



WINTER

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PROGRAM**



**KERN COUNTY ILP
NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2019**

ILP

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Dream Center, 1801 19th St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301
<http://www.kcdhs.org/ILP/>

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ILP Contact List
Dream Center Main Number
661 636-4488



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Margarita Altamirano
ILP HSA

What is

ILP?

The Independent Living Program (ILP) is a federally funded program that provides services to assist eligible youth (16-18 years of age) in making successful transitions from foster care to independent living. Any youth who were in OR are in foster care/probation and placed in out-of-home foster care at any time from their 16th to their 18th birthday are eligible for ILP Services. The services are also offered to those youth who qualify for extended foster care (AB 12) from the ages of 18-21. ILP offers a vast amount of services to help youth achieve self-sufficiency prior to exiting foster care. The following are some of those services:

- Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) – completed with ILP worker/probation officer every 6-months to explore goals related to self-sufficiency
- Education Planning – plan for completion of high school and options for college
- College and financial aid application assistance
- Community resources that provide career planning, job leads, and resume assistance
- Transitional housing for emancipated youth
- Emancipation conferences
- Life skills
- Referrals to resources
- Assist youth in opening a savings account
- ILP trust fund
- Senior packet - cap/gown, etc.
- Transportation assistance – bus passes and/or assistance with obtaining a driver's license
- Introduction to California Youth Connection (CYC)
- Incentives for ILP participation
- Referral to a mentoring program
- Assist youth in obtaining their birth certificate, social security card, California Identification Card or California Driver's License
- Assist youth in obtaining access to view their child welfare case file(s)

Upcoming ILP Events

DECEMBER 2019

Tier 1 and 2 Session 1 continues August 27 – December 17 Tuesdays from 5:00pm – 6:30pm At the Career Resource Department, 2727 F St. Bakersfield, CA 93301

Health/Sex Education & CSEC Awareness

Date: December 10th

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Dream Center- 1801 19th St. Bakersfield, CA 93301

Parenting 101

Date: December 19th

Time: 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Location: Dream Center-1801 19th St. Bakersfield, CA 93301

JANUARY 2020

Tier 1 and 2 Orientation Session 2

Date: January 7th (*tentative date*)

Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: At the Career Resource Department, 2727 F St. Bakersfield, CA 93301

Class begins January 14th – March 31st (*tentative dates*) Tuesdays 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Financial Aid Workshop

Date: January 14th

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Bakersfield College-Student Services Building, 1801 Panorama Dr. Bakersfield, CA 93306

FEBRUARY 2020

Tier 1 and 2 Session 2 continues January 13th – March 31st (*tentative dates*)

Tuesdays from 5:00pm – 6:30pm at the Career Resource Department, 2727 F St. Bakersfield, CA 93301

The Independent Living Program & the Independent City Event

By Robin Chambers MA, ILP Supervisor

The Department of Human Services has many supportive services available to assist Transition Aged Youth (TAY) ages 14 to 21 who are preparing to transition from the foster care system, and for young adults wanting to remain in Extended Foster Care or AB-12 as Non-Minor Dependents (NMD's). The Independent Living Program (ILP) is a federally funded program that provides support for youth in making a successful transition to adulthood and to provide for their own needs. This program provides the building blocks youth need, as it is a process learning the small steps needed to move towards independence. The ILP Social Worker is a secondary Social Worker on a youth's case to focus on independent living skills, and to complete a Transition to Independent Living Plan (TILP) with goals listed that can be completed in the next six months. These goals can be finish High School, raise my grade in Math, get my permit, to get my driver's license, to get a job, whatever you want to focus on. This meeting starts a dialog about turning 18 and options you have as part of your transition plan. The ILP classes are offered throughout the year and focus on education goals, vocational goals, post-secondary education opportunities, housing options after age 18, budgeting, health and sex education, parenting, cooking classes, we also have been offering a grilling class once a year, and some limited transportation is available to these classes that are usually on Tuesday nights from 4:00-6:00 PM, at The Dream Center at 1801 19th Street.

The Independent Living Program hosts Independent City which is offered annually in October at Bakersfield College (BC). This year's Independent City on October 5, 2019, was a success as we had 79 youth and 15 Peer Support Workers attend this year for a total number of 94 youth at this event. This event was mostly youth led this year with our two emcees being a foster youth and a NMD. We shared the Bakersfield College campus this year with Resource Family Approval all day training for their resource homes, which was parallel to some of the Independent City events. We had an inspirational speaker who was a foster youth who was adopted at age 7, and who had experiences with the juvenile probation system as a teen, Mark Anthony Garrett. Mr. Garret gave a powerful message of resilience to these youth and outlined his troubled past which many of the youth related with. It was a message that underlined for our youth that no matter how much you have been traumatized, you still have your worth, and you can overcome. This message resonated with our youth.

Independent City also had a budgeting section that was led by the Peer Support Workers who are non-minor dependents employed through Career Resource Department through the Kern High School District. There was a vendor fair of 20 agencies who provide services, housing, education and employment to Transition Aged Youth (TAY), of community providers like Covenant, Aspiranet, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Foster Youth Services, Next

Up and Guardian Scholars. The afternoon sessions were for employment interviewing presented by the Employment Services workers for the Department of Human Services, for youth ages 18-20, and for youth ages 16-17, they discussed banking, taxes, and credit led by the Peer Support Workers. We had an employment interview fashion show with youth in interview ready attire and adult staff sporting outfits not appropriate for an interview. This was an interactive event where the youth could choose to “hire” or “not hire” based on their signs they held up. We had a former foster youth panel of NMD’s and emancipated youth to share their struggles and successes in transitioning from foster care. We also had a number of raffle prizes with two laptop computers, a Television, cookware, sheets and blankets, gift cards to Maya, Visa gift cards, and Starbucks gift cards. We had 58 prizes in total so most youth received an additional raffle prize in addition to the gift card and trust fund deposit they received for attending the event.

The ILP Program also offers Independent Living Skills classes, Tier 1 for Juniors in High School, and Tier 2 for High School Seniors and NMD’s. These are twelve week classes contracted through the Career Resource Department at Kern High School District Adult School campus. Youth have a 12 week session of focused classes on employment skills, career paths, and can link youth to on the job training for youth who are recommended at the end of the twelve week classes. This helps youth to build skills and their resumes. Additionally, we have had youth turn on the job training into a job when the employer liked their work ethic.

All of the ILP Social Workers and AB-12 Social Workers are out stationed at The Dream Center at 1801 19th Street, or at 1807 19th Street. Additionally, some Juvenile Probation Officers, Americas Job Center, Kern Public Health workers, and Department of Rehabilitation workers come to offer services to youth at the Dream Center. The Dream Center also provides interview clothes, a clothing closet, a washing machine and dryer for youth, NMD’s, and emancipated youth up to age 24. The Dream Center also provides their own classes for youth like Resume classes, Manners Matter, Renters Rights and Making Every Dollar Count.

ILP Housing Options Available

Building Blocks Transitional Housing Program

What is Building Blocks? Building Blocks is a collaborative effort between the Kern County Department of Human Services (KCDHS), the Housing Authority of the County of Kern (HACK), and the Covenant Community Services Inc. (Covenant). Former (emancipated) foster youth who are between 18-21 years of age or current Non-Minor Dependents (NMD'S AB 12) are eligible to apply for this comprehensive on-site program that teaches youth how to pursue educational and employment goals, get acclimated to the community, develop and maintain a budget, enhance daily living skills, and reach personal goals.

Choices Transitional Housing Program (THP-Plus)

THP-Plus is a transitional housing program opportunity for young adults who exited from foster care (including those supervised by probation) on or after their 18th birthday and are not yet 24 years of age (25 in counties that have opted to extend services per SB 1252). These are youth whose dependency jurisdiction, delinquency jurisdiction, or transition jurisdiction was terminated by the court.

Application Process

To be considered for admission in either program, applicants need to complete a Transitional Housing Application, obtained from the Independent Living Program (ILP). Please return your completed application to the Transitional Housing Coordinator Keith Hollins or the ILP Supervisor Robin Chambers or the ILP Social Worker of the Day at the Dream Center 1801 19th St. or 1807 19th St. Bakersfield, CA 93301.

Community Resources

Ashley Hollins



Human Services Assistant III

- Emancipated youth and AB 12 Youth may be eligible for Cal-Fresh (formerly Food Stamps). Stop by the Dream Center at 1801 19th Street and see Ashley Hollins to complete an application or visit www.C4Yourself.com to apply online.
- Call 211 if you are in need of household assistance such housing, food, clothing, childcare or utility assistance.
- **Unclaimed Trust Funds for former ILP:**

Former Kern County Foster Youth who participated in various activities provided by the Department and other Community Based Organizations, may have a trust fund balance that was not disbursed when you emancipated. You may be eligible to receive funds for participating in these activities, such as, classes, workshops, THP Plus or ILP events.

Unclaimed trust funds have been transferred to the Kern County Treasurer Tax Collector Office located at 1115 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield, CA. The funds will remain with the Treasurer for three years. To verify if there are funds being held at the Treasurer's Office in your name, you may go on-line, go to the Kern County Treasure Website then select Unclaimed Money, from there you will search the database. If funds are located, please follow their instructions to claim the funds.



The Dream Center is an innovative resource center for current and former foster youth. Youth can receive assistance with education, employment, Cal-Fresh/Medi-Cal and community resource needs. Youths can utilize Dream Center services up to the age of 24.

- All current and emancipated youth will find their ILP Workers, Keith Hollins, Stacy Loyd, Andrea Martinez, Maria Escalante, and Tamara Roberts at the Dream Center and Francisco Martinez at OC Sills on E. California and Union Ave.
- AB 12 Social Workers are also located at the Dream Center.
- 1801 19th Street in downtown Bakersfield phone number (661-636-4488)
- Like the Dream Center on Face book for news and information!
- The Dream Center is a Condom Access Site for Kern County and gives out free condoms. We want you to be safe and protected from Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and unwanted pregnancies.
- Dream Center offers snack bags and treats when available. Snack bags will only be given out when the client is leaving the center. If the Dream Center has breakfast snacks, they will be given out daily between 8:00 AM – 4:30PM.
- Dream Center clothing closet offers work attire and everyday wear. Youth can only utilize the clothing closet once a month.
- *Now youth may wash and dry a load of clothing and/or take a shower onsite.*

Dream Center Upcoming Events



December

December 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 Help w/ Resume - Drop in 1-4 pm	4 DRA 10 am Lunch On Us 12:30 pm DOR 10 am – 12 pm	5 ILP Class – Parenting 3:30 – 5 pm (Gift card & Diapers provided)	6 Youth Advisory Board 11 am (Lunch Provided)
9	10 Help w/ Resume - Drop in 1-4 pm ILP Class – Health & Sex Ed 4 – 6 pm (ILP Youth only)	11 DRA 10 am DOR 10 am – 12 pm Lunch On Us 12:30 pm	12 Cleaning 101 11:00 am CYC Meeting 3 – 4:15 pm	13 Renter Rights Info 10:30 am (Lunch Provided)
16	17 Help w/ Resume - Drop in 1-4 pm Christmas Celebration 12 pm (Lunch & Gift Making)	18 DRA 10 am Lunch On Us 12:30 pm Money Management 2 pm (Lunch Provided)	19 United Foster's Only 1 pm (Lunch and Gift Card provided for FULL PARTICIPATION)	20 Christmas Luncheon 12 pm (LOTS OF GIVE AWAY ITEMS!!)
23	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 CYC Meeting 3 – 4:15 pm	27 Money Management 2 pm (Lunch Provided)
30	31 CLOSED			

EVENTS



Step 1

College Information

Apply to Bakersfield College Online at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu .

Step 2

Attend Orientation

The Orientation formally introduces you to BC and prepares you for success. Register online for the in-person Orientation, or complete the Orientation online.

Step 3

Take the Placement Test

The Placement Testing process places you into English, Reading, and Math classes. These classes are the foundation for all other classes here at BC. Take the Placement Test at Testing and Placement Center anytime during their business hours with your photo ID and your BC ID or SSN. Practice tests are available online.

Step 4

Develop an Education Plan

Attend the New Student Workshop in person to develop your Abbreviated Student Education Plan with a Counselor. If you choose to complete the New Student Workshop online, you will need to contact the Counseling department at 661-395-4421 to schedule an individual appointment to develop your Education Plan.

Concurrent Enrollment

High school student wishing to enroll while still attending high school must submit a Concurrent Enrollment Form. Read more about this additional step at High School Concurrent Enrollment.

Veterans

An Abbreviated Student Education Plan does not satisfy VA requirements. While you will need to complete the New Student Workshop, you will also need to meet with the Veterans Advisor to complete a Comprehensive Educational Plan. See the Veterans Enrollment Steps for more details on the extra steps for veterans.

Step 5

Register for Classes

Instructions for registering for classes are available online. If you are still unsure about the classes you should register for, please meet with a counselor or educational advisor in the Counseling department (CSS Building, 1st Floor).

International Students

There are many steps in addition to these for International Students. Please read about Admission Criteria and Enrollment Steps for International Students.

Who's New at the Dream Center

Yoanna Leanos



Social Services Worker
Intern AB 12 Unit
Department of Human
Services (DHS)

Armando Hernandez



Social Services Worker
Intern AB 12 Unit
Department of Human
Services (DHS)

Samantha Encinas



Social Services Worker
Intern ILP Unit
Department of Human
Services (DHS)

Lea Hartdige



CSEC Support Worker
Department of Human
Services (DHS)