

Oregon Independent Living Program

List of Services and Eligibility Requirements

Following is a list of the services available through the DHS Independent Living Program for foster youth. The list details the eligibility requirements for and assistance provided by each program/service.

ILP Skill Building (Federally Funded)

- Eligibility:**
- Age 14 or older and in substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
 - A former foster child terminated from the child welfare system at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14.
- Services:** *Contracted out to local non-profits, for-profits, or Tribes*
- Daily Living Skills such as: money management, household maintenance, transportation, legal issues, health, community resources, housing options, personal hygiene, employment readiness
 - Educational Assistance such as: tutoring, homework/study groups, college tours, financial aid/scholarship applications

ILP Discretionary Funds (Federally Funded)

- Eligibility:**
- Youth must be eligible for ILP skill building services and
 - Have an open YILP service (can be opened as non-paid if branch is providing services)
- Services:** *Provided directly by DHS caseworkers*
- Small amount of discretionary funds to assist a youth obtain items or services needed to meet their goals for transition.

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) (Federally Funded)

- Eligibility:**
- Age 14 or older and is in child welfare substitute care (DHS or Tribal), OR
 - A former foster child terminated from the child welfare system at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14.
 - Youth must be on the program prior to age 21
 - If youth are receiving services at age 21, can continue to receive until 23rd birthday.
- Services:** *Provided by DHS in collaboration with the Oregon Student Assistance Commission*
- Youth may receive up to \$3,000 per academic year. Amount is based on need.
 - Youth must be accepted/enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program in order to receive funds (application available at: www.osac.state.or.us/chafeeEtv.html)

Note: Youth may not be able to access both the ETV funds and Chafee Housing funds at the same time. The ability to access both will depend on the school's costs of attendance. If the school includes room and board in the cost of attendance, a youth cannot access both Chafee Housing and ETV funds at the same time. However, if room and board is not included in a school's cost of attendance, then the youth may be able to simultaneously access both programs.

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IL Subsidy Program (ILSP) (State General Funds, some federal/other)

- Eligibility:**
- Age 16 or older
 - In DHS care and custody
 - 40 hours of activity per week (work, education, or combination of the two)
 - Has at least one prior substitute care placement
 - Has approval of the court to participate
 - If youth has not completed high school, must be actively working to complete high school or obtain a GED.
 - Youth must be enrolled for ILP skill building services.
 - Youth cannot live with biological or legal parent(s).
- Services:** *Provided directly by DHS*
- Youth may receive up to \$600 per month to live independently for a maximum of one year.

Chafee Housing Program (Federally Funded)

- Eligibility:**
- Age 18 or older, but not yet 21
 - Discharged from care and custody (DHS or Tribal) on or after 18th birthday
 - 40 hours of activity per week (work, education, or combination of the two—must include at least 4 hours of paid employment)
 - If youth has not completed high school, must be actively working to complete high school or obtain a GED.
 - Youth must be enrolled for ILP skill building services.
 - Youth cannot live with biological or legal parent(s).
- Services:** *Provided directly by DHS*
- Youth may receive up to \$600 per month to live independently, for a maximum of \$6,000 or age 21, whichever comes first.
 - Please advise youth that Chafee Housing services vary from state to state. They should make certain to check with a state prior to moving.

ILP services are available to former foster youth that were discharged from care at age 16 or older with at least 180 days (six months) of foster care placement services after age 14. Youth can be returned home, in a guardianship, or living independently and still retain eligibility for some ILP services. The ILP Housing services are the only ILP services a former foster youth will lose if discharged after age 16 and prior to age 18 (with 180 days of care).

To access services as a former foster youth, the youth will need to go to the local DHS child welfare office and request “voluntary services.” The youth will then go through the intake process. If the youth is under the age of 18, the parent(s) will need to sign the Voluntary Services request (form CF 304). If a young adult (age 18-20), the youth can sign for themselves. All services end at age 21—ETV may be an exception.

Additional scholarship resources: Oregon Student Assistance Commission, www.osac.state.or.us
Orphan Foundation of America, www.orphan.org

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