

# Independent Living Skills (IL) Program

The IL program is a voluntary program for youth ages 15 through 22 who are or were in foster care with DCYF or a tribal court. The program is open to all youth who meet the eligibility requirements below.

Youth can be anywhere on the spectrum of transitioning to adulthood. DCYF contracts with local community-based agencies and federally recognized tribes throughout the state to provide independent living skills.

## Services may include:

- Daily living skills
- Educational support
- Career exploration
- Vocational training
- Employment assistance
- Helping to establish stable and healthy connections

## Eligibility

Youth are eligible for the IL program if they are/were age 15 to 17 in an established dependency through DCYF, another state's public child welfare agency, or a tribal welfare agency, and in an out-of-home foster care placement for at least 30 days between ages 15 to their 18th birthday. Once initial eligibility is determined, the youth will continue to be eligible.

If a youth enters a permanent plan (returns home, Title 13 guardianship, etc.) after meeting the criteria of eligibility, they continue to be eligible for services from the IL program.

## Youth are not eligible if:

- Youth returned home, were adopted, placed in guardianship or dependency guardianship before age 15 (with an out-of-home placement for at least 30 days).
- Youth is under the age of 18 and in a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA).
- Youth is under a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petition.
- Youth is placed in a Juvenile Rehabilitation locked 24-hour facility.
- Youth is not a U.S. citizen.

## IL Updates

For the last few years, the program has been going through a legislatively required redesign process and just completed a procurement for service providers. During this time, we also experienced a decrease in our federal funding allocation due to a decline in the number of youths who are DCYF dependents.



## Provider Changes

Starting April 1, 2024, the IL providers are as follows:

- Region 1 Catholic Charities
- Region 2 Catholic Charities
- Region 3 Youthnet
- Region 4 YMCA of Greater Seattle
- Region 5 Olive Crest
- Region 6 Olive Crest

## How to Refer a Youth for IL Services

- For dependent youth, the caseworker completes an Independent Living Services referral in FamLink (<http://intranet.dcyf.wa.gov:8090/drupal-8.4.0/sites/default/files/training/IndependentLivingReferral-TrainingMaterial.pdf>) and submits the completed form to [ILSKIDS@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ILSKIDS@dcyf.wa.gov).
- Non-dependent youth or eligible youth from another state can self-refer themselves by contacting their local IL provider or emailing their request to [ILSKIDS@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ILSKIDS@dcyf.wa.gov).
- Independent Living Contact Information (<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ILContacts.pdf>)

## Program Changes Starting April 1, 2024

- Possible wait list for youth entering the program.
- Youth Support Funds can be accessed through the local IL Provider for enrolled youth.
- Providers are allowed 60 calendar days to connect and engage with youth, complete their Casey Life Skills Assessment ([www.casey.org/casey-life-skills](http://www.casey.org/casey-life-skills)) and Progress Report and Learning Plan ([www.dcyf.wa.gov/forms?field\\_number\\_value=15-386&title=](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/forms?field_number_value=15-386&title=))

## REGIONAL IL LEADS

Please contact your regional IL lead with questions:

Region 1: [thomas.cresswell@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:thomas.cresswell@dcyf.wa.gov)

Region 2: [monica.jenkins@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:monica.jenkins@dcyf.wa.gov)

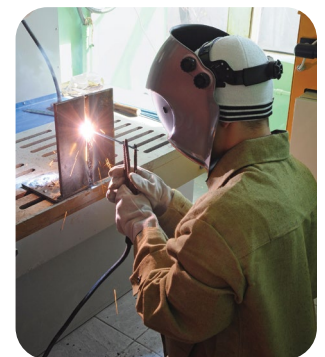
Region 3: [wryan.young@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:wryan.young@dcyf.wa.gov)

Region 4: [donna.lafrance@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:donna.lafrance@dcyf.wa.gov)

Region 5: [camille.johnston@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:camille.johnston@dcyf.wa.gov)

Region 6: [kimberly.cook@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:kimberly.cook@dcyf.wa.gov)

Headquarters: [sherrie.flores@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:sherrie.flores@dcyf.wa.gov)



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