



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
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JUL 18 2011

Office of Children, Youth & Families
Deputy Secretary's Office

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Dear Children and Youth Administrators:

I am pleased to present Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) Bulletin #3130-11-04 entitled Youth Independent Living (IL) Services Guidelines. I acknowledge the concerns raised by some county children and youth agencies (CCYA) about the number of bulletins issued recently by OCYF. We have been working to implement the changes in state and federal laws including the following: The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008; The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and The Patient Care and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

I am confident that CCYA will recognize that the IL Bulletin does not mandate new services that are not already required by existing federal or state laws, but is rather a culmination of recently enacted legislation as well as the replacement of the IL funding bulletin that was issued on an annual basis from State Fiscal Years 1988-1989 to 2008-2009. IL is now funded with a combination of state and federal funds as a Special Grant through the Children, Youth and Families Needs-Based Plan and Budget.

This IL Bulletin provides public and private agencies with guidelines for implementation of statutory requirements to support improved outcomes for eligible adolescent youth and young adults. This Bulletin includes an appendix, entitled Frequently Asked Questions and Recommendations for Implementation. The appendix was created by the Program Improvement Plan's Workgroup on Child, Youth and Family Engagement and is intended to be an easy-to-use reference containing information, tools and sample documents.

I wish to thank everyone who participated at any point, and in any way, in the development of this IL Bulletin. Please review this Bulletin and share it with your staff.

Please contact your OCYF regional office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cathy A. Utz,
Acting Deputy Secretary

c: Mr. Chuck Songer
Ms. Bernadette Bianchi