



**Independent Living Program (ILP) and Non-Minor
Dependency Unit**

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Assembly Bill 12

- ▶ Assembly Bill 12 was signed into law on September 30, 2010 and took effect on January 1, 2012.
- ▶ Also known as Extended Foster Care. AB12 is **voluntary**.
- ▶ Eligible foster youth are designated as “non-minor dependents” (NMDs) ages 18-21 years old. This legislation also recognized the importance of family and permanency for youth by extending payment benefits and transitional support services for the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Program.



Goals and Benefits of AB-12

- ▶ Foster youth will be able to maintain a safety net of support while experiencing independence in a supervised living environment.
- ▶ Youth will be able to maintain stable housing while in Extended Foster Care and after if they are eligible.
- ▶ Provides youth extended time as “non-minor dependents” to obtain educational and employment training opportunities which assist youth in becoming better prepared for successful transition into adulthood and self-sufficiency.
- ▶ Allows youth an opportunity to establish a healthy support system before exiting care.

Eligibility Requirements for Participation

- ▶ At the six month hearing prior to youth turning age 18, the social worker/probation officer must have a plan to ensure the youth meet at least ONE of the following participation criteria:
- ▶ 1) Working toward completion of high school or equivalent program (e.g. GED);
- ▶ 2) Enrolled in college, community college or a vocational education program;
- ▶ 3) Employed at least 80 hours a month;
- ▶ 4) Participating in a program designed to assist in gaining employment;
- ▶ 5) Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical/MH condition.

Youth Not Eligible for AB12

- ▶ If they are incarcerated; post conviction.
- ▶ Are in a Non-Related Legal Guardianship through probate court.
- ▶ They are Active Duty Military.
- ▶ If they were adopted prior to the age of 16.

Placement Options Under AB12

- ▶ Remain in existing home of a relative or Non-Relative Extended Family Member (NREFM).
- ▶ Licensed foster family home; certified foster family agency home.
- ▶ Home of a non-related legal guardian whose guardianship was established by the juvenile court.
- ▶ **Transitional Housing Program plus Foster Care (THP + FC) Ages 18-21-** Ability to live more independently in a “scattered site AKA Apartment” with a roommate. They will be provided assistance from a Life Coach, and meet with their Social Worker monthly. The youth’s rent will be paid and a monthly stipend (allowance) will be provided to the youth broken down in two payments to pay bills.
- ▶ **SILP (Supervised Independent Living Placement.** If the youth are able show their Social Worker/Probation Officer that they are capable of managing their own finances responsibly a SILP Check will be issued directly to the youth to pay for their own housing.

Housing Options if not AB12

- ▶ **Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP +)**- Ability to live more independently with assistance from a life coach. The youth can remain in the program for 18months-36 months up until the age of 25yrs.
- ▶ **Family Unification Program (FUP)/Section 8**- Ages 18-24 and must have the voucher by the age of 24. Case closed but was open on the 16th birthday, no felonies in the past year.
- ▶ **Fresno County EOC**- Drop in youth center. Ages 18-24. Overnight shelter, housing support, counseling and supportive services, and employment and education services.
- ▶ **Hope Program**-Must be a full-time FCC student to qualify. Available to non-minor Dependents as well as youth who are not Dependents.
- ▶ *Fresno County has entered a partnership with Fresno Housing Authority to apply for Foster Youth to Independence Voucher Program (FYI) vouchers for youth who are ages 18-24 and are out of care or preparing to exit care.*

Closing documents:

- ▶ If youth choose not to participate in AB 12, or are preparing to exit at 21; the Department ensures they have the following:
- ▶ Medi-cal information. (medi-cal eligibility until age 26).
- ▶ Information and resources to inspect and receive a copy of their juvenile case file.
- ▶ Vital documents (SS card, CA ID/Driver's license, birth certificate).
- ▶ Information on how to re-enter into foster care.
- ▶ An advanced health care directive form.
- ▶ Ward of the Court letter.
- ▶ Resource guides.

Re-entry

- ▶ Once dismissed from EFC, youth may re-enter prior to the NMD's 21st birthday if:
- ▶ They are meeting eligibility requirements and agree to the program requirements.
- ▶ If a youth was Kin-GAP prior to dismissal EFC is available to them if the Kin-Gap was established at the age of 16 or older and the guardian is no longer willing or able to provide care and support.
- ▶ If youth were in a NRLG, they are eligible for re-entry regardless of the age at which they came into care, if the guardian is no longer willing or able to provide care and support.

Aftercare

- ▶ If a youth chooses not to participate in Extended Foster Care/AB12, they remain eligible for aftercare services from ages 18-21. Aftercare services include:
- ▶ Housing referrals
- ▶ Monthly bus passes
- ▶ Referrals to community resources (food, housing, mental health, etc.)
- ▶ Assistance with obtaining vital documents.
- ▶ Additional services as needed.

Independent Living Program (ILP)

- ▶ ILP provides services to Fresno County foster and probation youth ages 14-21. In addition, Out of County Foster and Probation Youth. Dependents of other counties placed in Fresno
- ▶ Our goal is to provide youth with a sense of community and belonging while providing youth with the necessary skills and support to obtain self-sufficiency.
- ▶ ILP has a resource center that ILP youth can access. The resource center includes computers, information on community resources, other educational materials, classes in housing/finances, basic life skills, safety, self-esteem, education, and DMV test prep, and we have a Job Specialist and Nurse onsite.



Independent Living Program Resource Room

- ▶ Drop-In Center for ILP Services
 - ▶ Job Specialist and current job listings
 - ▶ Public Health Nurse
 - ▶ ILP Aftercare Social Workers
 - ▶ Computer Lab
 - ▶ Best Dressed Teens
 - ▶ Monthly Bus Passes
 - ▶ DMV Vouchers for their CA ID
 - ▶ Birth Certificates
 - ▶ Housing Referrals and Applications
 - ▶ On-going Workshops
 - ▶ Occasional grocery assistance* Limited to stock on hand, consists of an occasional bag of snacks and microwave food items.

ILP Workshops Offered

- ▶ Basic Living Skills (4 weeks)
- ▶ Housing/Finances workshop (4-weeks)
- ▶ Education (4 weeks)
- ▶ Substance Abuse (4 Weeks)
- ▶ DMV (2 weeks)
- ▶ Know Your Right's (2 weeks)
- ▶ *Classes may be in person or virtual via zoom depending on the instructor.
- ▶ ALL Class participants are provided incentives in the form of a Gift Card to Fresno County Youth. Out of County Youth will receive their incentive from their County.

Additional partnerships/Linkages

- ▶ In addition to workshops offered, ILP has partnerships with the following agencies. We partner with them often, linking clients and hosting presentations.
- ▶ NextUp/EOPS
- ▶ Fresno County Office of education
- ▶ Access to higher education
- ▶ EECU credit Union
- ▶ California Youth Connection
- ▶ Chafee
- ▶ JBAY-John Burton Advocates for youth/CA Tax Challenge
- ▶ DSS Eligibility Staff

THANK YOU!