



## The Emancipation Decision: Are You Ready?

### What is emancipation?

Emancipation is the graduation stage for those in DCFS care who are prepared to move into self-sufficiency. They are no longer under the direct supervision of DCFS and are free to live in the general community. Emancipation means you are ready to be responsible and take control of your life as a "Mature Youth."

### Preparing for emancipation

Are you a Mature Minor?

A "Mature Minor" is a person at least 16 years of age but not older than 20 who has:

- Demonstrated the ability and capacity to manage his/her own affairs and to live wholly or partially independent of his/her parents or guardian (Statute No.: 750 ILCS 30/3-2)
- Obtained a high school diploma or GED
- Secured employment
- Made arrangements to continue his/her education

### Transitioning into emancipation

Youth emancipating from DCFS care will no longer have access to or may have difficulty accessing:

- Cash benefits
- A medical card
- Educational supports
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Mental health counseling
- Life skills training
  - Budgeting
  - Health and safety
  - Nutrition
  - Family planning
- Job placement assistance/training
- Caseworker supports

### Are you ready for emancipation?

- Do you have a job?
- Do you have adequate financial resources?
- Do you have a stable place to live?
- Do you have access to medical care?
- Do you have access to educational resources?
- Do you have a support system?
- Do you have sufficient day care resources if required?

## Emancipation services toward reaching self-sufficiency

DCFS will provide the following programs to aid in the transitioning process.

### YOUTH IN COLLEGE (YIC)/VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

- Ages 16-21 AND youth in care only
- Monthly stipend
- Books (not covered by financial aid)
- Possible assistance with tutoring

### YOUTH IN SCHOLARSHIP (YIS)

- Ages 16-21; youth in care & adoptive & sub-guardianship
- 48 merit-based awards per year
- Medical card & monthly stipend
- Books (not covered by financial aid)
- Possible assistance with tutoring for youth in care

### EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EIP)

- Ages 17-21; youth in care only
- \$150 monthly payment with documentation of Employment or Job Training Program

### EDUCATION & TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV)

(Maximum \$5,000 annual award to youth meeting eligibility)

- Possible uses of vouchers: tuition payment, books, housing, uniforms, supplies, transportation, and trade school
- School must be listed as accredited at [www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx](http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx)

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE PAYMENT PROGRAM

- Ages 16-21; youth in care only
- Up to 4 semesters of tuition, fees, books, uniforms, and supplies not covered by financial aid grants

Caseworkers assist all eligible youth in care with preparation for the following programs:

- Transitional Living Program (TLP)
- Independent Living Options (ILO)
- YIC, Scholarship Program, EIP

For more information call:  
DCFS Office of Education and  
Transition Services  
312-814-5959



[www.state.il.us/dcfs](http://www.state.il.us/dcfs)