

Policy Focus Area 3: Support Emancipating and Emancipated Youth in their Transition to Adulthood

Resource Materials

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Youth Transition Action Teams

Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth

Fact Sheet

The Youth Transition Action Team Initiative focuses on bringing together the resources of the workforce, education, and child welfare systems with philanthropy to better prepare adolescents who are current or former foster youth to achieve economic, educational, and employment success as they transition into the adult world.

The Charge of Transition Action Teams

Transition Action Teams are made up of leaders from the child welfare, education, workforce development, juvenile justice, and other local systems, working together with philanthropy to improve transition outcomes for youth touched by the child welfare system. Each team is also charged with assisting its respective county in achieving their child welfare system improvement goals, particularly in the area of youth permanency.

Teams from across the state bring together and leverage the approaches, strategies, and resources of multiple efforts concerned with the issue of successful youth transition. They have assessed their current capacity to address the needs of foster and kinship youth, and developed practical and outcome-based work plans that align local resources and programs to meet the needs of foster and kinship youth. Participating counties are currently putting those plans into action.

An Eye to Outcomes

The impacts of the YTAT initiative will be measured by its success in improving outcomes for youth aging out of the foster care system in the following areas:

- ❑ **Educational achievement and aspiration** including the successful completion of high school, grades and credits earned, course of study meeting the standards for CSU admission, enrollment or plans for enrollment in post-secondary education, and scholarships earned.
- ❑ **Workforce readiness** including the creation of a career development portfolio, earning a work readiness certificate, successful completion of career development/professional-technical coursework and related activities, participation in a sequenced range of work-based learning activities and employment experience.
- ❑ **Employment** at a level sufficient to provide the resources for independent living.
- ❑ **Support Networks** including formal and informal positive relationships with peers, adults and institutions.

The initiative will also develop a set of measures to gauge the systems impacts on local youth serving collaborative efforts. Outcomes will include measures of efficiency in cross program collaboration, resource leveraging, evidence of effective partnering, the creation of common evaluation frameworks and tools, and supportive policy development.

Incorporating All Youth-One SystemSM Principles

To address the needs of foster and kinship youth in the context of a comprehensive transition system for all youth, Youth Transition Action Teams are applying the All Youth-One SystemSM (AYOS) principles developed by New Ways to Work. The AYOS approach integrates a set of services across systems that include the four core elements of academic achievement, career preparation, community services and support, and youth leadership, supported by a comprehensive youth development approach. Local YTAT's seek to align services and opportunities that address these elements among local and county agencies, programs, and organizations. The AYOS approach has been adopted by numerous Workforce Investment Boards and Local Youth Councils, educational institutions, and youth development practitioners, and now guides the Transition Action Teams in their work to build local systems to better serve youth in transition.

Supports Provided to Youth Transition Action Teams

All Transition Action Teams receive the following supports from the initiative:

- Technical assistance and coaching with a focus on
 - building effective, cross-system collaborations;
 - developing individual career development and transition plans;
 - implementing strategies for leveraging services and program activities from the education and workforce development communities;
 - identifying and effectively utilizing existing resources across systems;
 - conducting effective workplace partner and employer engagement activities; and
 - utilizing work-based learning as a developmental tool to ensure youth success in the transition to adulthood.
- Assistance in connecting to and building effective partnerships with workforce development, education, community-based, and career-development programs.
- Regular workshops, forums, and training in key areas identified by the participating communities.
- Communication and technology supports, including the collection and sharing of promising practices, tools, and ideas; newsletters and electronic e-news to update progress and communicate success to all counties and interested partners; and an interactive website.
- Training, support, and regular networking opportunities for identified team leaders in each implementing community.
- Annual networking events & activities designed to deliver critical content, support peer networking, and allow for focused strategic planning time.

Current Partners

- New Ways to Work (Facilitating Partner)
- Casey Family Programs (Initiative Sponsor)
- Walter S. Johnson Foundation
- Jewish Community Foundation
- Peninsula Community Foundation
- The San Francisco Foundation
- The Child and Family Policy Institute of California
- The Foster Youth Employment, Training, and Housing Taskforce

Youth Transition Action Team Counties

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Amador/Calaveras | ■ San Bernardino |
| ■ Fresno | ■ San Diego |
| ■ Glenn | ■ San Francisco |
| ■ Humboldt | ■ San Luis Obispo |
| ■ Los Angeles | ■ San Mateo |
| ■ Mendocino | ■ Shasta |
| ■ Orange | ■ Tehama |
| ■ Placer | ■ Tulare |
| ■ Sacramento | ■ Ventura |

Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)

[THPP Information Flyer](#)

In addition to participating in the Independent Living Program (ILP), some foster youth participate in THPP. The THPP is a community care licensed placement opportunity for youth in foster care. The goal of THPP is to help participants emancipate successfully by providing a safe environment for youth to practice the skills learned in ILP. Participants may live alone, with departmental approval, or with roommates in apartments and single-family dwellings with regular support and supervision provided by THPP agency staff, county social workers, and ILP coordinators. Support services include regular visits to participants' residences; educational guidance, employment counseling and assistance reaching emancipation goals outlined in participants; transitional independent living plans, the emancipation readiness portion of youths' case plan.

While each county has its own policies, at a minimum, applicants must meet certain criteria. They must be at least 16 years old and not more than 18 years old, unless they are in all probability, going to finish high school before their 19th birthday. They must be in out-of-home placement under the supervision of the county department of social services or the county probation department, and actively participating in an ILP.

Counties must receive approval from CDSS before they can participate in THPP. Currently, 32 counties are [THPP approved](#). There are many other forms of transitional housing services offered to youth in many different counties. For other types of housing information, please refer to the [County THPP Contacts](#) listing.

Transitional Housing Program for Emancipated Foster/Probation Youth (THP-Plus)

[THP-Plus Information Flyer](#)

The CDSS surveyed the State to gather information on emancipating foster/probation youth housing issues. The report, entitled "The Report on the Housing Needs of Emancipated Foster/Probation Youth," indicated that 65 percent of the 4,355 youth who emancipated from foster care during the 2000-2001 fiscal years were in need of safe and affordable housing. To address this problem, Assembly Bill 1119 (Chapter 639, 2002), was passed to assist counties in their efforts to provide housing for this population (THP-Plus). Assembly Bill 824 (Chaptered 2005), raised the age limit for emancipated youth participating in a THP-Plus program to age 24.

Currently, 17 counties are [THP-Plus approved](#) and more than 100 housing programs exist statewide for which emancipated foster youth are eligible. For other types of housing information, please refer to the [County THPP Contacts](#) listing.

THP-Plus Eligibility

- THP-Plus eligible youth are young adults who have emancipated from foster/probation care and are 18 through 24 years old, and are pursuing the county-approved goals they have developed in the [.](res/pdf/TILivingPlan.pdf)
- Participation in the THP-Plus is subject to: county participation in the program, the availability of safe and affordable housing and the availability of program providers.
- The maximum time for THP-Plus participation is 24 cumulative months.

THP-Plus Program Models

- Programs certified under these regulations shall be designed to provide a safe and adequate residence and allow participants a maximum amount of independence and self-sufficiency.
- Acceptable residential units include apartments, single family dwellings, condominiums, college dormitories, and host family models.
- Publicly supervised or privately operated shelters, or other living situations including those with friends, family members and others, that provide temporary accommodation are not acceptable.
- Public or private places not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping area are not acceptable and cannot be utilized by a THP-Plus provider as accommodations for emancipated foster youth.

For additional information:

Contact your: [County/Provider Transitional Housing Placement Program](#)

[Independent Living Program Policy Unit](#)

Child & Youth Permanency Branch
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 14-78
Sacramento, CA 95814



**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
PLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR
CURRENT
FOSTER/PROBATION YOUTH**

THPP

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

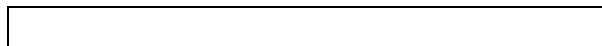
**CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES DIVISION**

**CHILD AND YOUTH
PERMANENCY BRANCH**

**INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM
POLICY UNIT**

For further information, please contact
Sonya St. Mary, Chief, Foster Care
Support Services Bureau, or
Cynthia Guilford, Transitional Housing
Coordinator, at:

California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, M.S. 14-78
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-7465
(916) 657-4357 FAX



Transitional Housing Placement Program for Current Foster/Probation (THPP)

The THPP is a transitional housing placement opportunity for foster and probation youth aged 16-18 who are currently in the child welfare system. The goal of the program is to provide a safe living environment so that youth can practice skills necessary to live on their own upon leaving the foster care support system. Counties electing to participate in the program provide supervised transitional living housing and support services. Participants may live alone, with departmental approval, or with roommates in apartments and single-family dwellings with regular support provided by THPP agency staff, county social workers and ILP coordinators. Support services include regular visits to participants' residences, educational guidance, employment counseling and assistance in reaching emancipation goals outlined in participants' Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), the case plan emancipation readiness document. Counties must have an approved plan to implement the State THPP.

County THPP Implementation Procedure

Counties' requirements:

- Pre-approve all providers prior to submission of the proposal to the California Department of Social

Services (CDSS). This information must be included in the proposed plan. Upon review and approval of the proposal by the Independent Living Program Policy Unit. The county may begin the review and certification of agency plans.

- Send or e-mail a letter of intent to CDSS.
- Submit rate information to CDSS.
- Develop and submit a plan to CDSS which meets the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16522 through 16522.6. Regulations regarding THPP can be found at www.childsworld.ca.gov or www.dss.cahwnet.gov.
- Receive a plan-approval letter from CDSS.
- Complete CCL Licensing Requirements.

THPP Rate

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403(a)(2), the rate for THP-Plus shall not exceed 75 percent of the average RCL payment the county pays to group homes for foster youth 16 to 18 years old, contingent upon the following conditions:

- Funding shall be subject to the sharing rations specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15200.
- The State portion of the rate shall be subject to the availability of the

Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund.

- If the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund is depleted, the county shall pay the State share of the rate.

Funding for THPP Services, Room and Board

The State will fund 100 percent of the nonfederal portion of the rate through the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund. The 60 percent county match of the nonfederal portion has been eliminated.

THPP Eligibility

- THPP eligible youth are young adults who have not yet emancipated from foster/probation care; are 16 through 18 years old, and are pursuing the county-approved goals they have developed in the TILP.
- Participation in THPP is subject to: county participation in the State approved program, the availability of safe and affordable housing, and the availability of program providers.
- The maximum time for THPP participation is 24 cumulative months.

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

Each participant in THPP will utilize a TILP which describes the educational/vocational, or other goals related to self-sufficiency, mutually agreed upon by the youth and the county welfare, probation department, or independent living coordinator. The youth must be participating in the activities identified in the TILP. The TILP shall be updated every six months. Participants are responsible for informing the county whenever changes occur that affect payment of aid, including changes in address, living circumstances, and educational, career and training programs.

THPP Program Models

- Programs licensed under CDSS regulations shall be designed to provide a safe and adequate residence and allow participants a maximum amount of independence and self-sufficiency.
- Acceptable residential units include apartments, single family dwellings, condominiums, college dormitories, and host family models.
- Publicly supervised or privately operated shelters, or other living situations, including those with friends, family members, and others that provide temporary accommodation, are not acceptable.
- Public or private places not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping area are not acceptable, and may not be

utilized by a THPP provider as accommodations for emancipated foster youth.

THPP Agency Certification Standards

Providers of THPP will apply for a CDSS license. Providers will submit a THPP program plan to counties, and to CDSS, for approval. THPP agencies' program plan must, at a minimum, ensure that:

- The program will only serve eligible youth;
- The program will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, and that youth who were wards of the court, and youth receiving psychotropic medications shall be eligible for consideration in the program and shall not be automatically excluded due to these factors (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1(a)(1));
- The agency will, with the assistance of a county designee, assist each youth in the completion of the goals and activities described in the CDSS THPP TILP form;
- The program plan includes a description of the program, and how it will ensure that participants live semi-independently and accomplish the goals described in their TILP;

- Services for THPP participants are not discontinued without due process;
- THPP participants have the right to be free from arbitrary or capricious rules, the right to understand all rules in writing and in appropriate languages and formats, the right to appeal any loss of benefits or services before they are suspended (unless imminent physical harm to someone would result), and the right to a grievance procedure;
- THPP participants' right to confidentiality is respected. This right applies to dissemination, storage, retrieval and acquisition or identifiable information. The agency will not release information about a participant's receipt of services without a written release from the participant;
- THPP participants' right to privacy is respected. Information will be requested of participants only when the information is specifically necessary for the provision of services. THPP participants will not be required to supply personal information as a condition of obtaining services without written documentation verifying the necessity of the information;
- The agency will comply with California landlord/tenant law (Civil Code Section 1940, et seq.) and/or the Transitional Housing Misconduct

- Act (Health and Safety Code Section 50580, et seq.);
- The program plan includes a description of the THPP participation application process and selection criteria;
 - The TILP is updated at least every 6 months and as needed to reflect necessary changes for youth in care;
 - THPP participants will be allowed the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare them for self-sufficiency;
 - Criminal background checks will be required for all agency employees;
 - The THPP program is clearly distinguishable from those that should be licensed as an Adult Residential Care facility under Health and Safety Code Sections 1502(a)(1) or 1503.5(a);
 - Applicable provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1 regarding THPP requirements are incorporated into the plan;
 - Programs will comply with applicable Federal, State, and local housing laws and fire clearance requirements;
 - The housing provided to participants has reasonable access to schools, employment-appropriate supportive services, shopping, and medical care;
 - No more than two THPP participants share a bedroom;
- THPP participants are given a choice regarding what services to access, and the location of the services (on-site or off-site), as long as the goals of the THPP TILP are being met;
 - When funds are retained by the provider on behalf of the tenant, the provider shall ensure that these funds are deposited in an interest bearing savings account in any bank or savings and loan institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The principal and interest shall be distributed to the tenant when he/she leaves the program, or earlier if permitted by the THP-Plus program guidelines. For a full description of all regulations for the CDSS' Transitional Housing Placement Program, please refer to: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/ILP-TILP-T_1500.htm.

For additional information regarding the housing needs of foster youth, you may refer to "The Report on the Housing Needs of Emancipated Foster Youth" which may be found on the Department's website under the heading "Children and Family Services, Foster Care Reports." AB 2972 (Chapter 1074, Statutes of 2002), AB 1354 (Chapter 46, Statutes of 2002), AB 1119

(Chapter 639, Statutes of 2002), and AB 427 (Chapter 125, Statutes of 2001). For additional information or regulations, please go to www.dss.cahwnet.gov.



**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
PROGRAM FOR
EMANCIPATED
FOSTER/PROBATION YOUTH**

THP-Plus

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

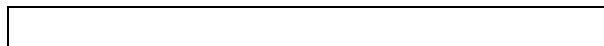
**CHILDREN AND FAMILY
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For further information, please contact
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Transitional Housing Program for Emancipated Foster/Probation (THP-Plus)

The THP-Plus is a transitional housing placement opportunity for emancipated foster youth, aged 18-24, who emancipated from the child welfare system. The goal of the program is to provide a safe living environment while helping youth achieve self-sufficiency so that they can learn life skills upon leaving the foster care support system. Counties electing to participate in the program provide supervised independent living housing and support services. Participants may live alone, with departmental approval, or with roommates in apartments and single-family dwellings with regular support provided by THP-Plus agency staff, county social workers and ILP coordinators. Support services include regular visits to participants' residences, educational guidance, employment counseling and assistance reaching emancipation goals outlined in participants' Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), the case plan emancipation readiness document. Several counties have approved plans and are implementing the THP-Plus.

County THP-Plus Implementation Procedure

- Counties must pre-approve all providers prior to submission of the proposal to the California

Department of Social Services (CDSS). This information must be included in the proposed plan. Upon review and approval of the proposal by the Independent Living Program Policy Unit's staff, the county may begin the review and certification of agency plans.

- Send or e-mail a letter of intent to CDSS.
- Submit rate information to CDSS.
- Develop and submit a plan to CDSS which meets the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16522 through 16522.6. Regulations regarding THP-Plus can be found at www.childsworld.ca.gov or www.dss.cahwnet.gov.
- Receive a plan-approval letter from CDSS.

THP-Plus Rate

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403(a)(2), the rate for THP-Plus shall not exceed 70 percent of the average RCL payment the county pays to group homes for foster youth 16 to 18 years old, contingent upon the following conditions:

- Funding shall be subject to the sharing rations specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15200.
- The State portion of the rate shall be subject to the availability of the

Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund.

- If the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund is depleted, the county shall pay the State share of the rate.

Funding for THP-Plus Services, Room and Board

The State will fund 100 percent of the nonfederal portion of the rate through the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund. The 60 percent county match of the nonfederal portion has been eliminated.

THP-Plus Eligibility

- THP-Plus eligible youth are young adults who have emancipated from foster/probation care and are 18 through 24 years old, and are pursuing the county-approved goals they have developed in the STEP/THP-Plus TILP.
- Participation in THP-Plus is subject to: county participation in the program, the availability of safe and affordable housing, and the availability of program providers.
- The maximum time for THP-Plus participation is 24 cumulative months.

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

Each participant in THP-Plus will utilize a STEP/THP-Plus TILP which describes the educational/vocational, or other goals related to self-sufficiency, mutually agreed upon by the youth and the county welfare, probation department, or independent living coordinator. The youth must be participating in the activities identified in the STEP/THP-Plus TILP. The TILP shall be updated annually. Participants are responsible for informing the county whenever changes occur that affect payment of aid, including changes in address, living circumstances, and educational, career and training programs.

THP-Plus Program Models

- Programs certified under these regulations shall be designed to provide a safe and adequate residence and allow participants a maximum amount of independence and self-sufficiency.
- Acceptable residential units include apartments, single family dwellings, condominiums, college dormitories, and host family models.
- Publicly supervised or privately operated shelters, or other living situations, including those with friends, family members, and others that provide temporary accommodation, are not acceptable.
- Public or private places not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping area are not acceptable, and may not be

utilized by a THP-Plus provider as accommodations for emancipated foster youth.

THP-Plus Agency Certification Standards

Providers of THP-Plus will apply for county certification rather than a CDSS license. Providers will submit a THP-Plus program plan to counties, and to CDSS, for approval. THP-Plus agencies' program plan must, at a minimum, ensure that:

- The program will only serve eligible youth;
- The program will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, and that youth who were wards of the court, and youth receiving psychotropic medications shall be eligible for consideration in the program and shall not be automatically excluded due to these factors (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1(a)(1));
- The agency will, with the assistance of a county designee, assist each youth in the completion of the goals and activities described in the CDSS STEP/THP-Plus TILP form;
- The program plan includes a description of the program, and how it will ensure that participants live independently and accomplish the

goals described in their STEP/THP-Plus TILP;

- Services for THP-Plus participants are not discontinued without due process;
- THP-Plus participants have the right to be free from arbitrary or capricious rules, the right to understand all rules in writing and in appropriate languages and formats, the right to appeal any loss of benefits or services before they are suspended (unless imminent physical harm to someone would result), and the right to a grievance procedure;
- THP-Plus participants' right to confidentiality is respected. This right applies to dissemination, storage, retrieval and acquisition or identifiable information. The agency will not release information about a participant's receipt of services without a written release from the participant;
- THP-Plus participants' right to privacy is respected. Information will be requested of participants only when the information is specifically necessary for the provision of services. THP-Plus participants will not be required to supply personal information as a condition of obtaining services without written documentation verifying the necessity of the information;
- The agency will comply with California landlord/tenant law (Civil

- Code Section 1940, et seq.) and/or the Transitional Housing Misconduct Act (Health and Safety Code Section 50580, et seq.);
- The program plan includes a description of the THP-Plus participation application process and selection criteria;
- The STEP/THP-Plus TILP is updated at least annually and as needed to reflect necessary changes;
- THP-Plus participants will be allowed the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare them for self-sufficiency;
- Criminal background checks will be required for all agency employees;
- The THP-Plus program is clearly distinguishable from those that should be licensed as an Adult Residential Care facility under Health and Safety Code Sections 1502(a)(1) or 1503.5(a);
- Applicable provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1 regarding THP-Plus requirements are incorporated into the plan;
- Programs will comply with applicable Federal, State, and local housing laws and fire clearance requirements;
- The housing provided to participants has reasonable access to schools, employment-appropriate supportive services, shopping, and medical care;

- No more than two THP-Plus participants share a bedroom;
- THP-Plus participants are given a choice regarding what services to access, and the location of the services (on-site or off-site), as long as the goals of the STEP/THP-Plus TILP are being met;
- When funds are retained by the provider on behalf of the tenant, the provider shall ensure that these funds are deposited in an interest bearing savings account in any bank or savings and loan institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The principal and interest shall be distributed to the tenant when he/she leaves the program, or earlier if permitted by the THP-Plus program guidelines. For a full description of all regulations for the CDSS's Transitional Housing Placement Program, please refer to:

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/ILP-TILP-T_1500.htm.

Conclusion

For additional information regarding the housing needs of emancipated needs of foster youth, you may need to refer to "The Report on the Housing Needs of Emancipated Foster Youth" which may be found on the Department's website

under the heading "Children and Family Services, Foster Care Reports." Also, AB 2972 (Chapter 1074, Statutes of 2002), AB 1354 (Chapter 46, Statutes of 2002), AB 1119 (Chapter 639, Statutes of 2002), and AB 427 (Chapter 125, Statutes of 2001) allow housing to be set aside for emancipated foster/probation youth, and other youth at risk of homelessness based on gender or age (up to 24 years old). For additional information or regulations, please go to www.dss.cahwnet.gov.

History of Independent Living Program Funding

Fiscal Year	Funding ¹	Youth Served ²	Funding per Youth Served ^{3,4}	Amount Needed to maintain FY 00-01 amount
2000-01	\$41,186,000	19,487	\$2,114	\$0
2001-02	\$45,354,000	23,361	\$1,941	\$4,019,744
2002-03	\$41,265,000	24,988	\$1,651	\$11,547,427
2003-04	\$40,560,000	28,048	\$1,446	\$18,719,773
2004-05	\$40,254,000	29,173	\$1,380	\$21,403,473
2005-06	\$39,418,000	30,992	\$1,272	\$26,083,951
2006-07	\$38,589,000	34,618	\$1,115	\$34,576,011
2007-08 Proposed	\$37,515,000	38,668	\$970	\$44,209,571

Notes:

1. Funding is from the annual Budget Subvention Binder and includes the Independent Living Program and the Extended Independent Living Program.
2. Data is from the SOC 405 A - Independent Living Program (ILP) Annual Statistical Report. FY 2006-07 and FY 2007-08 caseload estimate based on average annual growth from FY 2000-01 to FY 2005-06.
3. To maintain funding per youth at the 2000-01 level would require an additional \$44.2 million.
This would not adequately fund the program nor would it address the unfunded cost-of-doing-business increases since 2000-01.
4. To fund a bare bones program to all eligible youth would cost \$5000 per youth and would require an additional \$155.8 million.

revised July 23, 2007 by CWDA staff.