



# STEPS TO INDEPENDENT L

A Site for Current & Former Foster Youth from L

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\* How Can the Youth Development Services Help Me?

Am I Eligible?

How Do I Access Services?

Plan My Future

Improve Real Life Skills

Get an Education

Get a Job & Plan a Career

Find Housing

Healthcare

Got an Issue? R-U Tripping?

Specialized Services

Legal Assistance

Need a Mentor?

Read more Youth Stories

\*213-351-0100

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## 7. Already On Your Own and Need Help?

### Already Emancipated and Need Help:

Bottom line, if you are already emancipated, Youth Development Services funds can help you stay where you are, find a new place, or find a transitional housing program. You can also get money to pay for your rent for a few months if a roommate has left, if you're in between jobs and/or school, or in some kind of difficulty and need some help.

Rental Assistance funds can be used in a variety of ways: apartment rent, dormitory housing, even room rental to former foster parents and relative caregivers. The money can also be used for food, utility deposits and fees, moving expenses, and basic items needed to set-up your new household. This money also kicks in if your roommate leaves you in a lurch or you are in the middle of changing jobs and need help making ends meet.

You can also get [Service-Enriched Transitional Housing](#).

### Who is Eligible:

- You must be an emancipated ILP eligible youth, 18 to 21 years old.
- You must be in school, working, or planning to be in school or working soon.
- [Click here](#) for more detailed eligibility information.

### How to Apply for Service:

- Discuss your situation with a Probation or DCFS [Transition Coordinator](#)
- Submit a letter that says why you need assistance. Mention things like: Are you going to school? Are you working? Basically, put in the letter why you need help!

- Provide documents that show your housing costs (school housing papers, rental agreements, etc.). Each case is different, so ask your transition coordinator about the documents you need to provide for your situation.

**Forms Needed:**

- Letter requesting assistance
- Ask your Transition Coordinator what forms you need to turn in

**For More Information Contact:**

- Your Transition Coordinator

**Problems or Concerns?**

- Click here to contact your LA County Youth Development Services Ombudsman and other resources.

*This info was last updated on: 6/25/04*

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Brought to you by the Los Angeles County  
 Youth Development Services Division and Independent Living Program  
 (YDSD/ILP) L.A. COUNTY TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP

Thank you for visiting our Youth Development Program website. Please continue to contact us with your comments and suggestions. We need and welcome your participation to make this site a vibrant source of information for all youth transitioning from foster care in Los Angeles County. If you have information to share on our site or experience a problem with the site (e.g. nonfunctioning link), Please contact Jennifer Chuang via email at [chuanj@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:chuanj@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

The Youth Development Program receives a set budget every year from state and federal government sources. Resources are distributed according to need and not as an entitlement. Since the budget is limited, please note that the services and benefits described in this website are available to eligible transitioning youth 16 - up to their 21st birthday in Los Angeles County, on a needs-basis, until all funds are spent for the fiscal year (the fiscal year ends June 30th). There are some services available for youth 14 - 15. Some of the resources are listed for your information and ARE NOT to be considered an endorsement by Los Angeles County.