

Summary of Process

1. At age 16, Independent Living Assessment and Plan.
2. At age 16, youth should be referred to Life Skill Classes.
3. At age 16, youth should obtain a State I.D.
4. Each youth is encouraged to obtain employment and start a savings account.
5. Youth will need to be referred to Emancipation Department four months prior to needing housing and at the beginning of their senior year for college-bound youth.
6. Emancipating youth will attend annual Life Skills Conference.
7. Once a youth has been prepared for independent living, financial assistance is available to ease the transition to independent living.
8. At case closure, an aftercare referral will be made.
9. Aftercare services are available to assist during challenging times until the youth's 21st birthday.

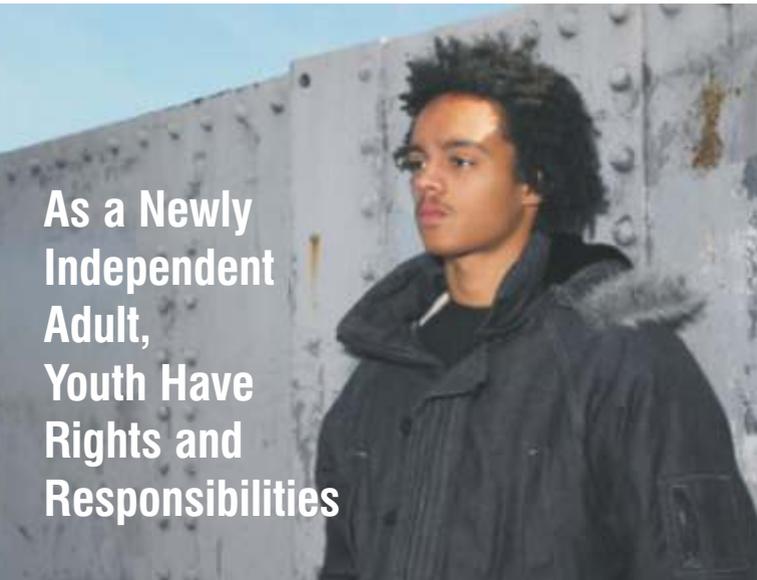
- At 18 years of age, a youth is legally an adult.
- Youth have adult expectations, responsibilities and consequences.
- Youth maintain the right of self-determinator.
- Youth must obey the law and its authority.
- Youth should establish goals, not dreams. "Nothing comes to a sleeper but a dream."
- Youth should have pride in who they are and what they do.
- Youth need to have character and be honest.
- Youth should put forth their best effort to learn and attend school or work...and not cheat themselves out of this opportunity.

A Road Map for the Choices to Come...

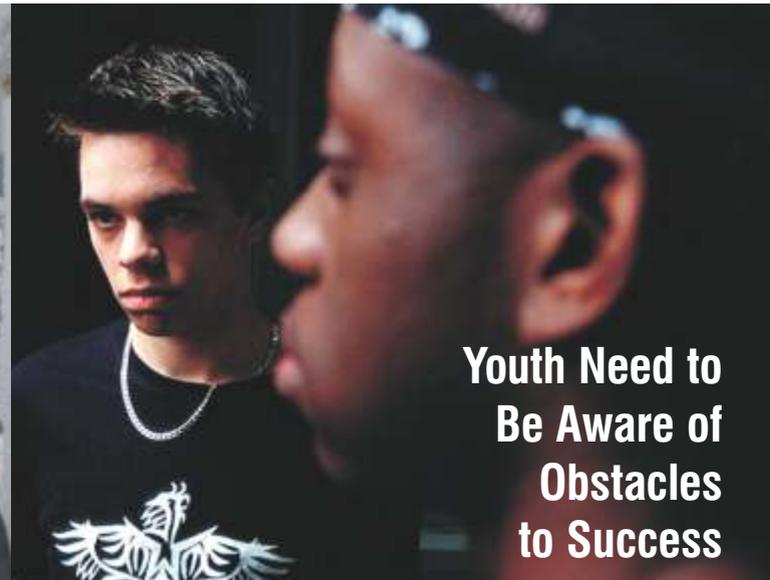
The transition from childhood to adulthood can be challenging and sometimes painful for children and those who try to help them. This experience is much more difficult for children in the child welfare system. As they try to navigate from foster care or institutional care to living on their own, older teens soon realize that they lack the skills necessary to accomplish a smooth transition. They need help or advice, but often don't know where to go or to whom to turn.



Journey To Independence



As a Newly Independent Adult, Youth Have Rights and Responsibilities



Youth Need to Be Aware of Obstacles to Success



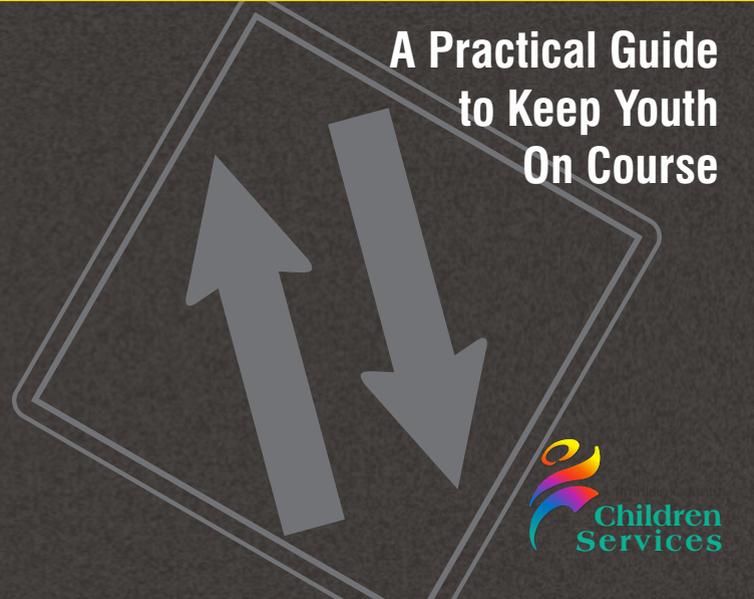
Counselor Name & Number: _____

Supervisor Name & Number: _____

-
- Alcohol and drugs
 - Poor self-control or self-discipline
 - Self-doubt or low self-esteem
 - Immaturity; poor judgement/decision-making
 - Irresponsible sexual relationships
 - Lack of interest in education
 - Poor work ethic or bad work attitude
 - Violating the law or disobeying authority
 - Working toward dreams instead of goals
 - Gangs and gang lifestyle
 - Negative influences

In 1983, in an effort to ease this transition, Franklin County Children Services made a commitment to emancipation and independent living programming for older youth in care. The goals of the Emancipation Department are to assist and support youth 16 and older in skill development for independent living and to empower those youth to make positive, healthy choices in the years to come.

For more information, contact:
 Franklin County Children Services
 Emancipation Program
 855 West Mound Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43223
 (614) 278-5972



855 West Mound Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43223
childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov

(614) 278-5972 (614) 229-7000 (24 hrs.)



The Mission

The mission of Franklin County Children Services' Emancipation Department is to provide the highest quality of services, counseling and life skills instruction to every young adult aging out of foster care; and to successfully transition each young adult from the care of Children Services to a state of *productive independence*.



Requirements for Participation:

- In Children Services' custody
- 16 years old or older
- In an out-of-home placement

Emancipation Services Provided:

- Assessment/Independent Living Case Planning
- Life Skills Training
- Host Homes
- Transitional Living
- Independent Living

Developed to guide and support, the Emancipation Department ensures dedicated effort and care for those young adults seeking their best course for independence and healthy living on their own.

Program services include assistance with:

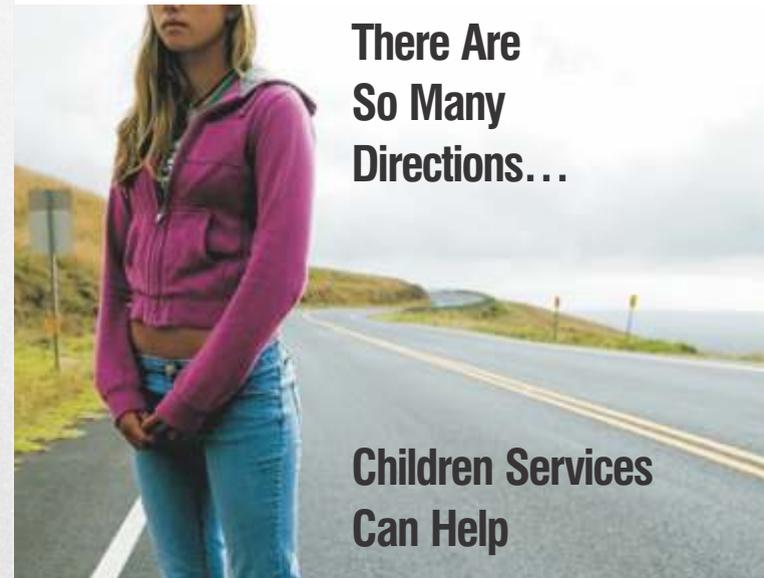
- Independent living preparation
- Rent and living situations
- Apartment search
- Rental application fees
- Rent and utility assistance
- Furniture and housewares (pots, pans, dishes, silverware, etc.)
- Groceries
- Job/trade assistance
- College grant assistance
- College application fees and entry test fees
- Dorm setup
- Bus passes and transportation

Emancipation Orientation, Assessment and Case Planning:

All youth 16 and older under the custody of Franklin County Children Services are eligible for assessment services.

Each youth is assigned an emancipation counselor and participates in an assessment and planning experience to set the independent living plan in motion.

All youth 16 and older under the custody of Franklin County Children Services are required to receive an independent living assessment and independent living case plan.

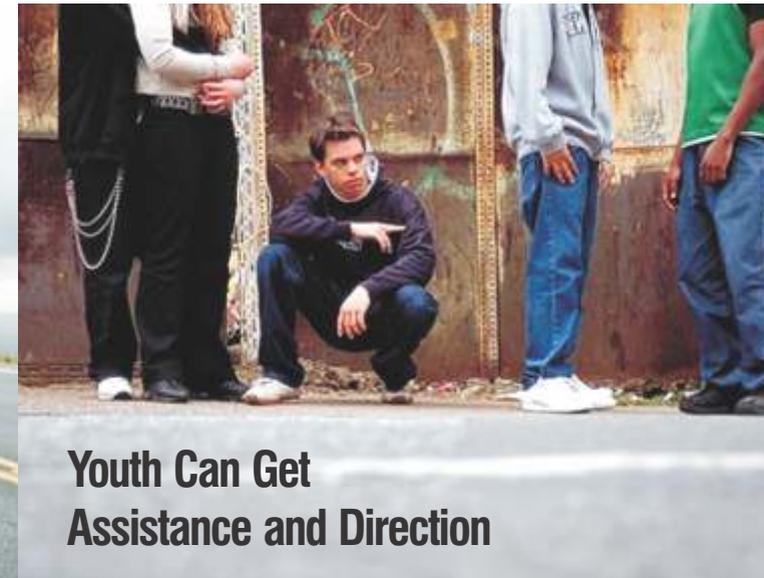


Host Homes:

A host home is a living arrangement in which an approved caregiver agrees to provide housing and life skills instruction to youth participating in the program. The adult's role is to teach the youth about independent living and serve as a role model to the child or children in their home.

Transitional Living:

Transitional Living is a generally-supervised living arrangement for youth 17 years old and older. During the day youth should be attending school, studying for G.E.D. or working. Staff monitor the activities of the youth and provide job and educational assistance. A full-time staff member is on duty from 7p.m. until 8 a.m. daily.



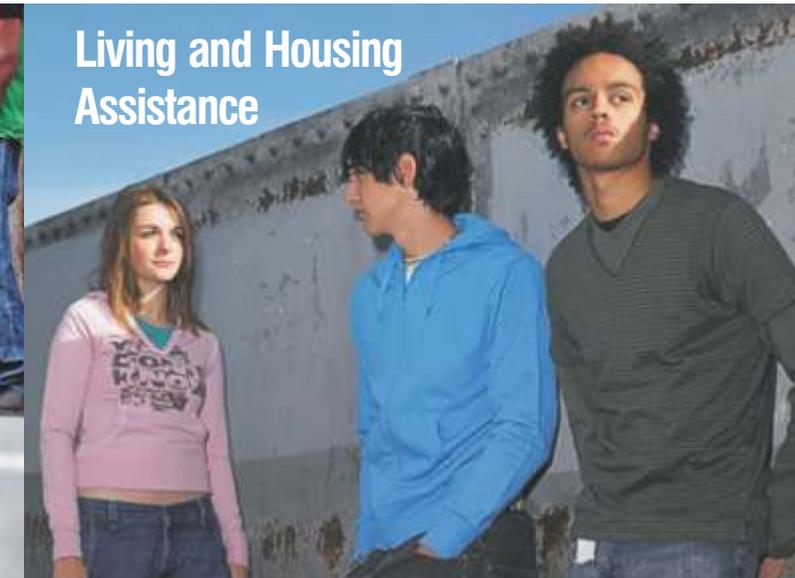
Life Skills Training

All Children Services youth 16 and older are eligible to participate in this 10-week training program.

Life Skills Training is designed to provide youth with the necessary skills for independent living.

The Life Skills curriculum includes topics such as budgeting, money managing and shopping, job readiness and much more. Adult Life Skills Training is required for all youth who are in the custody of Franklin County Children Services and over the age of 16. Community youth can participate if class is not filled.

Living and Housing Assistance



Staff Responsibilities

The counselors and social workers working in the Emancipation Program are dedicated to helping youth make the most of their independent opportunities.

- Staff provides assistance with daily living skills, including budgeting, banking, housekeeping, childcare, education, resource referrals and job readiness.
- Staff are committed to being fair and honest in their efforts to assist youth on the path to independence.
- Staff provides instruction to enhance independence and not promote dependency.

Independent Living

In the Independent Living program, qualified agency youth are placed in apartments throughout the community.

Staff assist youth in establishing themselves in the community and the neighborhood most suited to their roots, preferences and income level.

Although this is the most independent stage for youth in the program, staff still continue to check on the youth at least weekly and provide the case management services as needed.

Young adults must provide proof of income and demonstrate responsible behavior and adhere to program rules and expectations.

AfterCare

AfterCare is a time-limited service provided to youth who have exited the child welfare system.

Services include, but are not limited to:

- Vocational assessment training
- Job search assistance
- Independent living skills (refresher) training

Therapeutic Arts Program (TAP)

TAP incorporates traditional and non-traditional methods to provide participants with the opportunity to increase their self-awareness, self-esteem and self-reliance.