

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM (ILSP)

2010/2011

PROGRAM REPORT

FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

November 14, 2011

Joan Miller, Division Manager

Neely McElroy, Division Manager

Who are the Foster Youth Served by ILSP?

- Children who have been removed from their family's custody due to neglect and abuse.
 - Children who have not reunified with their family nor have they found a permanent home (i.e. adoption)
 - Children who may have grown up in foster care or just entered as adolescents.
 - Youth who are involved with Probation
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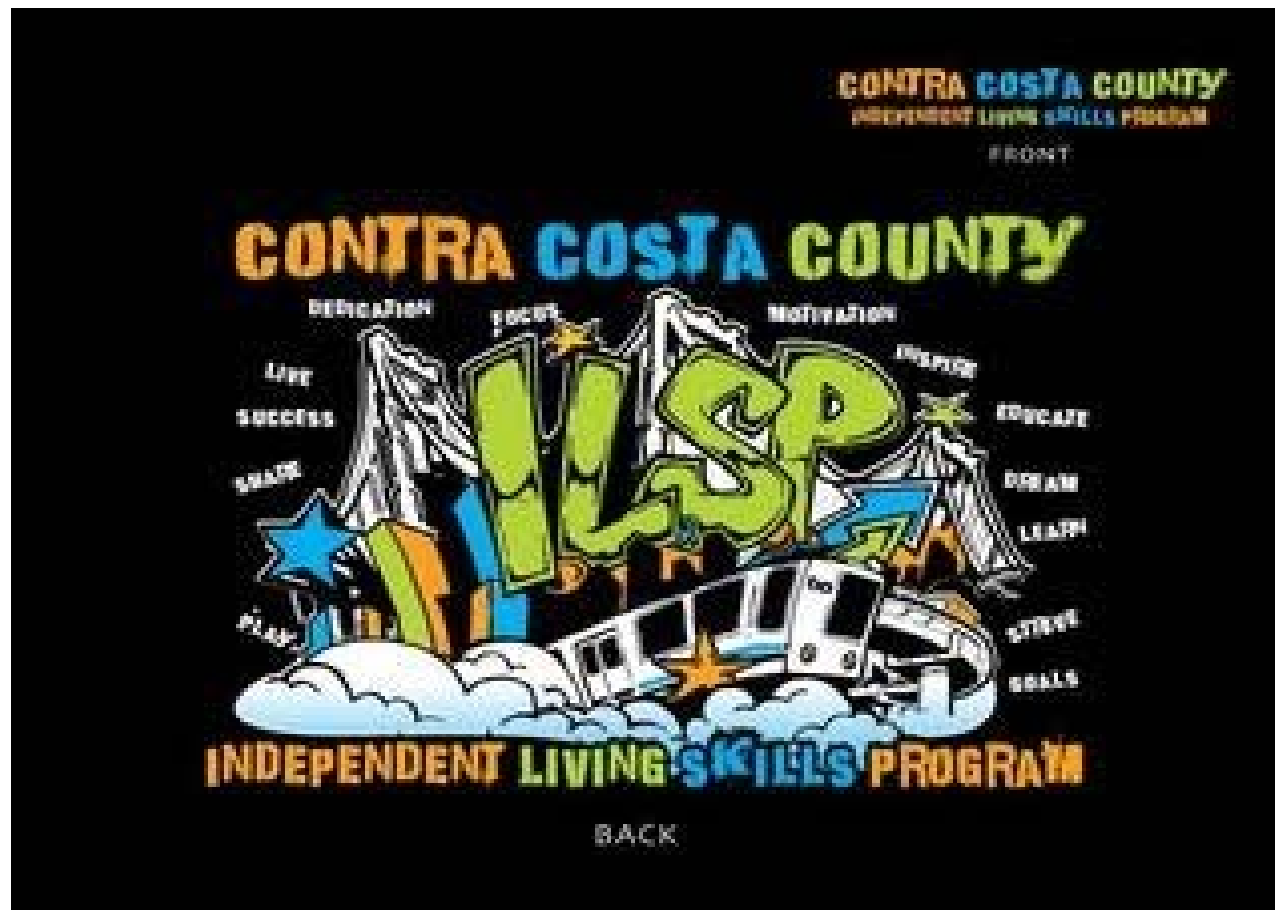
What is the Need?

- Children who emancipate from the foster care system face higher rates of:
 - ~ Unemployment
 - ~ Lower Educational Attainment
 - ~ Incarceration
 - ~ Dependence on public assistance
 - ~ Substance abuse
 - ~ early childbirth
 - ~ Other high-risk behaviors



What is ILSP?

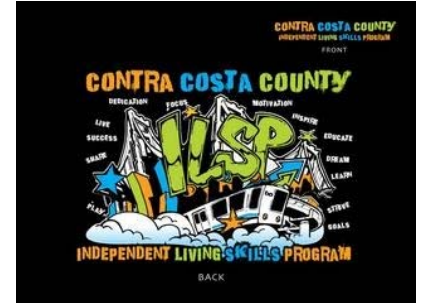
“We Deal in Futures”



What is ILSP?

- Programming to support foster youth age 16 to 21 years old to become self-sufficient through skill building, supportive services and positive youth development.
 - Funded by State and Federal government via the Chaffee Foster Care Independence Act in 1999.
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The ILSP Program



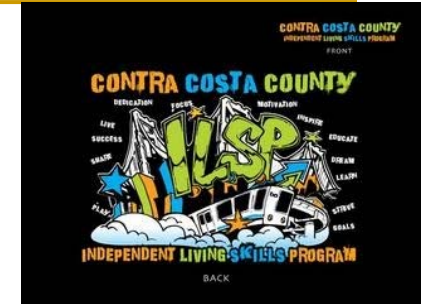
- Staff – ILSP Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and 4 ILSP Specialists
 - Serve all foster youth placed in Contra Costa County
 - ILSP Youth Center opened in 2001
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Programming and Services

- Independent Living Skills Workshops – The Four Pillars
 - *Housing*
 - *Employment*
 - *Education*
 - *Well-Being*
- Aftercare program for emancipated youth
- Leadership Development



2010/2011 Summary



- 534 youth attended ILSP workshops
 - 246 emancipated youth were served in the Aftercare program
 - 102 emancipated youth were housed in transitional housing (THP+); 17 foster youth were placed in THP
 - 60 youth graduated High School
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Significant Legislation

AB12: California Fostering Connections to Success Act



AB12: California Fostering Connections to Success Act

- Extension of foster care until age 21
 - Will phase in beginning 2012
 - Creates additional housing options and allows use of federal foster care
 - Program is voluntary
 - Youth can exit and re-enter anytime
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AB12

- Signed in to law 9.30.2010
- Effective 1.1.2012

Authors –

Office of Speaker Karen Bass

Office of Assembly Member Jim Beall

Co-Sponsors

- Judicial Council of California
 - California Alliance of Child and Family Services
 - California Youth Connection
 - Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
 - County Welfare Director's Association of California
 - John Burton Foundation
 - Service Employees International Union
 - The Alliance for Children's Rights
 - Youth Law Center
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AB 12 Guiding Principles

- Value permanency
 - Help youth transition with lifelong connections to caring adults.
 - Create a collaborative youth-centered process
 - Work proactively with youth in developing and reaching their independent living goals
 - Allow youth to gain real life experience with independence and allow them to learn from their mistakes
 - Provide a safety net for the most vulnerable youth so they can be successful as independent adults
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Benefits of the Legislation

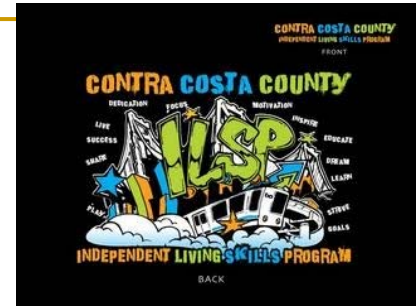
- Promotes Permanency for foster youth
 - Enables youth to maintain a safety net of support while experiencing independence in a secure supervised living environment
 - Youth will be better prepared for successful transition into adulthood
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Eligibility Requirements

- Completing high school or equivalent program
- Enrolling in college, community college or vocational education program
- Employed at least 80 hours a month
- Participating in a program or activity designed to remove barriers to employment
- Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical condition

Youth must meet at least one of the above requirements

Summary



- In the current economic climate, ILSP plays an even greater role in the lives of foster youth
- For some emancipated youth, ILSP is the only support they have in times of crisis.
- ILSP addresses the social and well-being aspects of foster youth.