

## Independent Living Roles and Responsibilities

The chart below summarizes the targeted outcomes for youth transitioning out of out-of-home care (OHC), including the roles that Child Welfare Agencies (CWAs) and regional Transition Resource Agencies (TRAs) play, with corresponding examples of milestones and responsibilities. **When, how, and at what age a youth transitions from the CWA's care and responsibility varies. The CWA is responsible for case management and providing IL supports and services for as long as the youth's court order remains in effect, and the youth remains in OHC. The TRA offers a supportive role during the youth's time in care and assumes service responsibilities once the youth discharges in an IL-eligible way.** The IL assistance the TRA provides the young person builds upon the IL supports and services provided by the CWA. Visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/il> > Resources and Training tab for more IL resources.

IL Domain and Goal	County/Tribal Child Welfare Agency Role	Regional Transition Resource Agency Role
<p><b>General Responsibilities</b> Child welfare agency and regional Transition Resource Agency work together to create seamless access to youth-led opportunities.</p>	<p>Placement, care, supervision, and permanency planning for children and youth in out-of-home care (OHC).</p> <p>Complete independent living assessments and independent living plans within required timeframes and in alignment with case and permanency planning. Initiate and facilitate the Independent Living Transition to Discharge (ILTD) process, starting at 17 ½ by coordinating with the youth, supportive adults, and TRA worker. Complete the ILTD plan in eWISACWIS.</p>	<p>Develop community resources and partnerships that support transitioning IL-eligible youth ages 14-23 and facilitate connections between child welfare agency, youth, and community resource/partner.</p> <p>Support youth transition during the ILTD process. Connect youth with desired services and supports and provide ongoing engagement through social media, youth councils, community outreach, etc.</p>
<p><b>Education</b> Youth has a high school diploma and has the support to access and succeed in postsecondary education or training for employment.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth completes high school with diploma.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Help the youth complete secondary education and support the youth's postsecondary needs and goals, as decided by the youth. This may include, but is not limited to, tutoring and other academic supports, course selection, credit recovery, pre-college activities, postsecondary school information-gathering, and program and financial aid applications.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth completes postsecondary education or employment training.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Help the youth access their desired education/training, including, but not limited to, supports in the areas of financial assistance, transportation, supplies and materials, and program applications.</p>
<p><b>Employment/Income</b> Youth has the skills needed for successful employment that provides a living wage.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth has at least one paid job experience before turning 18. They have a resume and at least one job reference.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Help the youth develop a resume; work with the youth to practice completing applications and interviews; connect the youth to employment opportunities; facilitate career exploration through school (e.g. work study or job shadowing), volunteerism, internships, and/or apprenticeships. Consult with the Transition Resource Agency about youth employment needs and interests prior to the age of 18.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth secures and maintains employment and has a living wage (or public assistance, when applicable).</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Develop and maintain community resources and partnerships responsive to youth's employment and income needs. This includes having a working knowledge of local youth and young adult employment programs, employment opportunities, support services– and creating inroads for the youth's participation.</p> <p>While the youth is still in care, use this knowledge to provide youth-specific consultation to CWA regarding youth employment. This may include providing information on connections to community partners or employers and/or resources supporting youth's soft skill development.</p>
<p><b>Financial Management</b> Youth has the financial literacy (e.g. budgeting skills) to achieve financial self-sufficiency.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth opens a savings account and contributes to its balance.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Work with the youth on budgeting exercises by way of an allowance, bank account, and/or income; complete cost saving and comparison exercises with the youth; educate the youth on credit, debt, fixed v. variable expenses, and other financial literacy topics; provide the youth their credit report, review it with them, and complete credit remediation when needed.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth is on stable financial footing through budgeting planning and practices, regular saving, and responsible purchasing.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Continue to assist the youth with budgeting, paying bills, use of credit and understanding debt, and/or access to public assistance. Provide necessary support for credit report remediation.</p>

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<p><b>Health and Well-being</b> Youth's physical, mental, and emotional health needs are met, and they are able to access services when needed. Youth is insured.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth is connected to healthcare providers. Youth's BadgerCare+ enrollment is initiated prior to discharge to avoid a lapse in coverage.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Assist youth in learning personal health care, medication, wellness, and hygiene; understanding their mental and physical health needs and diagnoses, their potential effects, and necessary maintenance; knowing what and how to communicate to healthcare providers and understanding the value of having a primary care provider; and knowing how to advocate for, schedule, and access services.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth is connected to healthcare providers. Youth receives health insurance through employer or BadgerCare+; insurance coverage does not lapse.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Assist youth with maintaining enrollment in BadgerCare+ or other insurance, accessing services, and maintaining care. Facilitate youth understanding of having a primary care provider, making and keeping appointments, medication, and having a health care proxy. Support youth access to and follow through on necessary care and treatments (e.g. therapy, medications).</p>
<p><b>Housing</b> Youth has access to a range of housing options; secures safe, stable, and affordable housing; and understands housing upkeep and safety.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth has housing knowledge and viable plan for housing after leaving care.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Help youth understand housing costs and explore housing options; educate youth on budgeting and tasks related to home upkeep and cooking. Through the ILTD process and other conversations, help youth develop a viable housing plan (and backup plan) for post-discharge. If applicable, refer youth to FYI and/or FUP housing voucher programs prior to discharge.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth maintains consistent, safe, and stable housing and has a landlord/housing reference.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Assist the youth with finding, applying for, budgeting for, and securing appropriate housing. Assist the youth in accessing housing supports, such as financial supports for rent assistance or utility costs. Develop relationships with landlords and other housing partners.</p>
<p><b>Permanent Connections</b> Youth is connected to multiple permanent and prosocial supportive adults, outside of formal systems. This includes at least one unpaid supportive adult.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth completes permanency roundtables and the ILTD Plan alongside supportive adults; efforts are individualized and youth-driven. Barriers to supportive relationships are acknowledged and removed.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Facilitate and support youth connections to life-long caring adults and peers. Educate youth on healthy relationships and encourage and help facilitate youth participation in prosocial opportunities.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth has supportive adults to provide encouragement, support, and guidance, and help with identified needs and emergencies. Youth defines what "community" and "family" means to them.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Educate youth on healthy relationships; help youth identify and maintain connections to life-long caring adults and peers; and encourage and help facilitate youth participation in prosocial opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Transportation</b> Youth has a reliable mode of transportation.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth completes driver's education and obtains a driver's license (when possible). Youth knows how to access public transportation safely and reliably.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Ensure youth has transportation to school, extracurricular activities, volunteer activities, and/or employment; facilitate youth enrollment in driver's education courses; work with youth to practice use of public transportation.</p>	<p><i>Milestone:</i> Youth purchases safe and reliable vehicle for personal use and has current registration and insurance, or youth has reliable access to public transportation to meet needs.</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> Assist youth in obtaining reliable transportation to meet needs. This may include, but are not limited to, getting a driver's license, keeping insurance and registration current, completing necessary repairs, having passes to use public transportation.</p>
<p><b>Other</b> Other youth outcomes and requirements, as outlined in federal law, state statutes, and ongoing standards are met. For example, the youth receives necessary and required documents (e.g. birth certificate).</p>	<p>Youth receives required documents prior to leaving care, as specified on their Independent Living page in eWiSACWIS. These include, but are not limited to, medical records, birth certificate, copy of their ILTD, social security card, etc.</p>	<p>Youth receives assistance when they need to replace lost or outdated documents.</p>