) 465-8659
Fax: (907) 465-3397
dee.pearson@alaska.gov

For additional information regarding the Independent Living Program, see link below:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/IndependentLiving/default.htm>