

## INDEPENDENT AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAMS FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

The 2008 Legislature directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) to collect information on how well current services are meeting the needs of youth aging out of foster care. Independent Living Programs provide voluntary services for youth between the ages of 15 and 21; Transitional Living Programs serve former foster youth between 18 and 21.

Washington State funds these programs with approximately \$2.5 million in federal funds through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.<sup>1</sup> In the fall of 2008, 12 contractors provided these services. Exhibit 1 displays these programs and their locations.

**Exhibit 1  
Independent and Transitional Living Programs in  
Washington State, 2008**



### SUMMARY

The 2008 Legislature directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) to collect information on how well current services are meeting the needs of youth aging out of foster care. A survey was conducted of Independent and Transitional Living Programs that provided services to foster youth as they prepared for and transitioned to independent living.

In 2008, 12 agencies provided contracted Independent and Transitional Living Program services to this population. Approximately 1,200 youth participated during this year. Over 300 received funds for housing support, with a total of \$372,253 distributed to this population.

<sup>1</sup> A portion of these funds are provided to Tribes for services for transitioning youth.

## Provider Survey

The Institute contracted with the Social and Economic Services Research Center (SESRC) at Washington State University to contact all 12 contracted Independent/Transitional Living

Program providers. SESRC conducted telephone interviews in the fall of 2008.

Providers were asked how many youth were enrolled, received funds for housing support, and the amount of this support.

### *Exhibit 2* Program Enrollment and Housing Support, 2008

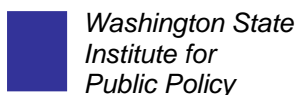
Independent/Transitional Living Program Provider Name	Participating Youth	In the last 12 months, how many youth did your program give money for housing support?	In the last 12 months, how much money did your program disperse in housing support? *
Okanogan County Community Action Council	5	n/a	n/a
Volunteers of America	140	97	\$54,870
Service Alternatives	3	3	n/a
Catholic Family & Child Services-Yakima	78	53	\$71,987
Catholic Family & Child Services-Tri-Cities	58	n/a	n/a
YouthNet	287	70	\$58,577
YMCA of Greater Seattle	321	65	\$100,870
Pierce County Alliance	104	n/a	\$30,289
West Puget Sound Youth for Christ	94	0	\$0
Community Youth Services	78	20	\$34,500
Youth Transitions	23	8	\$5,000
YWCA of Clark County	49	16	\$16,160
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>\$372,253</b>

n/a = not applicable

\* These funds represent only housing assistance provided through the Transitional Living Program. Additional housing support is available to former foster youth. Between October 1 2007 and September 30 2008, \$110,077 in Chafee Independent Living funds and \$726,271 of funds available through the Educational and Training Voucher Program were provided directly to youth by the Department of Social and Health Services. Further, in fiscal year 2008, the Independent Youth Housing Program, administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce (formerly Community, Trade and Economic Development), provided \$59,174.

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