ILP Participation Makes a Difference for Oregon Foster Youth

Oregon systematically collects data about Independent Living services and outcomes for the *National Youth in Transition Database* (NYTD). We can compare these by whether youth aged 16-20 participated in **individualized transition planning and life skills coaching** through one of the 14 contracted Independent Living Program (ILP) providers across the state.

According to the most recent NYTD data[1], foster youth who had an ILP provider in 2019 were substantially **more likely to receive services** in two primary categories:

- Individualized skills coaching around topics like academic support, career preparation, financial management, housing education, and risk prevention

- Access to federal funding for education and supervised independent living

Most importantly, 19 year-olds who had an ILP provider in 2019 had **better outcomes.** Compared to eligible foster youth who were not enrolled in ILP, youth with ILP providers were:

- 1.6 times as likely to have graduated high school

- More likely to be working after high school, and almost three times as likely to be enrolled in post-secondary education/training

- More likely to have medical insurance

- Less likely to report having had children

On the other hand, those who did NOT have an ILP provider:

- Almost three times as likely to have been homeless in the past two years

- Almost five times as likely to have been incarcerated in the past two years

ILP providers are the foundation of Oregon's support for transition-age foster youth, and findings show that youth who participate in these transition planning and skill-building services benefit from having an ILP coach who is familiar with the opportunities and resources available to these young people. Over time, these improved outcomes are a return on public investment as these young adults successfully transition to independence.

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[1] This summary reports findings from analysis of Oregon NYTD data for 1373 youth who were eligible for IL services in 2019, including outcome surveys for a subgroup of 172 current and former foster youth aged 19. Analysis was conducted in January 2020 by Jennifer Blakeslee at Portland State University (jblakes@pdx.edu), and detailed findings can be provided.

Are youth being equitably engaged in Oregon ILP?

The 2019 data shows that the ILP program is doing well engaging eligible young people in racial or ethnic minorities, those recently involved with juvenile justice or experiencing a disability, and even those who are no longer connected to a caseworker. For example, the table below shows that 79% of Hispanic foster youth aged 16-20 were connected to an ILP provider in 2019, which is higher than the statewide average of 76% overall.

2019 Oregon NYTD Youth	Total eligible youth in 2019	% of eligible youth who had an ILP Provider
Foster youth aged 16-20	**1373**	**76%**
Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	37	76%
American Indian or Alaska Native	140	81%
Black or African American	167	78%
White	1107	75%
Hispanic	211	79%
Female*	798	78%
Male*	575	73%
Currently in Foster Care*	1121	80%
Formerly in Foster Care*	252	58%
Adjudicated Delinquent	20	85%
Currently in Special Education	229	80%

Indicates "statistical significance" (a meaningful statistical difference for that category).

What transition services and supports are youth getting through ILP?

The table below shows that youth with an ILP provider are much more likely to have received federal IL services. For example, 52% of youth participating in ILP received skills training around budgeting and housing, compared to 2% of the 16-20 year-olds who were not engaged in ILP.

Transition Services	# who had this service	Youth with an ILP Provider	Youth without an ILP Provider
Independent living needs assessment	676 youth	64% received this service	4% received this service
Secondary academic support	648	58%	13%
Post-secondary academic support	602	57%	3%
Career preparation	696	65%	5%
Budget and financial management	558	53%	2%
Housing education/home management	557	53%	2%
Health education/risk prevention	498	47%	2%
Family support/healthy marriage	595	54%	8%

On the other hand, within the service categories representing direct expenditures of state and federal funds to support youth, the differences are not so pronounced.

Financial Supports	# who had this service	Youth with an ILP Provider	Youth without an ILP Provider
Supervised independent living	165 youth	15% received this service	2% received this service
Room and board financial assistance	71	6%	1%
Education financial assistance	295	26%	8%
Other financial assistance	665	48%	51%

Does ILP provision improve outcomes for foster youth in Oregon?

Each year, a subset of youth completes the NYTD outcome survey—in 2019, 172 youth aged 19 reported on their outcomes. The table below shows the percentage of youth who reported each outcome by whether they had an ILP provider or not. For example, 71% of youth who were engaged with an ILP provider in 2019 have graduated high school/GED, compared to 45% among youth who did not have an ILP provider in 2019.

Positive Youth Outcomes at age 19	Youth **with** an ILP Provider	Youth **without** an ILP Provider
Has graduated high school/GED*	71% reported this outcome	45% reported this outcome
If graduated HS, currently enrolled in post-secondary)*	65%	35%
Got on-the-job training (e.g., internship, apprenticeship) in the past year	21%	12%
Currently working AND/OR enrolled in school	67%	50%
Has Medicaid or other insurance*	93%	71%
Is NOT currently receiving public financial assistance (including welfare, food, housing, or other)	67%	59%
Has NOT been homeless in the past two years	96%	89%
Has NOT been referred (or referred self) to substance abuse assessment or counseling in the past two years	96%	88%
Has NOT been incarcerated (adult or juvenile system) in the past two years*	98%	91%
Has NOT given birth/fathered a child who was born in the past two years*	89%	78%

* Indicates "statistical significance" (a meaningful statistical difference for that category).