

## IMPERIAL COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

The following is a summary of the various services and resource for former foster youth. **You need to have been in a foster placement for any period after your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to be considered former foster youth and eligible for most of these services.** Call our offices if you have any questions at 760-337-5079 or 760-337-3096.

### **Project ACE (Accessing Careers through Education) Youth Program**

Contact: Luis Torres Project Coordinator Phone #: 760-337-5079

**Work** You qualify for most youth programs trainings and youth work experience programs that are offered through the One Stop Program (760-337-5000 in El Centro).

**Housing** You can receive for up to 3 months of rental assistance with limits of \$500 rent and \$500 deposit. You need to show proof that you are enrolled in any school and working consistently for at least one month. You can also request assistance to find an apartment or receive training on life skills topics.

**Section 8** You can apply for housing assistance from Housing Authority (Section 8) and can be given priority if you “emancipate” or leave the foster care system at the age of 18 (Contact Project ACE for details).

**Care Package** Former foster youth will be provided with many of the basic household needs such as towels, sheets, kitchenware and cooking utensils. You need to show proof that you have your own studio or apartment.

**Furniture** You can request for a bed and dresser when you have finally found a place to rent. You can also request a refrigerator if the apartment does not have one. This can be either purchased or reimbursed. You need to show proof that you have your own studio or apartment.

**ILP Classes** Youth between the ages of 14-21 can attend weekly workshops that discuss life skills topics such as housing, paying bills, bank accounts, financial aid, etc. Youth are paid for attending workshops.

**Scholarship** Foster youth can receive financial aid that can help pay for tuition, books and any supplies. You need to provide a copy of your high school diploma and proof that you are a part-time or full-time student.

**Computer** Students who have shown proof that they graduated and completed at least one semester of college or technical training will receive a computer. Students need to attend a computer-training course during the summer.

**Chafee Grant** The California Grant Program gives up to \$5000 each year of free money to foster youth and former foster youth for college courses or vocational school training. You can call 1-888-224-7268 for more information or to check on the status of your application. The application and information are on this website:

[www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov)

### **Independent Living Program Coordinator (Social Services)**

Contact: Cassandra Gregory ILP Coordinator Phone #: 760-337-6889

**Medi-Cal** Former foster youth can have Medi-Cal health insurance (Medical and dental care) until they turn 21, regardless of how much money they have or whether they are working or not. You need to have “emancipated” at age 18 or 19 to qualify. You might qualify for temporary food assistance if you are having financial problems.

**Supportive Services** You can request assistance to purchase necessities such as food, clothing, training equipment or work clothes. You might be able to request other emergency items. Bus passes can also be supplied to go to school, work or running errands. You will need to show proof that you are working or attending a school/training program.

**ILP ID & Letter** You can request a letter or ID to verify that you are a former foster youth and eligible for ILP services anywhere in the United States. You can also use this letter or ID to receive when you apply for financial aid for college or if you are applying for housing assistance from Housing Authority