

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



October 14, 1998

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-57-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS  
 ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES  
 ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS  
 CALIFORNIA STATE FOSTER PARENTS'  
 ASSOCIATION

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Changes  
 Federal Law or Regulation  
 Change  
 Court Order or Settlement  
 Agreement  
 Clarification Requested by  
 One or More Counties  
 Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) recently formed the ILP Strategic Planning Group. This Group's ongoing mission is to review any and all issues around housing, employment and education for our foster youth, and then identify those areas needing further development so as to create an exceptional ILP for California.

Currently the membership is comprised of representatives from each of the following entities: The California Welfare Director's Association, the California State Foster Parents' Association, The California Community College Foundation, Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, Rancho San Antonio Residential Agency (representing California Association for Services for Children), Genesis Foster Family Agency (representing California Association of Children's Homes), the California Youth Connection, as well as two emancipated youths, and a youth currently in care. This effort is chaired by the CDSS.

The Mission Statement of the ILP Strategic Planning Group is *to actively work statewide to provide advocacy, leadership, education and guidelines for program and policy to ensure that all emancipated and present foster youth become self-sufficient adults.* The recent implementation and mandates of SB 933, Chapter 311, Statutes of 1998 to serve all eligible youth up to age 21 provides additional support for effective program and policy planning. The following strategic directions for the next two years will help accomplish not only the Mission but also meet requirements of SB 933:

1. Developing and Marshalling Resources – Provide a high level of coordinated services between state, county, and private agencies to promote community investment to support housing, employment and education for the youth.
2. Establishing an Accountability System – Identify steps to emancipation and aftercare and develop and institutionalize outcomes, goals and standards in emancipation planning.

3. Creating Credibility and Expertise – Maintaining a high level of integrity by organizing and involving youth in all aspects of California’s ILP.
4. Promoting Youth Centered Policy – Establishing and recommending positive state and local policies for present and former foster youth.

Some of the first assignments have already been either initiated or completed. The California Teen Conference was held in June and attended by approximately 150 youth presently in care. In process is the establishment of a statewide ILP clearinghouse, expanding on services for current and emancipated youth, and seeking a means of communicating to all of these youth.

As time permits, we will communicate about the ongoing issues and actions from the Group. If you should have any ILP policy recommendations or have any questions about this Group please feel free to telephone Lou Del Gaudio, Manager, Placement Resources Unit, at (916) 445-0813.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By  
Marjorie Kelly on 10/14/98***

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

c: County ILP Coordinators  
Community College ILP Project Directors