

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Administrator



Re: **Independent Living Program and National Youth in Transition Database Updates**

PURPOSE

This memo provides:

- a link to a training created to assist workers with completion of the statutorily required Independent Living Transition to Discharge (ILTD) Plan;
- a link to the Department's newly released summary report of the state's independent living program from 2016-2019;
- information regarding the results of the competitive procurement process for Transition Resource Agencies (TRAs) in Region 3; and,
- a link to resources related to the National Youth in Transition Discharge (NYTD) survey processes, including a FAQ document and video overview.

BACKGROUND

Both the Department's [Ongoing Services Standards](#) and state law (see Chapters [48](#) and [938](#)) specify requirements related to the Independent Living Transition to Discharge (ILTD) Plan, which must be completed with youth ages 17.5 or older who are highly likely to exit the foster care system at age 18 or older. To further support workers' efforts related to this plan and Wisconsin's independent living program, DCF's IL team developed a new resource specific to the ILTD and how to make it a detailed, high-quality plan that will assist the young person moving forward.

Wisconsin's independent living program has evolved considerably since 2016. A new report from DCF reflects on how the program structure has changed in recent years, key components of its structure, and initial data points related to service provision and youth uptake.

In summer 2020, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) released a Request for Grant Proposal for TRAs in Youth Services Region 3. DCF notified the selected proposer of their award and is able to share the results of that process.

Finally, DCF staff developed additional resources to further support and improve Wisconsin's

fulfillment of the federal requirement to survey young people currently and formerly in foster care as part of the [National Youth in Transition Database \(NYTD\) process](#). The intent of these resources is to better inform workers and other supportive adults who are working with young people eligible to complete the NYTD survey, as well as inform the young people themselves.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

ILTD Resource

The DCF IL team’s resource development is guided by direct feedback with contracted agencies, community partners, youth advocates, and other stakeholders. DCF partnered with the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS) to create an online overview of the ILTD. This resource will assist caseworkers and other stakeholders in understanding ILTD requirements, the intent of the plan, key participants for its completion and their respective roles, and the collaboration it necessitates. The comprehensive overview includes detailed examples of the information that should be included in the ILTD to serve as a guide to those involved in its development and ensure that it is a well-developed roadmap for young people exiting care. Workers can access the training via [PDS online](#) or <https://youtu.be/a0DNPd6lojA>

Independent Living Summary Report

The Department’s regionalization of independent living (IL) services starting in 2016 was a significant restructure to Wisconsin’s IL program. The DCF IL team recently put together a summary document that reflects on the regionalization process, youth eligibility and population served, and initial qualitative and quantitative data related to service provision and youth uptake. The resource is available via <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/il/pdf/il-summary-rpt-16-19.pdf>.

TRA Award

The recent competitive procurement process for the Transition Resource Agency (TRA) in Youth Services Region 3 resulted in no change in service provider. SaintA, the incumbent, will continue its efforts to serve IL eligible youth in 2021. A summary of the active TRA contracts is provided below.

Region	Original/Renewed Contract Effective Year	Awarded Agency
1	2017 / 2020	Wood County & CW Solutions
2	2016 / 2019	Bay Area Workforce Development Board
3	2018 / 2021	SaintA
4	2019 / N/A	Kenosha Human Development Board
5	2017 / 2020	Workforce Development Board of South-Central Wisconsin
6	2016 / 2019	Family & Children’s Center
7	2017 / 2020	Workforce Resource

Additional information about these agencies, their points of contact, and the services they are expected to provide is available here: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/independentliving>.

NYTD Resources

Similar to the development of IL resources, DCF staff prioritize NYTD resource development according to direct input from county, contracted, and community partners, as well as the young people they serve. The most recent NYTD resources and training materials include:

- A revised video overview of Wisconsin’s NYTD process:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/index.php/cwportal/ys/nytd>

- A FAQ document that includes a collection of commonly asked questions related to the survey and its participants: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/ys/pdf/nytd-faq.pdf>
- Talking points to guide adult supporters as they discuss NYTD with youth eligible for the survey:
 - Discussing NYTD with eligible 17-year-olds:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/ys/pdf/nytd-talk2-17.pdf>
 - Discussing NYTD with eligible 19-year-olds:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/ys/pdf/nytd-talk2-19.pdf>
 - Discussing NYTD with eligible 21-year-olds:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/ys/pdf/nytd-talk2-21.pdf>

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: IL Coordinator
608-422-6990
DCFILCoordinator@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

LINKS :

Ongoing Services Standards

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/ongoing-services-standards.pdf>

Wisconsin Chapter 48.385 (Children's Code)

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/48/vii/385>

Wisconsin Chapter 938.385 (Juvenile Justice Code)

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/938/vii/385>

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) process

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/reporting-systems/nytd>

PDS Online

<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/>