

How to use Independent Living Funds!

The scenarios below are examples of how different county agencies have used their independent living funds to support youth preparing for emancipation and young adults under the age of 21 that have already emancipated from foster care. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, and has been created to help county agencies identify activities that support the independent living requirements as outlined in OAC 5101:2-42-19 and 5101:2-42-19.2.

Academic Support

Jessica is 14 years old and recently entered foster care. Prior to her removal, Jessica had a very poor school attendance record. Jessica was told if her attendance improves she will be rewarded. For the first six weeks, Jessica did not miss one day of school. Jessica received a \$100 cash incentive for her accomplishment. (Chafee & TANF IL)

County PCSA was informed by the local school board that all middle and high schools in their county would be changing their educational structure to a technology based system that will require students to use tablets and/or laptops in order to retrieve their course curriculum, e-text books and homework assignments. The schools will have tablets for students to rent during the school year or they could use their own. County PCSA decided to purchase tablets and tablet covers for their middle and high school youth in care. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Post-Secondary Educational Support

John is a college bound emancipated young adult. County PCSA has offered John and other emancipated youth a monthly college cash stipend in the amount of \$600. John will need to maintain an agreed upon grade point average, agreed upon course load and verify his enrollment at the university when requested to receive this stipend. This will allow the college students to focus on their studies and reduce their work hours to cover their additional living expenses. (Chafee & TANF IL)

April is an emancipated young adult and is attending college and working part-time. April receives financial support from grants and ETV as well as the County PCSA. April is a licensed driver, owns a car and can verify proof of insurance. April's car needs some repairs and the PCSA can pay up to \$2,000.00 to repair April's vehicle. (TANF IL Only)

Career Preparation

County PCSA has a youth who is interested in doing application programming for Google™. The youth has informed the Caseworker and Caregivers that the company is having an employee recruitment event in Cleveland, Ohio and he would like to attend. The Cleveland trip would include an overnight stay and a registration fee to attend the event. The county is able to cover both of the Caseworkers and Youth's overnight lodging fees, as well as registration fees. Even assuring youth is equipped with professional attire for the event as well. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Sara is an emancipated youth and current college student majoring in aeronautical engineering. Sara has been invited to spend six weeks over summer break at NASA in Florida as an intern. Sara will be responsible for some of the expenses associated with the internship. County PCSA can assist Sara with these costs if she volunteers for post emancipation services. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Employment Programs & Vocational Training

Kyle is currently in foster care and has chosen to attend vocational school for auto mechanic repair. Kyle will need to purchase his own tools, safety equipment and cover the cost of lab fees. These costs total \$400. (Chafee & TANF IL)

County PCSA has Christina in their custody. This county has helped Christina take her classes as well as exams to get her STNA license. Christina has now gained employment at a nursing home and will be working late night hours. Her foster parents are unable to assist with all the transportation. This county has a very minimal pool for transportation. The county has identified that they may contract with a staff member to pick up Christina from work and transport her to her placement. This will help Christina maintain employment until eventually she can obtain her own transportation. County PCSA has also agreed to pay for Christina to take drivers education so she will be prepared to get her driver license when permitted. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Budget & Financial Management

Ashley is 16 years old and in foster care. Ashley is a sophomore in high school and has recently gotten her first job. She will be working part-time for a grocery store. Ashley has been encouraged to budget some of her earnings for her own miscellaneous spending money and plans on putting 60% of her paycheck in her savings account. Her county has agreed to at the end of each month, match what she has deposited/saved in her savings account. This is an allowable way to incentivize positive behavior. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Reach out to local bank partner. Enlist and or/ contract a bank employee to come present a Savings 101 presentation to a class of youth in care, and emancipated youth. Have them describe what the different types of loans are, Checking/Saving, Depositing/Withdrawing etc. Set up appointments to visit bank or do onsite applying and receiving accounts for every youth and young adult in attendance. Write all the participants a check for \$100.00 to deposit in their account. Offer to match what the youth has saved (provide a cap) at the end of 30 days, further reinforce this positive behavior at the end of another 60 days. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Housing, Education & Home Management

Contract with a Chef or Cook from a local restaurant or community partner to give a “How to cook” cooking presentation and include the topic of kitchen safety. Youth can assist in the presentation and receive their own supplies to repeat the presentation in their own home. Cost

of presenter, supplies and incentives for the participants can all be supported by independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)

This activity will also be presented at this year's Fostering Pathways to Success Conference on October 12, in Columbus Ohio. If you are in attendance this will be a workshop available for IL support staff and adult supporters to attend. This is from the activity set L.I.F.E (Let's Imagine for Experiences) A Living Simulation: ***Amazing Race: Home Edition***. In the same manner of the hit television show, this activity can be designed to resemble a race or an obstacle course depending on the number of participants The goal of this activity is to help the youth become more knowledgeable of how to do certain home management activities (ex. Laundry, Ironing, Dishes/dishwasher, dusting, mopping). You can incentivize participation because regardless if the youth win the "race" they are learning how to perform these skills. Supplies can be purchased for the activity and the participants can receive their own home management kits using independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Health Education & Risk Prevention

County PCSA is offering a health and physical fitness program for their youth in foster care. The county has hired a certified personal trainer from the local YMCA to come and offer tips to the youth to improve their physical fitness. The youth will receive some group and personal training, YMCA membership and fit bits. All these expenses can supported by independent living funds. The County PCSA can even reward the youth's progress towards improving their physical fitness and reaching their personal goals by giving them cash incentives. All attire, supplies and cost can be supported by independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Carrie has been an active member of her high school Drug Free Clubs of America program and has been chosen to be an ambassador at this year's national conference. Carrie's high school is very excited about this honor but has not aside funds for her to attend the conference. County PCSA can support this experience with independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Family Support & Healthy Marriage

Terrance is an 18 year old who recently emancipated from care and is a new dad to an infant son named Chad. Terrance loves his son very much and wants to be the best dad he can be for Chad. However, Terrance quickly realized that after the birth of his son, he doesn't know a lot about infant care or child development (e.g. infant growth, developmental skill, appropriate toys or activities etc.). Terrance heard from a friend that the neighborhood recreation center is offering a Teen Dads parenting workshop through the local Fatherhood Initiative Program. The Teen Dads parenting workshop offers child care skills, support and resources to help the dads be successful fathers. The workshop consist of two meetings per month; 90 minutes each session with their child and lunch is provided. Upon the completion of the workshop, each dad will receive a "Daddy Kit" that includes age appropriate child supplies, toys, and parenting tools for dads. The workshop cost \$75. Terrance doesn't have any extra money to pay for the workshop, but he really wants

to attend. So Terrance contacted his former county caseworker at County PCSA and volunteered for post emancipation services. The County PCSA can support Terrance attending the workshop using TANF IL funding. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Ryan is 18 years old and has just graduated from high school and is prepared to emancipate. Ryan has worked part-time for the same employer for the last two years and has just been offered a full time position. Ryan wishes to move out of town and live with his grandparents on their farm. Ryan's grandparents have always been supportive and a positive permanent connection. Ryan does not have enough money saved to buy a car so he can continue with his employment and live with his grandparents. Ryan is a licensed driver and has the means to maintain his car insurance. The County PCSA can purchase a used car for Ryan to support his positive permanent connections and allow him to maintain his steady employment. (TANF IL only)

Mentoring

John is 20 years old and is looking to gain a better perspective of what it's like to have a career as an attorney. John realizes that he doesn't have many contacts in the field and thinks job shadowing is a great way to build relationships and make new connections in his field of study. John has been matched with a local attorney as a mentor. John connects with his mentor and has been given the opportunity to shadow a local attorney that specializes in personal injury. The agency has decided to provide John with funds to support this activity and to purchase appropriate attire for his big day. County PCSA can incentivize John's participation in the mentoring activity. After John has completed the shadowing experience he is then awarded a \$100 cash incentive. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Mary is a 17 year old senior in high school looking to give back to children in her community and shares this with her caseworker. Her caseworker informs her supports her willingness to participate in community service and wants to offer an incentive. Mary is promised a \$50 incentive for providing mentoring services to two 8th graders who will be soon transitioning into high school. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Supervised Independent Living

Darla is a 17 year old foster youth and has graduated from high school. Darla is enrolled in Art & Design School that is several hours away. Since Darla has not yet emancipated from foster care the County PCSA has secured a supervised independent living arrangement near the Art & Design School. All expenses for the independent living arrangement can be supported by independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Room & Board

Sam is over 18 years old and has emancipated from foster care. He has joined one of Ohio's registered apprenticeship programs and will be working full time earning a living wage while learning his trade. Sam's independent living caseworker has helped him find an apartment in

the town where he is working. The County PCSA can pay for Sam's first month rent, deposit and cover the cost for utility turn on fees and deposits using their Chafee Allocation. If the PCSA has already used 30% of their Chafee allocation for room & board then they can access their TANF IL funds for these costs. The PCSAO can also set up an agreed upon post emancipation plan with Sam to assist with his rent until he is able to cover the cost himself. Chafee funds can be used to cover this cost until the PCSA has hit their 30% total allocation limit and then TANF IL funds can be used for up to 4 consecutive months. Since Sam is just starting out in his own place, he will need furniture and many household supplies. The PCSA can also pay for these cost using the Chafee Allocation. If furniture is being purchased with the TANL IL allocation, there is a \$1000.00 cap. Household supplies can include but are not limited to; linens, small appliances, dishes, pots and pans, cookware, silverware, TV, laundry supplies, fire extinguisher, carbon monoxide detector and rental insurance. (Chafee & TANF IL, some restrictions apply)

Tony is over 18 years old and has emancipated from foster care. He is registered to start Wright State University. Tony is receiving funds from an academic scholarship and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) but still has a balance for the semester and will need to purchase books and school supplies. The County PCSA can assist Tony using independent living funds for these expenses as well as the purchase of other items Tony will also need, such as; typical dorm room necessities, specific sheets, comforter, shower shoes, appropriate outerwear suitable for campus travel, storage containers, hangers and desk aids and lights etc. The PCSA can also use independent living funds to purchase a laptop, printer and software for Tony. While Tony is carrying a full time course load, he continues to work part-time to help cover some of his other costs of living. The County PCSA can offer additional funds in the form of a monthly living stipend. There may be a time where Tony has additional expenses for college events, tests, equipment that have additional cost, the PCSAO can assist with those expenses as well. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Normalcy Activities

County PCSA has 4 youth graduating from High School. The agency decided to celebrate their accomplishment by throwing all four of the youth a combined graduation party and purchasing each graduate a gift. The agency can use independent living funds to cover the party expenses and gift. A cash incentive can also be given to the Graduates to reward them for this accomplishment. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Sam just turned 16 years of age and is very excited to get his drivers permit. However, Sam is aware that he required to take driver's education classes prior to obtaining his drivers permit. Sam and his foster parents researched reputable driver's education centers and found one near their home. The cost of the 4 week course is \$350. The County PCSA has agreed to pay for these expenses using independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Adam is 14 year of age and he just found out that he made the High School Freshman Football team. Adam is so excited to apart of team. He and his foster dad attended the first Football

meeting where they learned of all the forms that needed to be completed and fees required in order to play. The Football fees included: the pay to participate fee - \$150.00, practice uniform - \$30, football cleats, socks and mouth gear - \$120.00, and player's meal fee - \$50. Total cost of football fee is \$350. The County PCSA can support Adam's football expenses using independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)

Amanda is a senior at her High School and Amanda's friend Eric asked if she would like to attend their high school Prom together. Amanda immediately said yes with excitement. She couldn't wait to get home to tell her foster parents her good news. At dinner that evening, the family discussed the cost of attending prom. Those costs include: a dress, shoes, jewelry, corsage, prom tickets, dinner and pictures at the dance. Eric offered to pay for the prom tickets and dinner. Leaving Amanda responsible for the remaining cost which came to a total of \$300.00. The County PCSA can support these expenses using independent living funds. (Chafee & TANF IL)