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Georgia's Independent Living Program:

How Georgia Can Better Prepare Foster Youth for Productive Lives

Special Report

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Executive Summary

Across the U.S., about 20,000 youth age out of foster care each year.¹ These youth are generally discharged or “emancipated” from the foster care system at age 18. During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005, Georgia had over 15,000 youth in state custody foster care including some of the over 6,000 youth ages of 14 to 21 who were eligible for Georgia’s Independent Living Program.² Each year more than 500 foster youth in Georgia are discharged from the foster care system via emancipation.³ National research on youth transitioning from foster care shows dire outcomes (e.g., 46% did not complete high school and 25% have been homeless).

The federal John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee) and the Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV), known as the Independent Living Program (ILP) in Georgia, seeks to provide eligible youth with the skills and experience needed to achieve self-sufficiency. In FFY 2005, Georgia’s ILP received \$4.7 million in federal funds to provide financial assistance and services in the areas of education, employment, health care, housing, youth involvement, and more. In SFY 2005, Georgia contributed \$1.7 million to ILP.

Key Findings

- Georgia’s emancipated foster youth do not receive Medicaid beyond age 18.
- Only 44% of eligible Georgia youth were served by ILP in FFY 2005.
- Only 24% of eligible Georgia youth ages 16-17 were placed in jobs through ILP and TeenWork in 2005.
- Only 18 youth were enrolled in the Transitional Living Program (TLP) between June 2004 and May 2005. In FFY 2005 there were over 1,800 ILP eligible youth age 18+.
- Demographic and fiscal data collected on eligible youth and services rendered is insufficient for program evaluation and reform.
- In State Fiscal Year 2004, ILP had \$1.9 million in unspent federal Chafee and ETV funds and in SFY 2005 that figure was \$2.4 million. States have 2 years to spend these funds.

Existing evidence suggests that ILP services have a positive effect on transitioning youth to self-sufficient adults.

Recommendations

1. Georgia should extend Medicaid coverage to age 21 for all foster youth (in DFCS custody on their 18th birthday) with an automatic enrollment at age 18. This would cost Georgia an additional \$1.6 million to \$2.5 million annually.
2. Georgia should increase the percentage of ILP eligible youth served and require each region to serve a minimum percentage of ILP eligible youth. 80% statewide participation would cost Georgia about an additional \$3.3 million. 100% statewide participation would cost Georgia about an additional \$5.1 million.
3. Georgia should encourage and assist all ILP eligible youth in obtaining a high school diploma/GED and enrolling in post-secondary education and training programs. ILP programs that reimburse secondary education and enrichment expenses and post-secondary tuition and room & board should be revamped and sufficiently funded to assure that all ILP eligible youth are successfully served.
4. Georgia should strengthen efforts to help foster youth age 16 and older secure and maintain paid employment.
5. As ILP pursues program redesign, Georgia should conduct a fundamental review by county and service of ILP youth participation, ILP expenditures, and data and outcome tracking to ensure that every ILP eligible youth in Georgia participates in ILP in accordance with his/her Written Transitional Living Plan. Within this review, the relationship and structure between Regional ILP Coordinators and Case Managers should also be examined.
6. Georgia needs a more robust ILP database that tracks every Georgia youth eligible for and participating in ILP by county.

Introduction

Georgia Budget & Policy Institute (GBPI) is engaged in producing a series of reports on Georgia's Child Welfare System. The first report, *The Real Costs of Raising Foster Children in Georgia, How Georgia's Per Diem Can Keep Up* compared the financial supports available within Georgia's family foster care system to the real costs of raising a child and recommended that Georgia look at linking its basic foster care maintenance per diem to 100% of the USDA estimates for raising a child in a middle income, two-parent family in the urban south (net health care and net education and child care estimates). This second report explores Georgia's Independent Living Program (ILP) policies and practices in order to identify opportunities for strengthening the program. Diverse community stakeholders (e.g., ILP staff, advocacy groups, and foster youth) have contributed to GBPI's research.

Children enter foster care for protection against abuse and neglect mostly from adults responsible for their care. Nearly one-half of our nation's foster children are age eleven or older with 20% age sixteen or older. Across the U.S., about 20,000 youth age out of foster care each year.⁴ These youth are generally discharged or "emancipated" from the foster care system at age 18. During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005, Georgia had over 15,000 youth in state custody foster care including some of the over 6,000 youth ages of 14 to 21 who were eligible for Georgia's Independent Living Program.⁵ Each year more than 500 foster youth in Georgia are discharged from the foster care system via emancipation.⁶

National research indicates that for youth aging out of foster care:⁷

- 46% did not complete high school (compared to 15% of all 18-24 year olds);
- 51% were unemployed;
- 25% have been homeless;
- 40% have become parents; and
- One in four males and one in ten females have spent time in jail.

Left alone, emancipated foster youth lack the family networks or community connections to transition successfully to adulthood. These youth are not likely to find jobs that pay a living wage or have health insurance. It is very difficult for young people to get credit and many apartment complexes will not rent to them. By comparison, a 2002 national survey found that most Americans believe the transition to adulthood (i.e., financial independence to parenthood) is not complete until age 26.⁸

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee Program), known as the Independent Living Program (ILP) in Georgia, seeks to provide eligible youth with the skills and experience needed to transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. What supports and services does ILP provide? Are they accessible and sufficient? To answer these questions, this report explores:

- Background of ILP legislation, funding and administration;
- ILP policies (education, employment, room/board, health care, youth involvement);
- ILP practice (youth participation, actual expenditures, program outcomes);
- Related government, public/private and private initiatives; and
- Recommendations for Georgia

Foster Care Independence Act

In 1986, the federal government offered states limited “independent living” funding for foster youth age 16 to 18. In 1991, Congress extended eligibility to age 21 without increasing funding. In 1999, Congress passed the Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA) that established the Chafee Program⁹ to:

- Track which youth stay in foster care until their 18th birthday;
- Provide these youth with tools to better develop their education, vocation, and life skills;
- Prepare these youth for education after high school;
- Support these youth’s personal and emotional needs;
- Provide former foster youth ages 18-21 a variety of supports; and
- Help youth access funds for education and training.

Highlights of the Foster Care Independence Act included:

- Establishment of the Chafee Program;
- Doubling of federal funding to the states (\$140 million annually, previously frozen at \$70 million).
- Allowing the states to offer services to youth under age 16 and to assist former foster youth ages 18 to 21 with room and board, Medicaid, and other support services;
- Authorizing the states to expand Medicaid coverage to former foster care youth 18 – 21;
- Authorizing the states to use up to 30% of funds for room and board for former foster care youth up to age 21;
- Encouraging states to coordinate their independent living programs with other federal and state youth programs, such as school-to-work programs;
- Requiring states to submit a multiyear plan on use of funds. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) requires states to submit annual progress reports; and
- Directing HHS to develop outcome measures to assess state performance.¹⁰

Chafee is a capped entitlement program. Funding is mandatory, guaranteed from year to year, and set by law (as of May 2005 capped annually at \$140 million). For FFY 2005, Georgia’s portion of Chafee funds was \$3.5 million.¹¹ In 2001, Chafee was amended to add the Education and Training Vouchers Program (ETV). Unlike Chafee, ETV relies on discretionary funds (between \$0 and \$60 million) that Congress must appropriate each year. For FFY 2005, Congress appropriated nearly \$46 million dollars for ETV, with Georgia’s portion set at nearly \$1.2 million.¹² For Chafee and ETV, each state must provide 20% as a cash or in-kind match.

Georgia Independent Living Program (ILP)

In Georgia the federal Chafee Program is referred to as the Independent Living Program (ILP). The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) administers ILP and is responsible for ensuring that all eligible youth are “equipped with the tools necessary to make a successful transition from foster care to self sufficiency.”¹³ DFCS is a state administered county supervised system that divides the 159 counties into 12 regions. Region III (metro Atlanta) is further subdivided into five regions; making 16 regions in practice (see Figure 1). Key DFCS ILP staff includes:

- A Policy and Planning Unit that interprets policy and administers the ILP.¹⁴
- 2 State ILP Coordinators who provide technical assistance on policy development, interpretation, and expenditures and manage state/federal program funds, among other duties.
- 18 Regional ILP Coordinators who provide training (directly or through contractors) or direct service (e.g., education, employment, life skills, and health education). Regional ILP Coordinators are supervised by Field Directors with programmatic and technical assistance through State ILP Coordinators.¹⁵
- Among other duties, Social Services Case Managers are responsible for
 - Referral of eligible youth to Regional ILP Coordinators,
 - Development and periodic updates of the youth’s Written Transitional Living Plan (WTLP) with input from the youth, Regional ILP Coordinator, and others identified within the youth’s support system for eligible youth in state custody,

- Input on the evaluation of a youth’s participation in the Transitional Living Program, and
- Help with youths’ requests for financial assistance (e.g., post-secondary education related expenses).¹⁶

Figure 1
Georgia Counties Served by ILP Regions¹⁷

Region	DFCS Office	Counties Served
I	Floyd	Bartow, Floyd, Haralson, Paulding, Polk
	Whitfield	Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray, Pickens, Walker, Whitfield
II	Stephens	Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White
III NW	Cobb	Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas
III S	Clayton	Clayton, Henry, Fayette
III NE	Rockdale	Gwinnett, Rockdale
III Fulton	Fulton	Fulton
III DeKalb	DeKalb	DeKalb
IV	Meriwether	Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, Upson
V	Clarke	Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton
VI	Macon*	Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs, Wilkinson
VII	Richmond	Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes
VIII	Sumter	Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Webster
IX	Laurens	Appling, Bleckley, Cadler, Dodge, Emmanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Tattall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox
X	Dougherty	Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Worth
XI	Ware	Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, Ware
XII	Chatham	Bryan, Bullock, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh

*Field Area Coordinator Office

Independent Living Program Policy

In general, ILP eligible youth are those aged 14-21 who are currently in foster care or ILP eligible when foster care terminated as well as those aged 21-25 who are enrolled in postsecondary education or trainings programs. Foster care youth ages 14-21 are referred by their case manager to the appropriate Regional ILP Coordinator. “The case manager then develops, with input from the youth, Regional ILP Coordinator and another adult in the youth’s support system, the Written Transitional Living Plan (WTLP) to guide services”¹⁸ for the youth.

Education¹⁹

Secondary Educational and Enrichment Expenses

Financial assistance is provided to youth age 14-21 who are in foster care (or were eligible for ILP when state custody terminated) to help youth attain secondary education and Written Transitional Living Plan goals. Examples of covered expenses are summer and evening school fees, books and supplies, tutoring, testing and testing preparation (SAT, ACT, etc.), graduation fees, driver’s education, extra-curricular activities (e.g. band, athletics), enrichment activities (e.g., swimming lessons), computers and printers, and food, lodging, and transportation to ILP conferences.

College/Vocational Related Expenses

Through a combination of federal and state funds, Georgia ILP provides financial assistance to youth age 14-25 who are in foster care (or were eligible for ILP when state custody terminated) for post-secondary education and training. Examples of covered expenses are unmet tuition and fees, room and/or board, required books, supplies and equipment, computers and printers, driver’s education, tutoring, subsistence stipend (\$50 monthly

cap), transportation assistance (\$650 state fiscal year cap, not for purchase, maintenance or insurance of personal vehicle). Funding is need-based and limited to pursuit of an undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate. Funding supplements other available funds (i.e., Pell Grants, HOPE).

Employment²⁰

The ability to earn a living wage is an important factor in establishing and sustaining independence. Some of Georgia's ILP employment strategies for 2005-2009 include:

1. Provide youth with hands-on career exploration trainings (2 day or 5 day workshops including computer training), mostly targeting high school seniors or first year post-secondary school students;
2. Provide pre-employment training and networking opportunities to youth ages 14-15 that are time-limited, supervised volunteer and community service assignments (stipend not to exceed \$150 per FFY);
3. Facilitate referrals for summer or part-time employment for youth ages 16-17. Maximize Georgia Department of Labor (DOL) workforce investment initiatives via Regional ILP Coordinator participation on DOL Workforce Investment Boards (WIB);
4. Coordinate paid work experience for youth ages 18-24 who (1) have previous work experience and (2) participated in DOL or ILP employment training. Use temporary agencies to find employment. Youth ages 18-21 may work within DFCS. Youth over age 21 may provide clerical assistance for ILP staff and serve as peer ILP mentors.

Room and Board Services (youth age 18+)

Georgia is authorized to provide up to 30% of its federal Chafee funds for room and board to former foster youth ages 18-21 who were in foster care at age 18.

Emergency Financial Assistance²¹

Total assistance capped at \$3,000 per Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), October 1 through September 30, per youth:

- Food - \$75 per request or \$225 per FFY
- Clothing for employment, training or educational activities - \$330 per FFY
- Rent – up to \$600 per month for no more than 3 months or \$1,800 per FFY
- Medical – (e.g. prescriptions, exams) \$500 per FFY
- Transportation – (i.e., transit pass, bus, train or airline ticket) not to exceed \$350 per request or \$700 per FFY

Transitional Living Program (TLP)

TLP Eligible youth, identified by case managers and Regional ILP Coordinators, must (1) have signed Consent Form 7 to Remain in Foster Care or be former foster care youth between age 18 and 21 and (2) be employed and “demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and stability to successfully maintain a household.”²² To satisfy the second requirement, all prospective youth are given the adolescent component of the Comprehensive Child and Family Assessment (CCFA). A multi-disciplinary team reviews each youth's CCFA, Written Transitional Living Plan, case manager/Regional ILP Coordinator recommendation(s) and other applicable information to determine TLP participation.²³

Approved youth may receive up to \$8,000 per year of financial support (unless waived by Social Services Director). A Regional ILP Coordinator executes a written contract with youth to ensure TLP guideline compliance (e.g., employment, minimum savings, and contact standards).

TLP services and covered expenses (funded entirely by federal Chafee funds), include start-up costs, such as:

- first month's rent, security deposits, renters insurance, utility and telephone connection fees (No cable or satellite TV fees);
- basic furniture items (bed, chest of drawers, table and chairs);
- cooking and cleaning supplies;
- monthly housing subsidy of \$600 (for one year or until youth reaches age 21 or the \$8,000 funding limit);
- transitional living assessments to determine youth participation;
- targeted life skills training and related fees;
- short-term counseling and support group related expenses

TLP eligible youth who are receiving a per diem²⁴ are not eligible for TLP housing reimbursements. ILP eligible youth transferred from DFCS custody to permanent custody of a relative, continue to be eligible for ILP but not TLP.²⁵

The state contracts with non-government providers to provide services and supports to TLP eligible youth, such as counseling, educational assistance, transportation, counseling, life skills, financial planning, and mentoring.

Health Care

Youth aging out of foster care generally find low wage jobs without health insurance. Publicly funded health insurance may be their only option. The Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA) gave states flexibility to provide Medicaid for youth ages 18 to 21 transitioning from foster care. A state may provide Medicaid to all youth under age 21 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday (with or without an income or resource test) or to "reasonable categories" of this group.²⁶

To date, 11 states have provided Medicaid coverage to youth ages 18-21 transitioning from foster care under FCIA.²⁷ As of a 2004 General Accounting Office Survey, 31 states provided Medicaid coverage to at least some former foster care youth under FCIA or other Medicaid provisions.²⁸ Georgia is not included in either count.

In Georgia, Medicaid coverage is extended beyond age 18 for foster youth who choose to stay in state custody but is not extended for emancipated foster youth unless they qualify for Right from the Start Medicaid (i.e., family income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level, coverage is extended up to age 19).²⁹ Foster youth in Georgia are given the option to sign a voluntary agreement to remain in state custody beyond their 18th birthday (Form 7, Consent to Remain in Foster Care). Youth who sign Form 7 receive Medicaid coverage until age 21.³⁰ Youth who do not sign Form 7 may be covered up to age 19 if they qualify for Right from the Start Medicaid for Children. In Georgia, no other public health insurance coverage options are available for low-income childless adults.

Emancipation from the foster care system³¹

A foster youth legally emancipates from the foster care system at the 18th birthday, unless a judge orders emancipation prior to the 18th birthday. Per ILP policy,

"Beginning at age 16, the case manager provides youth with guidelines regarding eligibility requirements for remaining in foster care beyond age 18, including discussing aftercare services if youth choose not to remain in care. If the youth elects to remain in foster care past age 18, he or she signs a Consent to Remain in Foster Care (Form 7) provided that DFCS and foster youth agree that continued foster care placement is consistent with WTLP. If DFCS disagrees, the youth may request a staffing with the Regional Director or Social Services Director."

Within ILP, a youth age 18-20 is either considered:

- “In care” (signed Form 7), for whom a per diem is paid. This youth may be receiving ILP services, living on his own, and attending college. A per diem is paid on his behalf, but only for those nights spent at his placement; or
- “ILP after care” (did not sign Form 7) and for whom no per diem is paid. Youth chooses to remain active in ILP.

Youth “in care” (signed Form 7) may remain with their foster parents beyond age 18 (until age 21) while their foster parents continue to receive per diem payments on behalf of the youth. There are no specific policy requirements for remaining with foster parents; however, youth must fulfill their Written Transitional Living Plan goals. ILP currently does not collect data on the number of foster youth age 18 or older living with foster parents receiving a per diem on their behalf.

Youth who are in “ILP after care” (did not sign Form 7) and who were otherwise eligible for ILP services and reimbursements prior to turning 18, are entitled to the following provisions:

- Educational Related Expenses for Youth College/Vocational Related Expenses;
- Educational and Enrichment Expenses;
- Education and Training Vouchers;
- ILP employment trainings and coordination of paid work placements; and
- TLP services and reimbursements (including emergency assistance).

However, Medicaid coverage for these youth stops at age 18 (or age 19 if they qualify for Right from the Start Medicaid for Children).

ILP Participation

Regional ILP Coordinators disseminate ILP information to youth primarily through group orientation sessions, individually with prospective youth, and through formal and informal case manager and foster parent training. The case manager identifies youth eligible for ILP, often with assistance of the Regional ILP Coordinator.³²

Statewide Participation Rates³³

ILP does not collect data demographically by service provided; therefore, only total counts of eligible and served youth were analyzed.

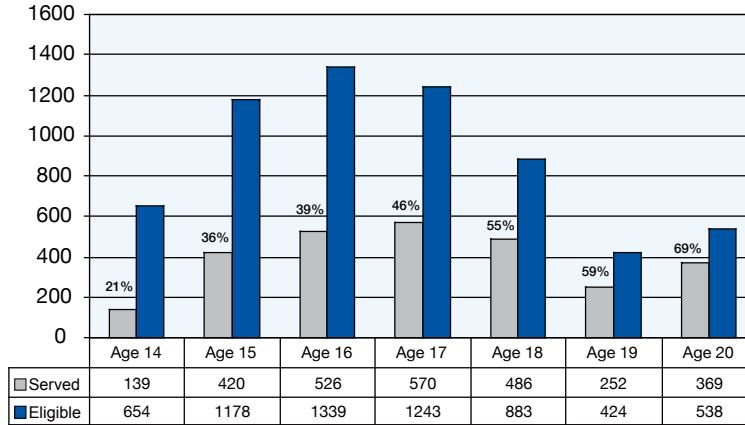
Figure 2
ILP Eligible and Served Youth

Federal Fiscal Year	Number Eligible	Number Served	Percentage Served
2004	5,429	2,702	49.7%
2005	6,259	2,762	44.1%

ILP participation varies across the U.S. Like Georgia, about one third of the 40 states responding to a 2004 HHS survey served less than half of their eligible foster care youth population, while an equal percentage of states were serving three-fourths or more.³⁴

The percentage of eligible youth served increases with year of age. In FY 2005, 21.3% of ILP eligible youth age 14 were served compared to 68.6% age 20+ ILP eligible youth. See Figure 3 on the following page.

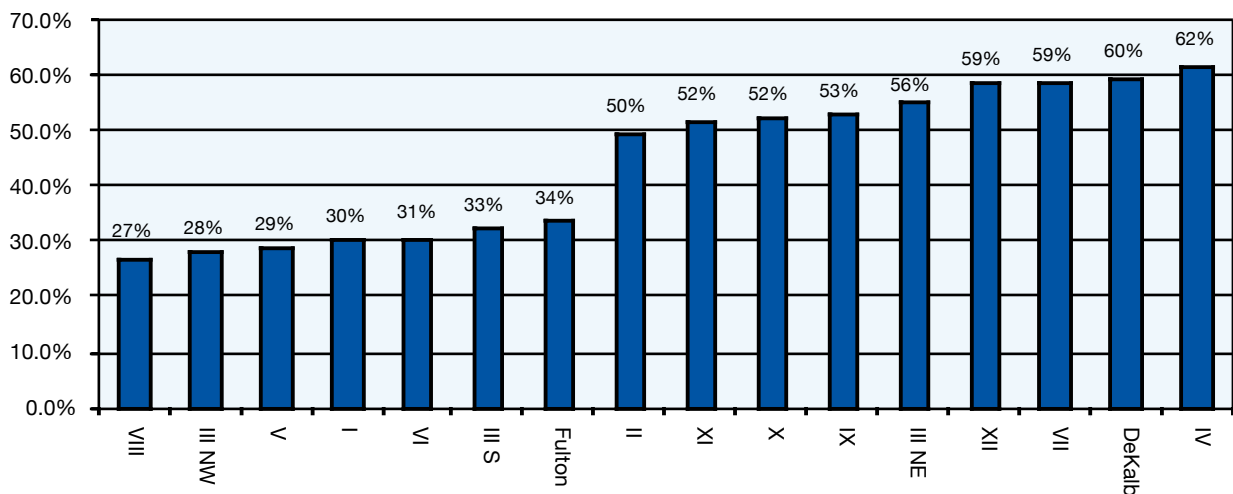
Figure 3
FFY 2005 ILP Eligible and Served Youth by Age



Regional Participation Rates³⁵

DFCS was unable to provide ILP demographic data by county so Georgia Budget and Policy Institute examined regional data. Reviewing the percentage of ILP eligible youth served by region revealed a regional variability in ILP participation across Georgia. In FY 2005, the percentage of eligible youth served ranged from 27.0% (Region VIII) to 61.7% (Region IV). Seven regions served less than 35% of their ILP eligible youth. Regions with large numbers of eligible youth had both high and low participation (e.g. Region III – Fulton had 833 ILP eligible youth and served 34.3% while Region III – DeKalb had 566 ILP eligible youth and served 59.9%).

Figure 4
FFY 2005 Percentage ILP Eligible Youth Served by Region



Region	VIII	IIINW	V	I	VI	III S	Fulton	II	XI	X	IX	III NE	XII	VII	DeKalb	IV
# Served	63	88	88	152	145	124	286	162	193	160	133	104	283	248	333	200
# Eligible	233	313	304	501	471	381	833	325	372	306	251	187	481	421	556	324
SFY05 Expenditures	\$56,751	\$178,459	\$109,642	\$218,678	\$281,557	\$184,525	\$549,852	\$272,530	\$150,370	\$168,585	\$153,636	\$132,698	\$210,494	\$117,413	\$428,079	\$277,061

Note: For SFY05 Expenditures \$554,026 in statewide expenditures not allocated by region.

Independent Living Program Expenditures³⁶

As shown in Figure 5 below, three ILP programs are state-funded and three ILP programs are federally-funded.

Figure 5
SFY 2005 Georgia ILP Expenditures

Service Description	Total	State	Federal
Educational Related Expenses (Youth 21-25)	\$324,692	\$324,692	\$0
College/Vocational Related Expenses	\$561,735	\$561,735	\$0
Educational and Enrichment Expenses	\$863,318	\$863,318	\$0
Transitional Living Program	\$78,724	\$0	\$78,724
Education and Training Voucher	\$879,853	\$0	\$879,853
Program Related Expenses	\$1,336,034	\$0	\$1,336,034
TOTAL	\$4,044,356	\$1,749,745	\$2,294,611

Program Related expenses include: (1) youth employment (current/former foster youth hired for short-term clerical, research and administrative work for ILP), (2) enrichment activities (e.g., Celebration of Excellence), (3) workshop related expenses (e.g., materials, lodging, meals, and instructors) (4) staff training and (5) other expenses (i.e., operating, printing and equipment/maintenance).

States have 2 years to spend federal Chafee and ETV funds received in a fiscal year. In SFY 2005, Georgia spent over \$4 million on ILP. Georgia provided about 43% of the funds (\$1.7 million) with the remainder (\$2.3 million) federally funded. As shown in Figure 6 below, Georgia received \$4.7 million in federal Chafee and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds in FFY 2005. Georgia only expended \$2.3 million in federal funds in SFY 2005, leaving approximately \$2.4 million in Chafee and ETV funds unspent. In SFY 2004, Georgia only expended \$2.2 million in federal funds, leaving approximately \$1.9 million in Chafee and ETV funds unspent.

Although ILP has never returned any federal dollars, the unspent federal funds for 2004 and 2005 raise the question, why isn't ILP fully expending its federal funds each year, especially while thousands of eligible youth are not being served?

Figure 6
Unspent Federal Funds in Georgia

	2004	2005
Federal (Chafee & ETV) Funds (FFY)	\$4.1 million	\$4.7 million
ILP Federal Expenditure (SFY)	\$2.2 million	\$2.3 million
Unspent Federal Funds	\$1.9 million	\$2.4 million

Independent Living Program Outcomes

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) requires states to submit annual progress reports. Georgia documents ILP outcomes in annual reports and program reviews.

Independent Living Program Annual Report³⁷

ILP FFY 2004 and FFY 2005 Annual reports were reviewed. The limited data presented in the annual reports makes it difficult to evaluate outcomes. For example:

- ILP training courses (e.g. daily living skills) show number of statewide participants by subject matter. There is no other detail provided, such as frequency and location of courses or the age, ethnicity, and county of residence of participants.
- Outreach programs noted teen conferences (state and regional) plus community education. The FFY 2005 conference schedule (e.g., frequency, location, agenda) along with an analysis of attendees and the ILP services (if any) that the attendees accessed are not included.
- Data on eligible youth and youth served was provided by age, gender, ethnicity, title IV-E eligibility, and custody status but only in statewide counts. This does not allow for an assessment by county.
- The evaluation information/statement of results did not link results to program goals.
- Educational outcome data is insufficient for determining program effectiveness. For instance, in FFY 2005, the report shows 490 ILP eligible youth obtained a high school diploma or GED and 464 were in post secondary training/education. Could the same youth be included in both counts? What percentage of ILP eligible youth age 18+ does the 490 represent?

Employment³⁸

Outcomes for some of Georgia’s ILP employment strategies for 2005-2009, include:

1. Provide pre-employment training and networking opportunities to youth ages 14-15 that are time-limited, supervised volunteer and community service assignments (stipend not to exceed \$150 per FFY).
 - *To date, no youth have participated and no stipends were distributed. In FFY 2005, there were 1,832 ILP eligible youth age 14-15.*
2. Facilitate referrals for summer or part-time employment for youth ages 16-17.
 - *To date 41 youth ages 16-17 were placed in jobs because of these referrals. In summer 2005, 581 youth were employed for a six-week period through TeenWork (discussed below). In FFY 2005, there were 2,582 ILP eligible youth age 16-17. Approximately, 24% of the eligible youth ages 16-17 were placed in jobs in 2005.*
3. Maximize Georgia Department of Labor (DOL) workforce investment initiatives via Regional ILP Coordinator participation on DOL Workforce Investment Boards (WIB).
 - *One Regional ILP coordinator participates on a DOL WIB.*
4. Coordinate paid work for youth ages 18-24 who (1) had previous work experience and (2) participated in DOL or ILP employment training. Temporary agencies are used to help find employment. Those youth age 18-21 may work within DFCS, and those over age 21 may work in providing clerical assistance for ILP staff and serve as peer ILP mentors.
 - *To date, 74 youth 18-24 were placed in jobs using temporary agencies. All of these youth work at DFCS or serve as peer mentors. In FFY 2005, there were 1,845 ILP eligible youth.*

Transitional Living Program (TLP) Review³⁹

Figure 7
2004-2005 TLP Review Summary

Period	Total Youth Served by TLP
January 2002 - June 2003	25
July 2003 - May 2004	18
June 2004 - May 2005	18

Eighteen youth, all from metro Atlanta, were enrolled in the Transitional Living Program (TLP) between June 2004 and May 2005 (15 youth entered and 15 youth exited). All of these youth were employed and lived in apartments with 61% enrolled in post-secondary program.

Although only 18 youth were enrolled in TLP between June 2004 and May 2005, over 1,800 youth age 18+ were ILP eligible in FFY 2005.⁴⁰ According to the State ILP Coordinator, low enrollment was due to the lack of providers and that the emphasis for most Regional ILP Coordinators has been to encourage/assist youth to enter programs of post-secondary education. As a result, it is implied that many youth who might otherwise participate in TLP are potentially being served through one of the other ILP programs for post-secondary education.⁴¹

In FFY 2005, there were 1,866 ILP eligible youth age 18+ with only 464 in post secondary training/education during the period⁴². Potentially hundreds of foster youth 18+ who were not attending post-secondary education could have benefited from TLP during this period. In order to quantify those not served by TLP who could have benefited, ILP should determine:

- How many of these non-postsecondary youth were living with their foster parents?
- How many of these non-postsecondary youth were informed of and assessed for TLP?

Related Initiatives

Employment – TeenWork

TeenWork, the First Lady’s Children’s Cabinet Initiative administered by the DHR Office of the Commissioner, was launched in the summer of 2005. TeenWork offers current and former foster youth ages 16-21 summer employment at government agencies and private businesses. Youth ages 14-15 can participate in an apprentice program designed to teach job skills⁴³. Eligible youth ages 16-21 must be available to work at least part-time and attend training and skills classes. Employers must pay at least minimum wage for the six week internship. TeenWork receives youth input from participant surveys and focus groups.⁴⁴ Regional ILP Coordinators “register” eligible youth for the program, identify potential employers, ensure youth attend mandatory pre-employment training, and monitor youth job performance.⁴⁵

In summer of 2005, 1,358 foster youth applied for 581 available jobs, mostly with government agencies (e.g., Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, and DHR) and one private employer (Coca-Cola). For summer 2006, DHR has proposed using \$800,000 in federal TANF funds to (1) provide employment for 10% of teen population (i.e., age 16-21) in foster care and TANF families (approximately 2,471 teens) including youth with physical disabilities, (2) extend the program to 8-weeks, and (3) expand private sector employment.⁴⁶ For 2006, TeenWork challenges include, increasing the number of private employers, increasing the number of jobs pledged, and finding diverse jobs.

Employment - DOL Initiatives

In July 2004, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration (ETA) released a strategy to focus on the neediest youth, including youth aging out of foster care. The strategy calls for funding to develop comprehensive model programs that include basic skill remediation, employment, internships, apprenticeships, help attaining a high school diploma or GED, post-secondary vocational training, and enrollment in college.⁴⁷ The Georgia Department of Labor (DOL) receives federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding, in part to focus on disadvantaged youth including foster youth. This funding is allocated to 20 grant recipients who provide employment training and support services while working in partnership with DOL’s 53 career centers and conducting youth outreach at the local level.⁴⁸ In SFY 2005, the 20 grant recipients served 327 foster youth age 14 to 21.⁴⁹

There is not an established process to ensure ILP coordination with DOL and so it varies by region. Some local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) actively include ILP youth in their program, and others do not. Currently, only one Regional ILP Coordinator participates on a WIB.⁵⁰

Education - Celebration of Excellence

The Celebration of Excellence (COE) is a statewide annual graduation event and scholarship program that honors Georgia foster care youth who are graduating from high school, GED programs, vocational school, or college. COE is organized by private and public partners.⁵¹

To apply for a scholarship, youth must be in DFCS custody at age 16, graduate from high school/GED/college and pursue an approved college/university/vocational program/graduate school, and demonstrate financial need. COE scholarship applications are distributed through Regional ILP coordinators, juvenile courts, and high school guidance counselors statewide.⁵²

In 2005, the COE recognized 344 graduates (including 26 college graduates) and awarded \$72,000 in scholarships to 18 recipients. Total revenues raised (\$131,571) covered the event and scholarships with \$76,586 from community partners (foundations, corporations, community groups, and individuals), \$30,000 from DHR, and the remainder from prior year carryovers.⁵³ DFCS also provides each post-secondary graduating youth with an educational stipend of \$250.⁵⁴ COE is developing additional services, such as a mentoring program for youth in college.

Life Skills – The Opportunity Passport™⁵⁵

In 2002, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc.(TCF) was invited by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative to work in partnership to create better outcomes for foster youth in metro Atlanta. From this invitation, the Metro Atlanta Youth Opportunities Initiative (MAYOI) was formed. Between 2002-2005, MAYOI along with DHR, DOL, United Way and other community leaders have piloted initiatives, such as Community Partnership Boards, Youth Leadership Boards, Opportunity Passport™(Individual Development Accounts (IDA) and Financial Literacy).

For each youth ages 14-23 (in foster care at age 14 or older) who completes required financial literacy training, an IDA account opens with \$100. The IDA provides matching dollars (on a maximum of \$1,000 of annual savings) for meeting specific goals (e.g. 1:1 car purchases, 3:1 education & microenterprise, 4:1 for home ownership). The match is provided when the asset is purchased with the check made payable to the vendor. As of March 2006, MAYOI had reached its goal of enrolling 225 youth, 41 of whom made 47 withdrawals for nearly \$42,000 in assets.

Over the next three years (2006-2009), MAYOI will transition from a direct service provider to a technical assistance and capacity building resource. MAYOI's Sustainability Plan focuses on metro Atlanta and selected DHR regions with the goal of including the entire state beyond 2009. DHR has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with TCF from April 2006 through January 2009 to support the MAYOI Sustainability Plan. Specifically for The Opportunity Passport™, DHR/ILP will:

- Allocate funding to support IDA seed funds and IDA matching funds,
- Involve Regional ILP Coordinators in training related to The Opportunity Passport™, and
- Require that The Opportunity Passport™ is introduced to all foster youth by age 14 and included in each youth's Written Transitional Living Plan.

Health Care – Affordable Private Insurance⁵⁶

In 2004, MAYOI partnered with Kaiser Permanente to provide affordable private health insurance to a limited number of former foster youth who are at least age 18 and not receiving Medicaid. MAYOI works with Regional ILP Coordinators to market this program and enroll eligible youth. Each year, about 40 former foster youth, out of the hundreds of former foster youth without health insurance, pay a nominal monthly premium (i.e., \$11.85 in 2005) to participate in the Kaiser Permanente Bridge Program.

Recommendations

1. Georgia should extend Medicaid coverage to age 21 for all foster youth (in DFCS custody on their 18th birthday) with an automatic enrollment at age 18.

In Georgia, foster youth lose Medicaid coverage at age 18 (if they do not sign Form 7, Consent to Remain in Care) or 21 (if they sign Form 7, Consent to Remain in Care). In SFY 2005, Georgia spent approximately \$900,000 and covered 496 unique patients under Georgia Medicaid Child Welfare Foster Care Ages 18-21 (i.e. the foster youth who signed Form 7).⁵⁷ Extending Medicaid coverage to age 21 for all foster youth (in DFCS custody on their 18th birthday) would cost Georgia an additional \$1.6 million to \$2.5 million annually.⁵⁸

2. Georgia should increase the percentage of ILP eligible youth served and require each region to serve a minimum percentage of ILP eligible youth.

- To move from 44% to 80% statewide ILP participation (serve 2,245 more youth) would cost Georgia approximately an additional \$3.3 million.
- To move from 44% to 100% statewide ILP participation (serve 3,497 more youth) would cost Georgia approximately an additional \$5.1 million.⁵⁹

Cost

Chafee and Educational Training Voucher Program (ETV) federal funds are capped at formula driven annual allocations, based on Georgia's portion of foster youth compared to the nation. Any increases in ILP funding in Georgia would need to come from a more efficient use of existing federal funds or additional state funds. In back to back years, Georgia had unspent Chafee and ETV federal funds (SFY 2005 \$2.4 million, SFY 2004 \$1.9 million). As demonstrated by the above calculation, Georgia has the need to spend those federal funds in order to serve more ILP eligible youth. Georgia could identify funding strategies after conducting the ILP expenditure review recommended above.

Outreach Strategies

- Most states outreach to those working with adolescents: case managers, foster parents, high school guidance officers, college and vocational program counselors, financial aid offices, youth and alumni organizations, homeless shelters, residential programs, and advocates (e.g., Juvenile Court judges and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)). Many states have distributed flyers or brochures at teen conferences, child welfare meetings, and caseworker training events. Information shared generally includes eligibility criteria, description of services/reimbursements, and how to apply.⁶⁰
- Involve current and former foster youth. The Tennessee Youth Advisory Council (TYAC), with support from the Vanderbilt Child and Family Policy Center and the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative created a website by foster youth for foster youth (www.tnfosteryouth.org). Among other information, the website helps youth understand their options once they reach age 18.
- Ensure that DFCS caseworkers are better informed about the program. According to TLP providers, "Many DFCS caseworkers still seem to know very little about TLP. There are a number of youth in the metro Atlanta area who could benefit from the program if caseworkers knew of its existence."⁶¹
- Adding more TLP providers. The state ILP Coordinator recently acknowledged "a lack of providers in most areas of the state" and explained that the state is "exploring housing opportunities beyond TLP where traditional 'providers' may not be necessary".⁶²

3. Georgia should encourage and assist all ILP eligible youth in obtaining a high school diploma/GED and enrolling in post-secondary education and training programs. ILP programs that reimburse secondary education and enrichment expenses and post-secondary tuition and room & board should be revamped and sufficiently funded to assure that all ILP eligible youth are successfully served.

A key ILP goal should be to encourage and assist as many foster youth as possible to complete high school (or GED) and pursue post-secondary education. *Kenny A* established specific goals for educational achievement measures on discharge. “A baseline measure shall be developed that shows the percentage of children discharged from foster care at age 18 or older during the 12 months prior to the entry of the consent decree who have graduated from high school or earned a GED.” Over the following two years, that percentage must increase by 10 percent each year.⁶³

As more youth attain a high school diploma or GED there will be a larger pool of youth needing post secondary financial assistance. Georgia should be able to anticipate and meet this need. As Georgia tracks high school and GED attainment, the state should also be able to anticipate the number of foster youth pursuing post-secondary education. The state should use this data to appropriate sufficient funds to provide these youth with the necessary financial assistance to attain a post-secondary diploma or certificate. Insufficient funding should never prevent an ILP eligible youth from completing college or vocational training.

4. Georgia should strengthen efforts to help foster youth age 16 and older secure and maintain paid employment.

Foster youth need a variety of work opportunities that expose them to different career options. Studies have shown that “work while in foster care is a strong predictor of educational and economic success.”⁶⁴ Specific recommendations for improvement include:

- Provide year-round employment opportunities for foster youth age 16 and older through coordinating efforts and resources between TeenWork and Department of Labor’s (DOL) Workforce Investment Act (WIA). A comprehensive year round program would attract more employers previously resistant to a short-term workforce and provide youth with exposure to a variety of career options.
- Improve coordination and collaboration between DOL local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and Regional ILP Coordinators. Each Regional ILP Coordinator should serve on their local WIBs youth councils and meet regularly with the WIB youth coordinator. Last year DOL served only 327 foster youth across Georgia. Strengthening this relationship would result in more foster youth accessing DOL services. This is consistent with the U.S. Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Justice strategic federal partnership that encourages WIA professionals to coordinate with Regional ILP Coordinators to leverage the resources of both programs to assist ILP eligible youth to “complete post-secondary educational programs and training, obtain essential job skills, and become productive citizens.” Collaborative models exist in California and Philadelphia.⁶⁵

5. As ILP pursues program redesign, Georgia should conduct a fundamental review by county and service of ILP youth participation, ILP expenditures, and data and outcome tracking to ensure that every ILP eligible youth in Georgia participates in ILP in accordance with his/her Written Transitional Living Plan. Within this review, the relationship and structure between Regional ILP Coordinators and Case Managers should also be examined.

In FFY 2005, seven regions across Georgia served less than 35% of the ILP eligible population. ILP participation statewide was approximately 44%, meaning nearly 3,500 youth were not served by ILP.

To address the current regional variability, the ILP review should include:

- Analysis of participation by county and service to identify the counties in most need of improvement and to target underutilized services.

- Identification of best practices from high participation regions (or counties) to replicate statewide.
- Review of access. There is a perception that a youth's access to sign back into care depends on the Regional ILP Coordinator, the DFCS county office, and whether the youth is considered a "good apple" or a "troublemaker". Ultimately, this decision is made at the local level. Regional ILP Coordinators should look at whether or not youth who are denied the opportunity to go back into care are aware of their appeal rights.
- Review of application of Comprehensive Child and Family Assessment (CCFA) results. Are assessment results being evaluated and applied consistently for TLP enrollment statewide?

6. Georgia needs a more robust ILP database that tracks every Georgia youth eligible for and participating in ILP by county.

Currently, ILP data (demographic, expenditure and outcome data) for ILP eligible and served youth are tracked at the regional and statewide level. States are required by federal law (FCIA) to collect data to track:

- Number and characteristics of young people receiving services,
- Type and quantity of services provided to youth, and
- State performance on outcome measures developed by HHS (i.e., measures of educational attainment, high school diploma, employment, avoidance of dependency, homelessness, non-marital childbirth, incarceration, high-risk behaviors)⁶⁶

In addition Georgia should track by county:

- Demographic data by service
- Expenditure data (federal and state) by service
- Outcome data that measures educational attainment, avoidance of dependency, homelessness, non-marital childbirth, incarceration, high-risk behaviors
- Youth by year age who live with foster parents who are still receiving a per diem

Summary

Existing evidence suggests that ILP services have a positive effect on youth transitioning out of foster care. A Baltimore County study showed that youth who received ILP services were more likely to complete high school, have an employment history, and be employed when they left foster care.⁶⁷ Youth who received extended assistance were also less likely to become pregnant as teenagers, be in the criminal justice system, become homeless, or join the welfare rolls.⁶⁸

Based on analysis of the data currently available, our recommendations focus on service improvements for health care, education, and employment and increased and consistent participation statewide. As ILP pursues program redesign, these recommendations can serve as a catalyst for positive change. Once ILP is better able to track its eligible/served population and program outcomes, more opportunities for improvement are likely to emerge.

The state has a responsibility to provide foster youth, our community's children, with the financial assistance and services required to ensure a successful transition to self-sufficiency. Most biological families continue to support their children until age 26. Georgia's foster children should have the same opportunities as the rest of Georgia's children.

Endnotes

- ¹Shirk, Martha and Stangler, "Gary On Their Own: What Happens to Kids When They Age Out of the Foster Care System?", Jim Casey Opportunities Initiative, Westview Press, Cambridge, MA.,2004. (*herein after Age out*)
- ²FFY 2005 (October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005) Demographic data provided by Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ³FFY 2005 AFCARS data provided by Andy Barclay of the Barton Clinic on 12/18/05.
- ⁴Age Out, *supra* note 1.
- ⁵FFY 2005 (October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005) Demographic data provided by Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ⁶FFY 2005 AFCARS data provided by Andy Barclay of the Barton Clinic on 12/18/05.
- ⁷Cook, Ronna, A National Evaluation of Title IV-E Foster Care Independent Living Programs for Youth: Phase 2 Final Report, Rockville, M.D., Westat Inc. 1991. The national study looked at 810 former foster youth in eight states between 2.5 and 4 years after leaving care. Courtenay, Mark, "Foster Youth Transitions to Adulthood: A Longitudinal View of Youth Leaving Care", *Child Welfare* 80, no. 6 (2001), pp. 685-717.
- ⁸Age Out, *supra* note 1, p.15
- ⁹The 1999 Foster Care Independence Act (PL 106-169) created a permanent change to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and established CFCIP (replacing the former Title IV-E Independent Living Initiative established in 1986. See also www.chafee.org)
- ¹⁰Morescheck, Peter and Leo, Valerie Independent Living Plan Memo Draft
- ¹¹National Foster Care Coalition, Frequently Asked Questions III About the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and the Chafee Educational Training Voucher Program, May 2005. Georgia's portion of federal CFCIP and ETV funding is determined by its total number of children in foster care as a proportion of the national reported total in AFCARS for the most recent fiscal year. Former foster youth that access CFCIP are not included in the allocation formula (*hereinafter* FAQ III).
- ¹²FAQ III, *supra* note 11.
- ¹³<http://www.georgiailp.com>
- ¹⁴Based on October 7, 2005 conversation with Janet Manning, DFCS Planning and Policy Unit,
- ¹⁵Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Plan, Federal Fiscal Years 2005-2009, Submitted by B.J. Walker Commissioner DHR/DFCS p.3 (*hereinafter* DHR CFCIP 5 Year Plan)
- ¹⁶Georgia Department of Human Services, Social Services Manual, Foster Care Service Chapter 1000, Emancipation/Independent Living. Available on-line at www.georgiailp.com Last visited May 20, 2006.
- ¹⁷2006 ILP Directory provided by Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator and Policy Specialist on February 13, 2006
- ¹⁸Georgia Department of Human Services, Social Services Manual, Chapter 1000, Sec. 1007.10, available at http://www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us/3000_fam/3060_fostercare/MAN3060.doc. Last visited July 25, 2005. (*hereinafter* DHR Social Services Manual).This manual is updated by the DHR state office, as needed. On-line manual effective date is July 1, 2003. January 10, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ¹⁹DHR Social Services Manual , *supra* note 18, Section 1016. 22, 1016.23, 1016.25 and 1016.26
- ²⁰DHR CFCIP 5 Year Plan, *supra* note 15, Section 477(a)(2)
- ²¹DHR CFCIP 5 Year Plan, *supra* note 15, Section 477(a)(5)
- ²²DHR Social Services Manual, *supra* note 18, Sec. 1016.24, 1012.8. Danette Joslyn-Gaul, Georgia's Responsibilities Toward Children in Foster Care: A Reference Manual, Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic of Emory University (1st ed. Dec. 2004)
- ²³February 13, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ²⁴Foster families or institutions who care for youth in the custody of the state receive financial support intended to cover ordinary living expenses for the youth.
- ²⁵DHR Social Services Manual, Chapter 1000, Section 12, January 2001 (viewed on-line at www.georgiailp.com on October 3, 2005)
- ²⁶Under "reasonable categories", states may put age limits that are under 21 and may restrict asset levels and income amounts to qualify for this service. http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/state_pages_f/state_ga.htm
- ²⁷December 7, 2005 e-mail from Laura Cox, Center on Budget Policy and Priorities. 11 states -- Arizona, California, Connecticut, Kansas, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming.
- ²⁸GAO-05-25, Foster Youth: HHS Could Improve Coordination of Services and Monitoring of States' Independent Living Programs" November, 2004: p. 19-20. Available at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0525.pdf>
- ²⁹<http://www.hrsa.gov/financeMC/states/Georgia-Eligibility.htm>
- ³⁰Foster youth who sign the voluntary agreement to remain in the foster care system are considered children for Medicaid purposes. Accordingly, Low Income Medicaid (LIM) policy allows for the exclusion of earnings/income. DHR CFCIP 5 year plan, *supra* note 15, p.20- Medicaid.
- ³¹January 10, 2006, February 13, 2006 and March 21, 2006 e-mails from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ³²January 10, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ³³February 10, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ³⁴GAO-05-25, Foster Youth: HHS Could Improve Coordination of Services and Monitoring of States' Independent Living Programs" November, 2004: p. 22.
- ³⁵February 10, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ³⁶SFY 2005 ILP Expenditure data provided by, Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator and Policy Specialist on February 13, 2006 and March 21, 2006.
- ³⁷State of Georgia ILP Annual Report for FFY 2004 (10/1/2003-9/30/2004) provided by Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist, February 10, 2006. State of Georgia ILP Annual Report for FFY 2005 (10/1/2004-9/30/2005) provided by Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist, May 24, 2006 (*hereinafter* ILP Annual Reports)
- ³⁸February 13, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ³⁹Georgia Independent Living Program , Transitional Living Program, 2004-2005 Review Summary, GA DHR
- ⁴⁰ILP FFY 2005 Annual report, *supra* note 37
- ⁴¹February 13, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.
- ⁴²ILP FFY 2005 Annual reports, *supra* note 37
- ⁴³March 2, 2006 remarks by Michele Barnett of TeenWork at Jim Casey MAYOI site visit.
- ⁴⁴<http://www.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHR-SC/> (last viewed 11/21/05) and December 2, 2005 e-mail from Khari Hunt, DHR Research and Development Coordinator and TeenWork Work Group member.
- ⁴⁵January 10, 2006 E-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator and Policy Specialist
- ⁴⁶December 2, 2005 e-mail from Khari Hunt, DHR Research and Development Coordinator and TeenWork Work Group member.
- ⁴⁷<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL3-04.pdf> viewed on December 9, 2005.

⁴⁸December 19, 2005 phone conversation with Andrea Harper, Asst. Commissioner on Job Training, Georgia DOL

⁴⁹December 20, 2005 phone conversation with Linda Johnson, Asst Commissioner of Career Development Services

⁵⁰January 10, 2006 and February 13, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.

⁵¹Public and private partners include, Younger Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, DFCS, non-profits (e.g., Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children) and community sponsors

⁵²<http://www.celebrationofexcellence.org/#what> viewed on 10/17/05

⁵³October 27, 2005 E-mail and phone conversation with Susan Allison, COE Project Director

⁵⁴January 10, 2006 E-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator and Policy Specialist

⁵⁵April 27, 2006 and May 25, 2006 E-mail with Tyronda Minter, Program Officer, MAYOI.

Memorandum of Understanding Between DHR/ILP and TCF/MAYOI provided by Tyronda Minter on May 25, 2006.

⁵⁶November 28, 2005 E-mail with Tyronda Minter, Program Officer, MAYOI

⁵⁷SOURCE: DCH-DSS ANALYSIS UNIT,2/06 -Medstat DataProbe. Aid Categories:131, 931 DOS: July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005; Age in Yrs: 18-21

⁵⁸Estimated total Georgia annual Medicaid costs for eligible current and former foster youth 18-21 determined by multiplying (1) estimated person-years for providing Medicaid Coverage to foster youth 18-21 (if in DFCS custody on 18th birthday) by (2) annual cost per patient by (3) Georgia portion of Medicaid. From this total cost estimate the SFY 2005 Georgia Medicaid Child Welfare Foster Care Ages 18-21 (\$about \$900,000) was subtracted to determine the additional costs.

(1) Estimated person-years for providing Medicaid Coverage to foster youth 18-21 (if in DFCS custody on 18th birthday (a.+ b. = 1,358 to 1,850 person-years)
a. Youth not covered under current policy. 522 youth 18+ served by foster care during FFY 2005 discharged during the period due to emancipation. Of these 522, 175 were flagged as not eligible for Medicaid coverage prior to discharge so 347 became the lower bound and 522 as the upper bound. Applied average years from discharge to 21 (2.81). Resulted in 975 to 1,467 person-years.

b. Youth covered under current policy. 142 youth 18+ in foster care on 9/30/2005. Applied average years from discharge to 21 (2.7). Resulted in 383 person-years. Source: AFCARS data provided by Andy Barclay on 12/18/05

(2) Annual cost per patient.

Georgia Medicaid Child Welfare Foster Care Ages 18-21 SFY 2005 total net payments divided by unique patients

Resulted in \$4,726.58 annual per patient cost. SOURCE: DCH-DSS ANALYSIS UNIT,2/06 -Medstat DataProbe Aid Categories:131, 931 DOS: July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005; Age in Yrs: 18-21

(3) Georgia portion of Medicaid. Georgia's FFY 2005 FMAP determine the federal (.6044) and state (.3956) portion. Source: FFIS Federal Fund Information for States 2005, FFIS Issue Brief 05-39.

⁵⁹We estimated the ILP total expenditures per youth (\$1,464) by dividing SFY 2005 ILP total expenditures (about \$4.0 million) by FFY 2005 ILP youth served (2,762 youth). Using this estimate we determined the approximate cost of increased ILP participation.

⁶⁰FAQ III, supra note 11, p.8

⁶¹Georgia DHR, Georgia Independent Living Program (ILP), Transitional Living Program (TLP), Review Summary 2003 -2004

⁶²February 13, 2006 e-mail from Brent Stein, ILP State Coordinator & Policy Specialist.

⁶³*Kenny A. v. Perdue* Consent Decree, July 5, 2005. Available on-line at http://www.childrensrights.org/pdfs/kenny_vs_perdue_settlement.pdf

⁶⁴Age Out, supra note 1, p.253

⁶⁵Training and Employment Notice No. 18-05, Subject – John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program January 26,2006 from Gay Gilbert, Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment to all State Workforce Liaisons, State Workforce Agencies, and One-Stop Center System Leads. Collaboration models include The Imperial County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)—El Centro, California, Project HOPE –Hayward, California and The Achieving Independence Center – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

⁶⁶FAQ III, supra note 11, p.22

⁶⁷Scannapieco, M. 1996. "An Independent Living Program: Characteristics, Outcomes and Indicators for the Future of Foster Care Services" Community Alternatives, 2, 19-25.

⁶⁸Cook, Ronna, A National Evaluation of Title IV-E Foster Care Independent Living Programs for Youth: Phase 2 Final Report, Rockville, M.D., Westat Inc. 1991.

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The GBPI is an independent, nonprofit, non-partisan organization engaged in research and education on the fiscal and economic health of the state of Georgia. The GBPI provides reliable, accessible and timely analyses to promote greater state government fiscal accountability as a way to improve services to Georgians in need and to promote quality of life for all Georgians.