



Section C: Program Information

(4) Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) and Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

**Child and Family Services Plan FY 2010 - FY 2014
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and
Educational and Training Vouchers**

In Washington State, the Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration (CA) administers, supervises and oversees the Title IV-E program and the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). CA has continued efforts to maintain and improve the Chafee Independent Living Program. Community collaboration continues to be a guiding force in our work with adolescents, their caregivers and community stakeholders. Contact information for the IL/TL CA Program Manager is as follows:

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Children's Administration (CA) continues to improve its infrastructure for services and making social workers, youth, and community stakeholders aware of the resources available to youth transitioning from state foster care. CA continues to work diligently to limit the gap in services delivery and to make Independent Living programs available to all eligible youth across the state. Services are currently provided to youth and young adults age 15 through 21 for Independent Living and Transitional Living Services and up to age 23; for the Education and Training Voucher program youth are served centrally from the Olympia office. CA has made promising inroads with systems integration to improve educational, housing, and employment outcomes for young adults as they transition out of foster care.

Children's Administration is currently serving approximately 2000 youth/young adults (not including Tribal youth) in the IL/TL program. The ETV program is currently serving about 300 students.

Eligibility for the Chafee Independent Living Program

I. Independent Living Services (ILS)

The following individuals are eligible for any contracted independent living skills program.

- 1) Youth who are at least age 15, have been in care a minimum of 30-days, have not yet reached his/her 18th birthday, and are currently in Tribal out-of-home care or a dependent in the legal custody and care of DSHS;
- 2) Youth adopted from State or Tribal custody on or after his/her 16th birthday.

- 3) Kinship guardianship youth who have had their guardianship established after being in care a minimum of 30 days after age 15, and have not yet reached his/her 18th birthday

II. Transitional Living Services (TLS)

Youth are eligible for contracted transitional living services if:

- 1) Youth is age 18 or older but has not yet reached age 21 and is either in tribal out of home care or the care and custody of DSHS; or was eligible for ILS; or has aged out of foster care or Tribal out of home care on their 18th birthday.
- 2) Youth who were not eligible for ILS services at time of transition may still be eligible for TLS if they meet the following criteria:
 - o Youth has or had an open DCFS case at time of transition from care; **and**
 - o Youth had been in out-of-home care for the previous six months prior to transition from care; **OR**
 - o Youth was dependent and returned home within a year of reaching the age of majority (18).

III. Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV)

Youth must meet eligibility criteria for either Independent Living Services or Transitional Living Services, be dependent as well as, meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for Educational and Training Voucher services:

- 1) Youth must be eligible for post-secondary education;
- 2) Youth must either be:
 - o enrolled at least half-time in a post-secondary degree or certificate program; or
 - o accepted for the next term.
- 3) Students who have been receiving vouchers on their 21st birthday who are making acceptable progress towards graduation may continue to receive vouchers up to age 23.

Serving youth of various ages and stages of achieving independence

The Independent Living program serves all dependent youth from ages 15 through 21. The Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) tool consists of 4 developmental levels and is administered to youth based on their developmental level. Each plan is developed by addressing the individual needs of the youth. The assessment is administered annually to youth participating in the program.

Youth under age 15 - 16 are administered the ACLSA tool and receive training on a variety of skills including life skills and educational services.

Youth age 16 – 18 are also administered the ACLSA tool and receive training on a variety of skills including life skills, educational services and transition planning.

Young adults age 18 through 20 are administered the ACLSA tool and receive training on a variety of skills including life skills, education supports and services, housing assistance, and employment supports and services,

Assist youth in transition from dependency to self-sufficiency

The Washington State legislature established statutory authority to serve former foster youth ages 18 through 21 in June 2001. Transitional Living Services to current and former foster care

youth age 18 through 21 are delivered via the Independent Living Program through contracts with community service providers and tribes.

To achieve consistency in the assessment and case planning for young people transitioning from care, the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Tools are being used by all Independent Living/Transitional Living contractors in Washington State. The Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) is a nationally recognized web-based tool that helps youth in out of home care prepare for adulthood. The ACLSA consists of developmentally based youth and caregiver assessments. Score reports pop up immediately after the assessment, showing areas of greatest strength and challenge, and can be used to create a learning plan to aid in their transition into adulthood. This tool enables CA to collect aggregate data indicating areas for program focus and to document pre and post outcomes for youth.

In 2006, Washington State in collaboration with Casey Family programs developed ACLSA training specifically for caregivers to inform them of the tool and to identify ways they can assist the youth in their development of the learning plans. This training is offered to caregivers on a regular basis.

In addition to providing independent living and transitional living services to youth in foster care, Washington State also has the Responsible Living Skills Program (RLSP). This program was developed when the legislature passed the Homeless Prevention, Protection and Engagement Act (HOPE) in 1999. RLS programs are for youth, ages 14 to 18 in the custody of the State or Tribe. The RLS programs provide long-term housing, assessment, and life skills training to youth who are state-dependent, who are not returning to their families, and who have been unsuccessful in traditional foster care. In 2008 the RLSP program was expanded to 42 beds.

Children's Administration recognizes that transition planning is important to youth. There are several efforts to assist youth in their transition into adulthood:

- Shared planning meetings for youth 17.5 years of age to create a transition plan with them as they exit foster care. Social workers utilize the checklist for youth exiting care as a guide in these meetings.
- New Children's Administration policy, incorporating the new federal legislation passed in October 2008, requires social workers to do monthly follow up with youth after the 17.5 shared planning meeting to update the transition plan or answer any questions the youth may have.
- Contracted Independent Living Programs report on transition living planning in their quarterly progress reports of youth.
- Social Worker Guide to Transition Planning for youth guidebook was developed as a tool for social workers to use when working with youth on transition planning.
- The Road of Life "So...you're 17 going on 18" pamphlet was created providing a road map for youth to use when making critical decisions about their future.
- The website independence.wa.gov provides useful information on events, resources and tools youth can use when transitioning from care.

Help youth receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment

Foster youth need assistance in receiving the necessary education, training and skills in order to find and maintain employment. Youth are provided this service through the contracted IL program, which incorporates employment services into employment modules and workshops or link and/or refer to existing community resources. Employment services shall be provided at all times of the year and shall coincide with the summer and holiday hiring, school breaks, and near the end of the school year. Youth are provided with the following:

- Coaching on activities related to employment readiness, interviewing, resume writing and appropriate dress.
- Assistance in gaining and retaining employment.

- Assistance in obtaining or securing items needed in order to gain or maintain employment, such as a social security card, dress attire and transportation (if possible).
- Assistance in utilizing community employment resources to assist in gaining employment.
- Information on how to enroll in any of the available Workforce Investment Act youth programs or register with the Employment Security One Stop Career Centers (if available).

Help youth prepare for and enter post-secondary training and educational institutions

Educational stability and achievement for children in foster care is a critical aspect of ensuring a successful transition to self-sufficiency. Under the direction of 2003 legislation, Substitute House Bill 1058 "an act relating to the educational attainment of children in foster care" CA has partnered with OSPI to improve the educational stability and achievement of children and youth in foster care, including:

- Regional development of protocol agreements with 141 school districts outlining strategies for school stability and collaboration Trainings and presentations for educators, social workers, caregivers and community partners regarding the education needs of foster children and youth including:
 - Providing training to 2300 educators, social workers, caregivers and community partners at Education Summits in each region during the past three years to address educational stability and advocacy for children and youth in foster care. These summits strengthened the local partnerships between CA, school districts, caregivers and community partners to provide consistent support for educational success of foster youth.
 - Providing training to 300 representatives from colleges and universities about the educational programs available for post-secondary education for youth in foster care. This workshop appointed a contact person for the Passport to College program at each college and university in order to increase the chances for foster youth to persist in higher education.
 - Providing educational workshops on educational advocacy, early learning, and post-secondary programs/resources at the previous two Caregivers Conferences to support educational success for foster youth.
 - Providing educational advocacy and planning training to 1400 out of 2000 case carrying social workers across the state as part of the comprehensive training plan.
 - Providing 51 training sessions to social workers and caregivers regarding general education advocacy and post-secondary programs/resources.

CA continues to offer a comprehensive Education Advocacy Training to social workers at Academy. This educational advocacy and planning information is embedded into the training for new social workers at the Social Workers Academy. The training provides CA social workers with the information necessary to engage in education planning and advocacy for the children and youth on their case loads (birth through post secondary). It also provides a foundation to a holistic approach involving foster parents, relative caregivers, parents, children and other individuals in education planning and advocacy. Social worker and caregiver education guides are also distributed during this training and are available online.

There are many other efforts happening in Washington State to improve educational outcomes for youth in care. The contracted IL providers continue to prepare and mentor foster youth ages 15 to 18 to complete high school or a GED program, and enter post-secondary education programs. Formal tutoring, educational advocacy, and homework assistance programs occur in many regions.

Beginning in 2006 and through July 2009 CA as a member of the Foster Care to College (FCTC) Advisory Board, implemented two programs designed to help youth complete high school and successfully enroll in a post-secondary program:

- The "How to Go to College" seminars were offered in all six regions to foster youth in grades 6-12 and their foster parents. The primary focus of the seminars was how to graduate high school and get into post secondary education. Since 2006 over 727 foster youth and caregivers have been served in this program.
- The mentorship program modeled on Coaching to College a mentor program administered by Treehouse in region four was implemented in regions 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6. This program matches youth with mentors who share a similar academic/vocational interest. Since 2006, a total of 475 youth have enrolled in the program and received services.

These two programs were made possible through private grants which end July 2009. To continue services beyond this grant cycle CA is developing a "How to Go to College" DVD and exploring with mentor program agencies how they can integrate their program with the state funded Passport to College Promise program.

The FCTC partnership also involves a communication component which includes an annual mailing and website to provide information to youth, caregivers and community stakeholders on programs and services available to foster care youth.

The 2007 state Legislative session passed a bill which created the Passport to College Promise program, a six year pilot program. This program has two components:

- The Supplemental Educational Transition Plan (SETUP) for foster youth begins at age 14 and every 6 months thereafter. This program is available in all 6 regions.
- In fall 2008 the Passport to College Promise Program began to offer scholarships up to \$6,793 to former foster youth who are entering post secondary educational programs.

The Governors' Scholarship continues to be offered. This scholarship program was instituted in 2001 by former Governor Gary Locke who established a golf tournament to raise funds for scholarships for foster youth to attend higher education institutions. This program is administered by the College Success Foundation. Governors' Scholarships were awarded to 45 foster youth in 2009. This program continues to work in concert with Washington State's Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program to identify youth bound for post-secondary education and help them with mentoring and financial assistance.

There are several other scholarship opportunities available to foster youth to help promote post secondary attendance, these include but are not limited to the YMCA Transitions and Seattle University Fostering Scholars.

Provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults

Contracted IL providers, foster parents and community service providers continue to link youth with dedicated adults as the youth transitions out of care. The Foster Care to College partnership supports this effort by providing a mentoring program to youth who identify themselves as college bound providing this service from high school into college.

Youth centered personal and emotional support is facilitated through the use of the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) which was implemented in 2004. The assessment of IL needs and completion of the IL plan for all foster youth ages 15 to 18 is a requirement. In completing the plan for each youth they have to identify persons to help them achieve their goals.

Provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age.

The Washington State legislature established statutory authority to serve former foster youth ages 18 to 21 in June 2001. Transitional Living Services to former foster care youth are delivered via the Independent Living Program. These contracted programs are known as **Transitional Living Services (TLS)**. CA has these programs in every region of Washington State. Service delivery to current and former foster care youth between the ages of 18 and 21 continues to substantially increase since the establishment of the programs in 2001. These programs assist eligible youth in securing housing, employment and employment-related training and education, and maintaining self-sufficiency.

Thirty percent of the program funds can be utilized for Room and Board. Funding is made available to eligible youth ages 18 to 21 on an individual basis. "Room and Board" is defined as assistance provided to a former foster care youth from age 18 up to 21 in the form of payment for rent, utilities, deposits and housing costs. Room and board or housing costs are budgeted and tracked separately by CA to ensure that not more than 30 percent of the state's Chafee Independent Living funds are used for housing expenses. TLS case managers work with each youth to locate affordable housing, negotiate leases and make rent and utility payments. Rent subsidies are available as long as the youth is employed or seeking employment, or enrolled in an educational or vocational program.

Services to current and former foster youth are delivered through the IL program by contracted service providers. If contracted service agencies are not available, youth may still apply for transition funds through a local Children's Administration (CA) office. Contracted private agencies continue to develop partnerships with housing and employment agencies and help young people stay connected to supportive adults and peers. Contracted Transitional Living Services provide the following:

- Educational services, including basic literacy and computational skills training, either in local alternative public high schools or in a high school equivalency program that leads to obtaining a high school equivalency degree;
- Assistance in securing and maintaining safe and stable housing;
- Assistance and counseling related to obtaining vocational training or higher education, job readiness, job research assistance, and job placement programs;
- Counseling and instruction in life skills such as money management, home management, consumer skills, parenting, healthy marriages, health care, access to community resources, and transportation and housing options;
- Individual and group counseling;
- Networking with federal agencies and state and local organizations such as the United States Department of Labor, employment and training administration programs including the Workforce Investment Act which administers Workforce Development Councils, the Job Corps, Vocational rehabilitation, volunteer programs, and housing authorities. Transitional Living programs are currently offered in every CA region.

Washington State's 2006 legislation passed HB 2002 – Foster Care to 21. This 3-year pilot permitted DSHS to continue foster care and support services to age 21 for 50 young adults per year for a total of 150 in 2008 while these young adults attend a post-secondary institution. Funding continues to be available to youth through October 2010, when Fostering Connections takes effect.

Beginning October 2010 the criteria allowing youth to remain in foster care after age 18 may be expanded. The department has the option of providing continued foster or group care to youth ages 18 to 21 who are enrolled and/or participating in a:

- High school, high school equivalency, or vocational school program; (same – no change)
- Postsecondary or vocational education program;

- Program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment; (vague)
- Engage in employment for 80 hours or more per month; or
- Incapable of engaging on any of the activities described above due to a medical condition. (this is added language, as in the past we were operating on an agreement between DDD and CA)

Washington State's 2007 legislation passed HB 1922 which created an Independent Youth Housing program which provides housing vouchers to youth exiting foster care. This program is administered through the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). This pilot program is available in three areas of WA State. Youth may receive assistance with:

- Monthly rent
- Utility payments (gas and electricity)
- Move in costs (such as first and last month's rent, security deposits)
- Cost for credit checks
- Cost for parking (if not included in rent and one is needed)
- Case management services

Educational and Training Voucher Program

Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides the following services to former foster care youth:

- Outreach, identification, eligibility determination of ETV recipients.
- Assistance to the youth to fill out the ETV application, FAFSA application, and other financial aid applications.
- Mentoring services to recipients of ETV, which include:
 - Working with other agencies such as the College Success Foundation, the Orphan Foundation of America, the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, and post-secondary institutions to identify additional resources for youth
 - Helping youth to develop education and career plans
 - Providing support for youth through their post-secondary education.
- Tracking youth progress in their post-secondary program.

Staffing for the program includes a Program Manager and two Program Coordinators who respond to inquiries and day to day needs of the youth served.

In 2008-09 CA also implemented the Peer to Peer Mentor program to perform outreach to previously un-served youth. These part-time positions hire alumni of foster care in all 6 regions to help youth apply to and access ETV funds. A secondary function of the peer mentor is to connect eligible youth with other programs and services.

CA allocates 10% of the total ETV funds to tribal youth from the 29 federally recognized Tribes. In FY08, CA anticipated serving a total of 265 students, to date the program has served 276 youth.

CA continues to coordinate with the College Success Foundation, the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, and other agencies in an effort to maximize former foster care youth access to financial aid assistance (e.g., federal student financial aid programs, grants, scholarships, and ETV services).

Collaborations

Community collaboration continues to be a vital part of Children's Administration's (CA) efforts to strengthen its delivery of services to foster youth, former foster youth, and the community as a whole. Some of these efforts include:

- Children's Administration continues to collaborate with the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, College Success Foundation, Casey Family Programs, and Treehouse. These agencies are all members of the FCTC partnership with the intent to increase foster youth high school graduation & educate youth on how to access and attend post-secondary education and training programs.
- Children's Administration in collaboration with Casey Family Programs, Mockingbird Society and the College Success Foundation continue to support a Statewide Youth Advisory Board "Passion to Action" consisting of current and former recipients of CA services. This Board has been in operation for over 4 years and is a vital part of shaping change in our child welfare system. The Board serves as an advisory function to provide input to CA on its policies and practices in an effort to provide better services to youth in care. This Board has participated in a variety of functions (speaker panels, meetings, workgroups, and committees) to ensure the youth voice is represented. Children's Administration utilizes this Board in many of its workgroups and relies on them for feedback in its planning for changes to the foster care system.
- The Washington State Independent Living Coordinator and other CA staff are closely aligned with Casey Family Programs, the private foundation whose headquarters is in Seattle, Washington. Collaborative efforts between CA and Casey Family Programs occur at both the direct service level and the systems improvement level to help adolescents in foster care achieve self-sufficiency.
- LIFTS (Living Interdependently for Tomorrow's Success) in Region 2, provides funding to supplement IL program services to add a GED-prep program in the Tri-Cities, increase group and individual ACLSA Plan assistance for youth, and expand links to community services and resources.
- The Region 2 Transitions Collaboration Network, chartered in 2005 by Children's Administration, Casey Family Program-Yakima, and Catholic Family and Child Service, added new members from South Central Workforce Development Council and OIC of WA. Participants also include representatives from DVR, DDD, and Economic Services. Charter revisions are in progress. The Network Mission is to provide for a continuum of transition services across DSHS Region 2 agencies that provide a system of services to youth transitioning from out-of-home care across all transition practice domains.
- YMCA Young Adult Services in Region 4 continues to operate the young adult community resource center (The Center) which opened in February 2007. The Center is the gateway to YMCA services for foster youth, foster alumni and other transitioning youth ages 15-25. The YMCA provides supportive housing, case management and referral services through its three core programs: Independent Living Program, Transitions and Young Adults in Transition.
- Treehouse, a private non-profit agency that serves foster youth in Region 4 by providing clothing, school supplies, funding for enrichment activities, summer camp and in-school tutoring. It also offers an outreach program to foster youth in middle school and a coaching to college mentoring program to youth who are college bound.
- Ready to Rent is a program of United Way's Out of the Rain Homeless Initiative in partnership with Mutual Interest and the Rental Association of Puget Sound.
- Homeless Youth and Young Adult Committee in Region 4 is a subcommittee of King County's Ten Year Plan to end Homelessness. This committee is looking at the reasons for homelessness, resources currently available (permanent housing, transitional housing) and the gaps in services, etc.

- Treehouse, United Way of King County and the YMCA Independent Living Program collaborate together and provide Individual Development Accounts to 50 youth in King County.
- The Transition Collaboration in Region 4 consists of both public and private agencies who meet monthly to do resource sharing and identify gaps in service to youth transitioning out of care.
- The Greater Pierce County Community Network is helping identify and provide better services to foster youth in Region 5.

Medicaid

In 2007 legislation extended Medicaid coverage to individuals who:

- On or after July were under 21 years of age;
- On or after July 22, 2007 were in foster care under the legal responsibility of DSHS or a federally recognized tribe located within the state; and
- On their 18th birthday, were in foster care under the legal responsibility of DSHS or a federally recognized tribe located within the state.

The legislation does not apply retroactively to youth aging out of foster care prior to July 22, 2007.

Tribal participation

Tribal youth are assured access and availability of Independent Living services across the state. Tribal youth may choose Tribal IL contracted services or non-tribal providers, assuming space availability. Once the Tribal youth ages out of foster care (18), s/he is eligible for Transitional Living Services (TLS) across the state.

Agreements with the Tribes regarding allocation of the Chafee Independent Living funds were reached in the year 2000. A solicitation process occurs each year where all federally recognized Tribes in Washington State are given an opportunity to apply for Chafee funding. Letters were sent to each Tribe offering an IL contract for this fiscal year. To date, every Tribe that has requested Chafee funds for their own IL program has been approved for funding. This year CA has contracts with 25 tribes. Ten percent of the total IL allocation is designated for Tribal contracts.

Outreach with the Tribes regarding IL/TL/ETV programs continues on a regular basis. The IL Program Manager and ETV Program Manager attend various Tribal meetings to educate members about IL and ETV services. Several IL Coordinators in each of the regions also meet regularly with the Tribes and discuss IL issues and collaboration.

Trust Funds

Washington State does not have established trust funds for youth receiving independent living or transition assistance.

Preparation to Implement National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

The following efforts are underway to implement NYTD in Washington State:

- Development of a planning committee to address how NYTD will be implemented and how to track youth and young adults
- Proposal to incorporate all the NYTD elements (including the survey) into our statewide SACWIS system called FamLink.

- Adding a requirement in our transition planning policy for social workers to obtain contact information of at least two important people in the life of the foster youth before that foster youth exits care.
- Utilizing the statewide youth advisory board "Passion to Action" to identify ways to implement NYTD, engage youth in the survey and maintain contact with alumni of care.

Anticipated technical assistance needed for NTYD:

- Participation in the Annual meetings regarding NTYD
- Ongoing contact with an identified NTYD expert through ACF to address any questions or concerns as we move forward in implementing NTYD

Overview of Accomplishments for FY 2005 - 2009

2005

- The ACLSA tool was incorporated as the assessment tool to be used in WA State to prepare foster youth with the skills necessary to be successful in adulthood.
- In April 2005 a statewide youth advisory board (Passion to Action) was established to provide oversight to Children's Administration on its policies and practices.
- Social workers were trained on the ACLSA tool.
- A standard email address was developed for foster youth to utilize for requesting services: ilskids@dshs.wa.gov

2006

- HB 2002 was implemented which enabled 50 young adults per year in 2006, 2007 and 2008 to remain in foster care while they pursue their post secondary education.
- The Greater Seattle Alumni Network (a local alumni group) became the first chapter of the Foster Care Alumni of America.
- Regional youth and alumni groups have been established in some regions.
- A mass promotion of services available to adolescents in foster care was conducted. Packets including calendars, posters and brochures were sent to all youth age 16-18 in the foster care system, and to 1000 providers serving adolescents. Letters explaining all the services available was direct mailed to over 4000 foster parents.
- Educational Advocates were implemented in each of the 6 regions of Washington State to assist foster youth with educational issues.
- A common application process was developed to incorporate the Education and Training Voucher program, Governor Scholarship and other local scholarship opportunities for foster youth.
- Two statewide IL provider meetings were held.
- An online group called "ILPWA" was set up so that IL providers and others working with youth in and out of foster care from around Washington State can share ideas and communicate with each other.

2007

- The IL contract was modified to include outcomes and the payment structure amended to a 1/12th payment system so that more youth could be served. This change has seen a 128% increase in youth being served from 2005 to 2008.
- Medicaid was extended for foster youth until age 21.
- Children's Administration published a brochure that provides overview of the Chafee programs.
- Children's Administration developed a multi-disciplinary checklist for youth exiting care.
- An overview of the various services available to adolescents in foster care was developed and made available to social workers.

- In October 2006 Washington State hosted a foster youth and alumni leadership summit where foster youth and alumni from around the state came together to begin development of local action groups. Regional action groups have now been developed in each of the 6 regions in Washington State.
- The Foster Care to College partnership provided "How to go to College" seminars to youth from 6th to 12th grade, as well as, a mentoring program to 4 of the regions in Washington State.
- The Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) tool training has been made available to foster parents.
- A mass promotion of services available to adolescents in foster care was conducted in December 2006. Packets including posters and brochures were sent to all youth age 15-18 in the foster care system, caregivers, tribes and community partners.
- Contracted educational advocates are available in each of the 6 regions of Washington State to assist foster youth to improve educational outcomes.
- A common application process is available to foster youth and alumni which incorporate the Education and Training Voucher program, Governor Scholarship and other local scholarship opportunities for foster youth.
- Region 1 hosted an Independent Living conference to foster youth age 15-18 to provide them with trainings and information on resources needed to help promote self- sufficiency.
- Education summits were conducted in each of the regions in Washington State which focused on building collaborative relationships between caregivers, social workers and the public schools.
- Training was provided to nearly 1400 social workers on educational advocacy highlighting the educational needs of children and youth birth through post secondary.
- Children's Administration developed new education policies for children and youth.
- Contracted IL/TL services have been extended to include the Columbia Gorge areas of Region 2, in Klickitat and Skamania Counties in efforts to bring the gaps.
- Children's Administration centralized its ETV program to provide a more consistent program to youth utilizing the voucher program.
- The "Washington State Education and Training Voucher Program Guidelines" that explains the program to social workers, Independent and Transitional Living contractors and CA coordinators which will be available in May 2007.
- A 4 page publication that describes the program to Youth; this publication will be available by May 2007 and is intended to be given to youth interested in participating in the program.
- Standard forms for youth to utilize as they apply for the program and request funding for expenditures the program covers in support of their educational endeavors.
- Revision of the "Common Application" that youth may utilize to apply for ETV and other funding that provides scholarships and support in their pursuit of post secondary education.
- Establishment of an email account that all youth may use to communicate with the program: etvwash@dshs.wa.gov
- Establishment of a Toll-free number for ease of communication: 1-877-433-8388.

2008

- The IL and TL contracts were consolidated into one program.
- Children's Administration published a poster that provides overview of the Chafee programs and distributed it to the local community colleges and universities.
- Children's Administration updated its multi-disciplinary checklist that serves as a reminder of documentation and services CA provides to youth exiting care.
- A timeline of the various services available to adolescents in foster care was developed and made available to social workers.
- A mass promotion of services available to adolescents in foster care was conducted in January 2008. Packets including posters and brochures were sent to all youth age 15-18 in the foster care system, caregivers, tribes and community partners.
- Region 1 hosted an Independent Living conference to foster youth age 15-18 to provide them with trainings and information on resources needed to help promote self- sufficiency.

- One member of the Passion to Action Statewide youth advisory board was selected as a Foster Club all-star level two.
- Education summits were conducted in each of the regions in Washington State which focused on building collaborative relationships between caregivers, social workers and the public schools.
- Outreach was conducted through training, presentations and mailings to the local tribes, community colleges and universities, adoptive parents and social workers on the array of services available to foster youth.
- A statewide IL provider meeting was held in April 2008.
- The Independent Living Policy was updated to lower eligibility to age 15.
- Graduation celebrations were held around the state to celebrate foster youth graduating from high school or receiving their GED
- Children's Administration expanded its ETV program by hiring a temporary program Coordinator to assist the program manager in providing a more consistent program to youth utilizing the voucher program. It is anticipated that a second temporary position will be filled in June 2008.
- A 10 page publication that describes the ETV program to Youth was made available and is intended to be given to youth interested in participating in the program.
- A database for tracking recipients of the ETV program was developed.
- Revision of the "Common Application" that youth may utilize to apply for ETV and other funding that provides scholarships and support in their pursuit of post secondary education.

2009

- Children's Administration continued its statewide youth advisory board "Passion to Action" and had youth present in many of its committees and workgroups. This Board has been in operation for over four years.
- Children's Administration published a poster that provides an overview of the Chafee programs and distributed it to the local community high school, colleges and universities.
- Children's Administration updated its multi-disciplinary checklist that serves as a reminder of documentation and services CA provides to youth exiting care.
- A timeline of the various services available to adolescents in foster care was made available to social workers.
- In July 2008 approximately 125 youth attended the annual "Make it Happen" – summer college prep program conducted by the College Success Foundation. This program brings youth from around WA State together to live on a college campus and learn about resources to go to college.
- The annual Foster youth and alumni leadership summits were hosted in both October 2008 and June 2009. These summits brought together current and former foster youth and their supporters to discuss stigma related to growing up in foster care; to learn about using their voice effectively; to establish local youth and alumni action groups and to identify pressing issues to discuss with state policy makers. Regional action groups are established in each of the 6 regions in Washington State.
- The Foster Care to College partnership provided "How to go to College" seminars to youth from 6th to 12th grade, as well as a mentoring program to 5 of the regions in Washington State. Presently a foster parent training DVD is being developed that is centered on the GEAR-UP curriculum in efforts to educate foster parents in encouraging foster youth to transition out of high school and into college.
- The Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) tool training continues to be made available to foster parents.
- A mass promotion of services available to adolescents in foster care was conducted in April 2009. Packets including posters and brochures were sent to all youth age 15-18 in the foster care system, caregivers, tribes and community partners.
- A transition planning guide for social workers was developed. This guide will provide social workers with information and tools to assist in helping youth plan for their transition from foster care.

- Contracted educational advocates are available in each of the 6 regions of Washington State to assist foster youth to improve educational outcomes.
- The adolescent website www.independence.wa.gov continues to offer valuable information on services, supports and resources available to youth as they transition into adulthood.
- A common application process is available to foster youth and alumni which incorporate the Education and Training Voucher program, Governor's Scholarship and other local scholarship opportunities for foster youth.
- The online group called "ILPWA" continues to be available so that IL providers and others working with youth in and out of foster care from around Washington State can share ideas and communicate with each other.
- Outreach was conducted through training, presentations and mailings to the local tribes, community colleges, universities, adoptive parents, social workers and many community partners on the array of services available to foster youth.
- Education summits were conducted in each of the regions in Washington State which focused on building collaborative relationships between caregivers, social workers and the public schools.
- Graduation celebrations were held around the state to celebrate foster youth graduating from high school or receiving their GED.
- Passion to Action youth developed a DVD around important people in the lives of foster youth. This video is also posted on YouTube.
- Region 1 hosted an Independent Living "Real World" conference to foster youth age 15-18 to provide them with trainings and information on resources needed to help promote self-sufficiency.
- Region 2's GET Set Summer Program held 9 four week sessions in 4 communities. Activities included classroom skills-building, resume preparation, social and life-skills development, and paid work experience. Approx. 14 Dependent youth ages 13 – 17 participated in each 4-week session GET Set 2009 planning is underway for Yakima, Toppenish, Tri-Cities, and Sunnyside.
- Region 2's new Mockingbird Network for Youth and Alumni chapter held a kick-off event on Dec. 12, 2008 with 21 foster youth, alumni and allies participating. Chapter members participated in the Martin Luther King Day March on Jan. 19th in Yakima. The chapter meets on the 1st Saturday of each month. They are recruiting members throughout the region; will hold meetings and activities in various locations. The Chapter was also instrumental in developing an internet communications website called "Ning" allows members to communicate across the region, hold interactive forums, blog, update events, and link to other youth/alumni networks,
- Region 3 held their Annual Summer event for foster youth with workshops on safe relationships, career exploration, and art activities. This annual event will be held again summer 2009.
- Region 3's Youthnet became a host site for the Mockingbird Society Network. Their Mount Vernon office has a Mockingbird staff person part-time that is also a staff for Youthnet. IL/TL youth are encouraged by IL/TL staff and the Mockingbird staff to participate and create their own local chapter. Five youth from IL/TL attended and participated at the Foster Youth and Alumni Leadership Summit in October 2008.
- Region 3 had their annual rafting trip in August 2008 on the Skagit River
- Region 4 YMCA hosted their annual Independent Living Conference on April 18, 2009.
- Region 5 IL/TL Program in Bremerton conducts monthly group trainings that all program youth, social workers and caregivers are invited to attend. They also conduct meetings that are specific to populations with special needs such as DDD youth and parenting teens.
- Children's Administration began its planning of youth involvement in the CFSR process.
- The development and launching of phase two of the web site www.independence.wa.gov that provides access to information about the Chafee programs, resources available, and other topics of interest to adolescents aging out of care.
- In April 2009, an online application was made available for youth to apply to the ETV program. Youth are also able to apply to The Passport to College Promise Scholarship, which is state funded using the same application.

- CA continues to work with two private entities, The College Success Foundation and Seattle University and their scholarship programs (The Governors' Scholarship and Seattle Fostering Scholars), using the same application as above.
- The above collaboration ensures that students these organizations have in common receive complete financial aid packaging and other support services necessary to promote educational success.
- Children's Administration expanded its ETV program by implementing regional Peer to Peer Mentor positions. These positions hire alumni of foster care and primarily focus on helping youth apply to and access ETV funds. They also help youth identify other eligible programs and services.
- Children's Administration expanded the program to serve Running Start eligible youth to help purchase books and supplies. Running Start youth attend high school but also take college level classes which typically result in completion of a two-year college degree.
- Maintenance of an email account that all youth may use to communicate with the program: etvwash@dshs.wa.gov
- Maintenance of a Toll-free number for ease of communication: 1-877-433-8388.
- Conversion of the online application from a PDF format to an interactive format in 2009 which will allow youth to apply to at least two & possibly up to four financial aid sources, as listed in the first two bullets of this section.
- A quarterly newsletter was launched which publishes important college deadlines and articles written by youth and supportive adults. The articles by youth and adults focus on the importance of education and how access to ETV, as a financial resource, helps promote the success of this journey

Plan of Activities for 2010 - 2014

2010

- Continuation of a Peer to Peer mentoring program employing former foster youth who work with youth to access ETV and apply to the array of available services
- The Youth leadership convening will be held in June 2009 with a focus of strengthening existing youth councils and establishing new ones.
- Statewide IL provider meetings will be held to discuss program design and collaboration.
- The Supplemental Educational Transition Planning program will continue this next fiscal year.
- Region 1 will host a "real world" event where youth age 15 and older come together and get exposure to real life experiences such as banking, budgeting, finding housing, voting, shopping, and civic responsibilities.
- Distribution of "Get Educated" posters for high schools, colleges and universities statewide.
- Continue participation in OSPI "Compassionate Schools" initiative which focuses on supporting traumatized children in academic environments.
- Ansell Casey Life Skill Assessment training will be made available through out the year to social workers and community providers.
- Graduation celebrations will be held around the state to celebrate foster youth graduating from high school or receiving their GED
- In July 2009, foster youth will attend the annual "Make it Happen" – summer college prep program conducted by the College Success Foundation. This program brings youth from around WA State together to live on a college campus and learn about resources to go to college.
- IL and ETV Program Managers will continue to consult with regional coordinators and contractors on program design and enhancement.
- Children's Administration will examine its current array of services to adolescents in efforts to streamline services.
- Children's Administration will amend its current contracts to make them performance based
- Expand and keep updated independence.wa.gov website
- Update yearly statewide IL outcome goals

- The ETV program staff will continue to collaborate with The Higher Education Coordinating Board and state colleges to promote youth access to the program.
- The ETV program will co-train with The Higher Education Coordinating Board & The College Success Foundation to higher education staff & organizations about college funding opportunities for foster care youth. This will include training on eligibility & how youth can access federal, private & state dollars.
- ETV staff will continue to work closely with college administrators to ensure youth enrolled receive all services available to help with their education success. This includes connecting youth to college programs which promote education success such as TRIO and tutoring.

2011

- Implement the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)
- Keep Independence.wa.gov website updated
- Identify any remaining service areas for the IL program
- Provide trainings on the ACLSA tool to social workers and community providers
- Implement Fostering Connections legislation
- ETV program staff will continue to collaborate with community partners statewide to coordinate youth access and promote education success.

2012

- Keep Independence.wa.gov website updated
- Update yearly statewide IL outcome goals
- ETV program staff will continue to collaborate with community partners statewide to coordinate youth access and promote education success.

2013

- Administer the NTYD survey to youth age 19
- Keep Independence.wa.gov website updated
- Update yearly statewide IL outcome goals
- ETV program staff will continue to collaborate with community partners statewide to coordinate youth access and promote education success.

2014

- Keep Independence.wa.gov website updated
- Update yearly statewide IL outcome goals
- ETV program staff will continue to collaborate with community partners statewide to coordinate youth access and promote education success.