

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 18-37

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6-MONTH TRANSITION PLAN

This FYI is to inform staff that the new [DCFS 5556](#), 6-month Transition Plan, is required for youth leaving foster care. Staff will continue to complete the [90-Day Transition Plan](#).

Background

The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative A-4 workgroup proposed revising the DCFS policy to allow more planning time for transition age youth in order for them to be prepared for locating stable housing and supportive services prior to exiting foster care. The workgroup reported that youth are discharged into unstable and temporary housing upon exiting foster care.

Although the 90-Day Transition Plan is already in practice, the 6-month Transition Plan is intended to strengthen the preparation process by adding more time for youth who may not have been identified through the implementation of AB12, which may cause homelessness. Components of the transition planning should include the identification of housing for transition age youth, identifying and assisting the family with wraparound services when a youth returns home, ensure referral information is available on community college or vocational training opportunities, and linking youth to public resources for physical and mental health needs. At a minimum, the CSW will conduct the discharge planning process at ages 17.5 and 20.5.

The goal is to enhance and align with the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) in order to achieve an effective implementation of the discharge process to ensure it is completed in a timely manner. The objective is to prevent at-risk youth from becoming homeless and to extend their ability to thrive long term and become self-sufficient. Parenting youth who emancipate will benefit by increasing their ability to keep their children, while building a strong family to thrive long term.

6-month Transition Plan

The implementation of the 6-Month Transition Plan in addition to the [90-Day Transition Plan](#), are necessary components to assist foster youth in planning to prepare to exit foster care. It is intended to provide additional time that youth can utilize resources in order to strengthen the discharge planning and provide positive outcomes that support long-term self-sufficiency to prevent homelessness. Within six (6) months of leaving foster care, the CSW is required to provide the youth the DCFS 5556, 6-month Transition Plan. The [DCFS 5556](#) requires the CSW to complete a checklist of the following:



If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:

policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov.

- Convene transition planning meetings six months before discharge in order to allow sufficient time to identify and prepare the youth for housing;
- Offer Wraparound support services to families when youth exit back to a family member's home;
- Ensure community college or vocational training, at minimum, is part of the education component of the transition plan;
- Link youth to support that promote career pathways to the workforce, e.g., Youth Source System or programs funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA);
- Increase housing/services options for non minor dependents, including Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Family Unification Program (FUP) for youth at least 18 years older and under 22 years old who left foster care at age 16 or older and lack adequate housing. FUP vouchers can provide a youth up to 18 months of housing assistance, subject to program eligibility criteria established by HUD.
- As needed, ensure access to public benefits, e.g., Cal Works and/or Cal Fresh; and,
- Seek to extend data tracking of youth beyond discharge from foster care by accurately recording on the DCFS 5556 their stated exit destination.

The 6-month Transition/Discharge Plan will provide the CSW with a framework to assist them with navigating for housing resources, employment/education needs, physical and mental health, life skills and financial literacy, at the same time of completion of the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP).