

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

January 6, 2005

MEMORANDUM**WHAT'S INSIDE**

Introduction of
Chafee Pre-ILP
Services For
Youth Ages 14-15

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS,
CHAFEE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM STAFF, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CHAFEE PRE-INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (PRE-ILP)
FOR YOUTH AGES 14-15

SECTION 4: OUT-OF-HOME CARE, CHAPTER 21.4

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce the Chafee Pre-Independent Living Program (Pre-ILP) for youth ages 14-15. This new Pre-ILP will replace the former CHOICES program, which lost funding in fiscal year 2004. The Children's Division recognized the need and the importance to continue serving the younger population, which provided an opportunity to re-evaluate the program for youth under age 16. A workgroup consisting of CD staff and contractors reviewed the CHOICES program, which focused primarily on teaching "soft skills" to younger youth in a classroom setting. The development of a practical application program was envisioned by the workgroup, which would serve youth along a continuum of services from pre-independent living to the young adults who have exited foster care and may need aftercare services.

Preparing for adulthood is a monumental task for all children. This preparation is a process which requires continuous learning with different emphasis at various stages based on the young person's needs. Children entering into custody of the Children's Division have differing experiences, levels of resiliency, and unique needs. Pre-ILP is designed to allow maximum flexibility of services to address the individual needs of these children.

It is the Division's expectation that every child in CD custody beginning at age 14 have the opportunity to participate in Pre-ILP Life Skills training. Case Managers can make a referral for their youth through the ILP Specialists assigned to their county. Contact

information for all ILP Specialists is available on the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program webpage at www.dss.mo.gov/cd/chafee/ or available [here at a glance](#).

Once referred, the youth and their caregiver will begin the process by taking the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment prior to beginning life skills training to determine the skill level and needs of each youth. The training curriculum provides exercises and activities for formal and informal learning. There are five domains in the training curriculum: [Daily Living; Money Management; Self Care; Social Development; and Work and Study Skills](#). There are several modules within each domain. At the end of each module is a take-home activity. These activities are obtained from the *Ready, Set, Fly! A Parent's Guide to Teaching Life Skills*. They are designed for the caregivers to provide youth with everyday teachable moments and practical life experiences. Caregivers are asked to sign and date the youth's activity sheet for the youth to receive credit for completing it. The youth will receive a \$5.00 stipend to complete the assigned activity and to participate in the classroom instruction.

All domains and modules will follow a similar format, but designed to be flexible to meet the needs of regional youth. Module topics may be presented to youth in the classroom setting, by attending workshops/seminars or a combination of both. Each training session will be two (2) hours in length and the entire training curriculum will last at least eight (8), but not more than twelve (12) weeks.

It is expected that youth involved in Pre-ILP will be better prepared for the formal ILP life skills training curriculum which can begin at age 16. Youth who have completed both the Pre-ILP and ILP Life Skills trainings will be more informed about available resources and able to make better choices. This, in turn, will assist youth in becoming more self sufficient, productive and responsible for their case planning and future.

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. ILP Specialists and their regional supervisors receive a monthly listing of youth, ages 13-15, active in Legal Status 1. This list should be shared with appropriate county staff in order to facilitate the timeliness of referrals.
3. Case Managers should review their caseload for youth ages 14-15 for referral for Pre-ILP Life Skills Training.
4. All comments and questions regarding this memorandum should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.

FMS/LT:js

Attachments:

[Independent Living Programs Staff List](#)
[Pre-ILP Table of Content](#)