Youth in Transition

Youth in Transition is a funding source available to youth who meet particular criteria related to learning to be independent.

Independent Living Programs
FOM 950 is the YIT Policy Manual and begins the discussion of YIT usage with a discussion of the goal of Independent Living Programs:
A priority of the Michigan Department of Human Services is to improve the success of foster youth transitioning into adulthood from the state’s foster care system. The goal is to help a youth make the transition from foster care to independence, defined as the ability to take care of oneself physically, socially, economically and psychologically.
Federal law mandates that state and local governments offer an extensive program of education, training, employment and financial support for a young person leaving foster care. Participation in such programs must begin several years before high school completion and continue, as needed, until the youth is discharged from foster care, establishes independence or reaches 21 years of age.
Independent Living (IL) is an ongoing process of maturation, skill development and assuming responsibility for self. IL services should provide practical experiences that are designed to assist youth in developing the skills needed for a successful transition to adulthood.

The provision of IL services should involve an integrated team approach focusing on the youth. Efforts to provide services should be based on an individualized plan of services that are coordinated between all supportive persons identified by the youth. This could include parents, foster parents, relatives, foster care workers, and/or community members.

Take a few moments to review the power point slides about Youth in Transition funds. The slides summarize the policy in FOM 950 and much of the information can also be found on the DHS public website: http://michigan.gov/fyi/0,1607,7-240-44524-161180--,00.html
Youth In Transition

Michigan Department of Human Services
Youth In Transition

Who is eligible?

Active foster care cases in Michigan:

- Placed out of their home based on abuse and neglect
- Starting at age 14 and up to age 21

Closed foster care case in Michigan:

- Youth placed out of their home on or after their 14th birthday but are no longer under DHS supervision
- Ages 18 to 21
What is YIT?

Youth in Transition is a funding source available to cover expenses **NOT** covered by other government or community resources.

A funding source that augments or supplements services from other funding sources.
Where do youth apply?

Youth with open cases can access funds through his/her foster care case manager.

Youth must apply for closed case services (YIT) in their current county of residence through the local DHS office.
What expenses does YIT cover?

- Daily Living Skills Training
- Educational Supports
- Employment Services
- Mentorship
- Transportation
- Physical and Mental Health Services
- Parenting Skills Training
- Membership in community organizations
- Start up goods
- First month rent
Daily Living Skills

Classes/training to learn:

- Cooking skills
- Laundry skills
- Use of community resources
- Public transportation system
- Money management and budgeting
Educational Supports

- Assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, vocational training, and post secondary education
  - Tutoring Services
  - Vocational Placement
  - Career Planning
  - College Resources
  - GED Preparation and Testing
  - Educational Testing and Assessments
  - Senior Pictures

- Special tuition
  - Books
  - Transportation
  - Assistance in accessing PELL grants, Tuition Incentive Program (TIP), Student loans, scholarships, and Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
  - Extracurricular activities
Employment Services

- Career exploration
- Job training
- Job placement and retention
- Training in job-readiness skills such as interviewing, developing a resume, and job retention
- Local Michigan Works! help foster youth seek employment and job skills
  *(Referrals and services should be documented under the Independent Living-employment/training or Job Training/employment Assistance services Type with added appropriate services providers.)*

- Uniforms
- Tools
- Transportation
- Apprentice Fees
- Safety clothing
- Equipment
Mentorship

- Mentorships and family connection services if the youth is not covered by foster care family reunification services

- Coordination and connection between associated support people and the youth with various and appropriate community agencies and services
Membership in community organizations

- Membership in community organizations which would promote/support the youth with transitioning to independent living, i.e., YMCA/YWCA, Junior Achievement, Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Transportation expenses not covered by another source such as:

- Vehicle Purchase/Repair
- Medical appointments
- Counseling
- Youth group participation
- Drivers training for temporary wards
Physical and Mental Health Services

- Counseling
  - Providing personal and emotional support for the youth if he/she is aging out of foster care
  - Individual or group counseling for the youth if he/she is receiving **closed case services only**
  - Classes or groups on interpersonal communication and relationship building and maintenance

- Preventive health services
  - smoking avoidance
  - substance abuse prevention
  - nutrition
  - pregnancy prevention
  - personal hygiene
Parenting Skills

- Classes in parenting skills

- Day care costs not covered by FIP (but not due to noncompliance) for working teen parents and/or teen parents in educational/vocational programs
First month’s rent, security deposits, and utility deposits

- Must be ages 18 to 21
- Up to $1000.00 total
- One time only
- Must be leaving foster care because attained age 18 or 19 years of age
Start up goods

Up to a total of $1000

- Food
- Personal attire and/or hygiene
- Grooming Supplies
- Household cleaning supplies
- Basic household furniture
- Household utensils/tools
- Linens
- Household record keeping and accounting needs
- Etc
Independent Living

Starting at age 14 youth in foster care must begin preparation for Independent Living
Graduation expenses are generally **NOT** covered by YIT however.

Please contact the youths’ foster care case manager and inquire about “non-scheduled payment” for:

- Senior Class Ring - limited up to $100.00
- Tuxedo rentals and dress purchases for *senior* prom - under $100.00
- Senior cap and gown, announcements - up to a total of $100.00
Driver’s Education

• Temporary wards are covered by YIT

• State wards are covered by non-scheduled payments up to $300.00
  NOT YIT
Local offices may purchase items in bulk such as bus passes/tickets, and gas cards. All expenditures of YIT must be tied to an individual youth.
Foster Care Workers Responsibilities

• **Develop a case services plan**
  The service plan must contain a written description of the programs and services which will help the youth prepare for transition to independence or outline his/her ability to take care of his/her self physically, socially, economically, and psychologically.

• **Must include youth**
  The youth must participate in the case service plan and accept responsibility for the implementation with the assistance of identified individuals.

• **Independent Living Agreement**
  When the youth becomes eligible for an Independent Living stipend, an *Independent Living Agreement* must be developed with the youth’s participation and signature, and the youth must be given a copy of the agreement.

• **Aftercare Services Pamphlet**
  When the youth’s foster care case is closed the foster care worker must give the youth a copy of the Aftercare Services Pamphlet (PUB 858)
Foster care parents must assist the youth in learning or seeking independent living skills such as

- daily living skills
- preventive health services
- mentoring
- obtaining high school diploma, vocational training, and post-secondary education
- career exploration, job training, job placement, and job retention
- counseling
- parenting skills
- money management and budgeting
- provision of personal and emotional support for you when you are aging out of foster care, including use of mentors and other dedicated adults
- locating a suitable living arrangement after foster care
YIT Paperwork

- DHS-4713 - Youth Service Profile Report
- DHS-722-O - YIT Eligibility Checklist for Open Case
- DHS-722-C - YIT Eligibility Checklist for Closed Case
- DHS-720 - YIT Exception Request
  - Amount Exception
  - Policy Exception
Contact Person

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Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)

Youth in Foster care or Adoption have an opportunity to receive financial assistance to attend post-secondary education on vocational training through the Chafee Education and Education Voucher Program.

The following are the eligibility criteria for receiving ETV funding:

- Youth who are or have been in an eligible foster care placement, on or after their 14\textsuperscript{th} birthday, through the State of Michigan.
- Youth adopted from foster care or placed in a relative guardianship from foster care after attaining age 16.
- Youth must have a high school diploma or GED and be attending, at least part-time, an accredited post-secondary institution.

FOM 960 is your policy reference for further explanations of eligibility criteria related to eligible institutions, allowable expenses and distributions of funds.

Information is also included on the DHS public website: http://www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,1607,7-240-44289-160381--,00.html

It is also worth noting that several Michigan Universities offer scholarships and assistance to youth in foster care. Information about these programs are also found on the DHS public website: http://michigan.gov/fyit/0,4585,7-240-44289---,00.html
References

DHS Public Website

Information related to Youth in Transition Funds may be found on the DHS Public Website at:
http://michigan.gov/fyit/0,1607,7-240-44524-161180--,00.html

Information regarding the Education and Training voucher program may be found on the DHS Public website:
http://www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,1607,7-240-44289-160381--,00.html

Policy

Policy Related to YIT is located in FOM 950.
Policy related to the Education and Training Voucher program is in FOM 960.
FOM 722-6 Addresses Independent Living preparation policy

Forms

DHS 722-O  YIT Eligibility Checklist for Open Cases
DHS 722-C  YIT Eligibility Checklist for Closed Cases
DHS 722   YIT Exception Request
DHS 4713  Youth Service Profile Report
YIT Scenarios

Answer the following questions using FOM 950 as a reference.

1. A 17 year old youth in an independent living program would like YIT funds for first month’s rent in an apartment.

   Can you access YIT funds for this?

   Why or why not?

2. A 20 year old former foster youth whose case is closed comes to your office asking for funding assistance to buy a car to drive back and forth to work.

   Is this allowable according to policy?

   If so, under what circumstances?

3. A youth receiving ETV funds for college would like additional YIT funds to buy a computer.

   Is this allowable according to policy?

   Could he/she receive YIT funds to take a parenting class?

4. A youth needs to have the brakes fixed on a car she is driving to work and school.

   Can YIT funds take care of this?

   If so, under what circumstances?

5. A youth is moving into an apartment and needs furniture and dishes.

   Can you use YIT funds for these purchases?

   Could the youth get a television with these funds?