

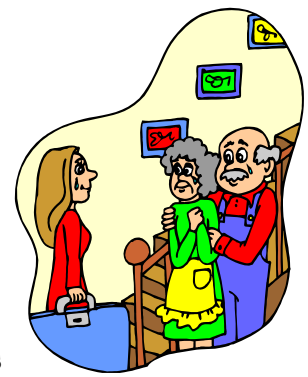
What is Independent Living?

Beginning in the early 1980's, there was increasing concern about the public child welfare system's capacity to adequately prepare children to live on their own.

State and national studies revealed that older adolescents who had been discharged from care were often found in the care of the state as adults either through the criminal justice system or as public welfare recipients, or as residents in shelters for the homeless.

The most significant event sparking the national Independent Living movement was Willie Palmer vs. Mario Cuomo in the New York State Supreme Court. Willie, an older foster child, discharged to the streets with no more than his "state suitcase" - a plastic garbage bag carrying his few possessions - died a violent death on the streets trying to stay alive.

Willie's death sparked reforms in New York and across the nation in an effort to develop new programs and services for older children aging out of the foster care system



Independent Living helps equip adolescents with many of the skills necessary to successfully live on their own

Types of Services Provided at some of Pennsylvania's IL Programs



Education Assistance



Employment



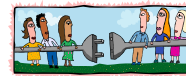
Housing/Room & Board



Life Skills Training



Prevention



Youth Advisory Boards & Mentoring

Purpose of the Independent Living Program

To make every effort possible to reduce or eliminate the instances of homelessness, poverty, delinquent or criminal behavior, and non-marital childbirth and to increase employability, high school graduation rates, enrollment in post-secondary education or vocational institutions and successful transition to adulthood.

What does Pennsylvania's IL Project provide?

- ✓ Technical Assistance
- ✓ Youth Reporting from Monitoring and Data Entry
- ✓ Annual on-site County IL program review with follow-up
- ✓ Curriculum Development
- ✓ Education, Employment, Fiscal, Prevention and Program Eligibility focused subcommittee participation
- ✓ Bi-monthly IL Newsletter
- ✓ End of year/Federal Reporting
- ✓ 12 Annual Regional Conferences in partnership with Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN)
- ✓ 2 Annual State Conferences
- ✓ Pennsylvania Independent Living Outcomes Tracking System (PILOTS) and housing of the server
- ✓ Sponsor State IL staff & youth to attend National IL Conferences
- ✓ County IL Application/Budget Approvals