



HB 4120: Prepare our Foster Youth for Success As Adults

Support Oregon's Independent Living Program (ILP)

Every young person deserves the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to successfully transition into adulthood. Reaching milestones such as graduating from high school, renting a first apartment, finding employment and applying to college require long-term relationships and support. Unfortunately, youth experiencing foster care often lack these resources.

Oregon's Independent Living Program (ILP) allows youth access to a coach to help them navigate the next phase of their lives as they exit the foster care system. Coaches help youth learn skills like:

- Filling out financial aid forms;
- Creating a resume;
- Cooking and caring for themselves;
- Getting a driver's license or state ID; and
- Understanding a lease.

As trust is built, ILP coaches develop relationships that enable these young people to envision a future for themselves.

"The most challenging thing about transitioning out of care is feeling like you've lost all your resources and supports. Through ILP, I was able to learn how to be accountable for myself as well as for my future."

— CJ Jones

No youth is required to participate in the program, but Oregon's network of ILP providers see hundreds of young people seek these services to get the support they need to be successful adults.

The Problem:

In 2019, the Oregon Legislature failed to act on a funding recommendation to stabilize ILP providers. ILPs across Oregon are vastly undercompensated for the costs associated with helping this unique population of youth. Currently, under half of eligible youth are receiving services.

The ask of the 2020 Legislature:

The Coalition above, working directly with foster youth, are recommending a focused investment in ILP in 2020. An allocation of \$2 million will stabilize ILP providers so they continue their important work. This investment will result in more coaches, create smaller caseloads and serve up to 200 more youth in the ILP program statewide.

Children in foster care are **our** children — it's our responsibility to help them learn the skills needed to succeed as adults. Investing in this program is an important step to help make that a reality.

By expanding ILP services, we can prepare more foster youth for a successful transition into adulthood.

Oregon's network of ILP Providers include:



Additional ILP Coalition Supporters include:



Now More Than Ever
Youth, Rights & Justice

Defending the Rights of Children & Families in Oregon