



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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May 8, 2007

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #427

### **Services for Children and Families -- Foster Youth Independence Center (Health and Family Services -- Children and Families)**

#### *Bill Agency*

[LFB 2007-09 Budget Summary: Page 319, #6 (part)]

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#### **CURRENT LAW**

A child can remain in an out-of-home care placement until he or she is 18 years of age, or, if the youth is expected to graduate from high school, 19 years of age. After this time, the youth “ages out” of out-of-home care and is expected to live independently.

The Foster Youth Independence Center (FYI) in the City of Milwaukee provides services to youths who age out of out-of-home care to assist them to live independently in their communities. FYI is the only agency in Wisconsin solely dedicated to preparing youths for this transition. FYI currently provides an intensive life skills case management program to at-risk foster youths who are within one to two years of discharge from the foster care system. This program provides: (a) high school diploma assistance; (b) help in obtaining vital records, including copies of birth certificates, state identification cards, and social security cards; (c) personal and health care; (d) college preparation; (e) mentoring and tutoring; (f) community resource referrals and advocacy; (g) employment assistance and training; (h) housing assistance; (i) home management services; and (j) help with incidental needs.

FYI also provides a supportive housing program that provides youth with the opportunity to develop life skills in a safe, supported environment. FYI master-leases individual rental units throughout the Greater Milwaukee area and subleases them to its participants. Because FYI strives to provide long-term housing solutions rather than temporary housing, FYI provides a one-year rental subsidy to help youths pay their rent. Throughout the first year, the portion paid by FYI gradually decreases and the portion paid by the youth increases.

FYI currently has a budget of \$410,000 comprised of private donations, grants from subcontractors of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare and federal funding.

## **GOVERNOR**

Provide \$50,000 PR annually from revenue the state collects from vital records fees to fund services to aid youth in making the transition from foster care to independent living. Although grant recipients are not named in the bill, the Governor's intent is to provide the funding to the Foster Youth Independence Center in the City of Milwaukee.

## **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. In addition to the intensive life skills case management program and the supportive housing program, FYI plans to begin a supervised independent living program for youth transitioning out of foster care including pregnant youths and parenting youths. This program will require youths to participate in an eight-week economic literacy program and be enrolled in a local high school full-time or in a general education development (GED)/high school equivalency diploma (HSED) program. High school seniors, graduates, and graduate equivalents receive assistance in completing forms required to receive financial aid and scholarships, scheduling of placement tests, college applications or technical college applications.

The program provides:

- Weekly school supervision, including weekly school visits, weekly tutoring, requests for school attendance reports, and direct transportation to school in the morning for youths with tardiness/absenteeism issues;
- Alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) services, including AODA assessments, counseling referrals, random drug tests for youths with AODA issues, and monthly AODA workshops for all youths;
- Food, including a \$50 monthly food voucher to a local grocery store, assistance in applying for FoodShare benefits, weekly pantry/refrigerator checks, assistance with obtaining vital records, including transporting youth to the necessary locations and paying for different vital records;
- Medical/dental assistance, including working with current physicians or locating a physician to address medical needs, paying for general assistance medical program application and assisting with sliding scale fees, working with Madra Angela Clinic to assist youth in having their dental needs addressed, and teaching youths how to access free medical and dental clinics throughout the community;

- Assistance with criminal involvement, including obtaining copies of youths' criminal records, assisting youths with addressing outstanding legal issues, attending scheduled probation meetings, and providing youths with transportation to court;
- Mental health services, including referrals to counseling centers and assistance in paying the sliding scale fees;
- Assistance with housing, including assistance in paying rent, weekly case management services to address housing, employment, and educational needs, providing a one-time \$200 stipend to purchase supplies and a, one-time emergency utility assistance stipend of up to \$75 for outstanding utility bills, assistance in purchasing bus passes, and assistance with moving expenses;
- Services for pregnant or parenting youth, including transportation to pre-natal care appointments, connections to community resources, assistance in applying for W-2 benefits and child care;
- Services for pregnancy prevention, including education about abstinence, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), teen pregnancy, safer sex, and birth control options;
- Employment assistance, including maintaining collaborative relationships with local employers to provide employment opportunities, transportation to job interviews, weekly meetings with employment specialists, and unannounced periodic visits to employment sites; and
- Recreational activities, including providing a \$30 monthly recreation expense account.

2. Many youths who age out of foster care struggle with major life problems associated with losing their support system once they turn 18. In a 2002 study by the University of Chicago Chapin Hall Center for Children, researchers found that youths aging out of foster care are underemployed, have mean earnings below the poverty level, and progress more slowly in the labor market than other youth. Other studies have found that these youths move around a lot, have very high rates of homelessness, become pregnant at higher rates than their peers, and get involved with the criminal justice system at higher rates than their peers.

3. Of the total number of children statewide who are eligible for independent living services (approximately 4,800), approximately 1,600 reside in Milwaukee County. Attachment 1 to this paper identifies the number of youths eligible for independent living services and the number receiving services, by county for 2005.

4. DHFS currently receives federal funds under the Chafee foster care independence program to provide services to youths who age out of foster care. In calendar year 2007, DHFS provided \$1,794,600 FED from this source to counties and tribes to support independent living services. Counties and tribes must use these funds for independent living services for youths in out-of-home care who are 15 years or older and for youths up to 21 years old who were in out-of-

home care for at least six months and left care after the age of 17. Counties and tribes are required to provide a 20% match either in cash, or in-kind services, for the federal funds. Counties may include community aids, local tax levy, Title IV-E incentive funds, or other local or state funds that are not used as match for other federal dollars.

5. In calendar year 2007, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) received approximately \$349,900 FED for independent living services. Attachment 2 to this paper shows independent living allocations for all counties and tribes in calendar year 2007.

6. BMCW provides funding to private organization through a competitive request for proposal process. In calendar year 2007, BMCW will provide \$236,900 to Lad Lake, \$75,300 to Children’s Family and Community Partnerships (CFCP), and \$37,700 to La Causa. In 2007, CFCP will pass through \$20,000 to FYI and La Causa will pass through \$1,200. FYI expects to serve over 150 individuals in 2007, and currently serves between 30 and 50 youths at any given time. The total budget of FYI is approximately \$385,700 annually, from a combination of public and private funds. FYI would use the \$50,000 PR to fund the supervised independent living program and existing programs.

7. Given that all counties have individuals eligible for independent living services, the Committee may not wish to allocate state funds for a program that offers services to individuals in a single geographic area of the state. However, because Milwaukee county has 1/3 of all eligible individuals, the Committee may wish to approve the Governor’s recommendation to provide \$50,000 PR from the revenue collected from vital records fees to fund services to aid youth in making the transition from foster care to independent living in Milwaukee County.

8. On the other hand, the Committee may determine that it is inappropriate to use vital records fees to fund this program, since the priority use of the fee revenue should be the state’s vital records program. If the Committee wishes to provide state support for these activities, it could provide GPR funding for FYI.

9. Finally, the Committee must weigh its desire to support this initiative with state funds with the Governor’s proposed increases in vital records fees, which are discussed in another paper. The Committee’s decision regarding the Governor’s proposed increases in vital records fees would determine the availability of vital records fee revenue to support this initiative.

**ALTERNATIVES TO BILL**

1. Approve the Governor’s recommendation to provide \$50,000 PR annually from vital records fee revenue to support FYI.

ALT 1	Change to Bill Funding	Change to Base Funding
PR	\$0	\$100,000

2. Delete the Governor’s recommendation to provide \$50,000 PR in vital records fee revenue to support FYI. Instead, provide \$50,000 GPR annually to the program.

<b>ALT 2</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>	<b>Change to Base Funding</b>
GPR	\$100,000	\$100,000
PR	<u>- 100,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$0	\$100,000

3. Delete provision.

<b>ALT 3</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>	<b>Change to Base Funding</b>
PR	- \$100,000	\$0

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Attachment



## ATTACHMENT 1

### 2005 Independent Living Annual Report Summary

<u>County/ Tribe</u>	<u>Number of Youth Eligible in 2005</u>	<u>Youth Ages 15-19 in OHC Receiving Services</u>	<u>Number of Youth Discharged 15-17 Years</u>	<u>Discharged 18-21 Receiving Services</u>	<u>Total Number of Youth Receiving Services</u>
Adams	15	4	3	8	15
Ashland	14	10	3	1	14
Barron	63	18	20	25	63
Bayfield	4	2	1	1	4
Brown	141	57	13	7	77
Buffalo	9	2	2	3	7
Burnett	37	9	3	10	22
Calumet	18	4	6	6	16
Chippewa	44	21	5	11	37
Clark	22	6	1	5	12
Columbia	31	7	9	15	31
Crawford	10	4	0	4	8
Dane	246	121	76	30	227
Dodge	83	26	8	11	45
Door	18	7	5	6	18
Douglas	13	5	2	3	10
Dunn	10	3	4	3	10
Eau Claire	21	12	5	4	21
Florence	5	4	1	0	5
Fond du Lac	117	26	20	24	70
Forest	2	0	1	1	2
Grant	8	6	1	1	8
Green	23	15	1	7	23
Green Lake	13	8	2	2	12
Iowa	13	11	0	2	13
Iron	1	1	0	0	1
Jackson	22	12	4	1	17
Jefferson	40	18	15	7	40
Juneau	6	4	0	1	5
Kenosha	331	174	0	58	232
Kewaunee	12	6	0	5	11
La Crosse	45	35	4	6	45
LaFayette	8	8	0	0	8
Langlade	9	3	0	3	6
Lincoln	3	2	1	0	3
Manitowoc	57	49	6	2	57
Marathon	114	70	25	4	99
Marinette	26	10	3	3	16
Marquette	9	5	2	2	9
Menominee	11	3	4	4	11

**ATTACHMENT 1 (continued)**

**2005 Independent Living Annual Report Summary**

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Monroe	22	17	0	4	21
Oconto	114	9	24	3	36
Oneida	10	6	3	1	10
Outagamie	85	24	5	56	85
Ozaukee	9	2	2	5	9
Pepin	4	0	0	4	4
Pierce	15	7	2	6	15
Polk	13	3	3	7	13
Portage	15	15	0	0	15
Price	24	6	4	3	13
Racine	100	46	6	48	100
Richland	12	6	3	3	12
Rock	67	61	0	6	67
Rusk	3	2	0	1	3
St. Croix	38	4	6	12	22
Sauk	29	10	8	11	29
Sawyer	24	7	3	7	17
Shawano	2	1	0	1	2
Sheboygan	107	33	15	37	85
Taylor	3	0	0	0	0
Trempealeau	10	4	0	2	6
Vernon	7	2	2	3	7
Vilas	29	3	0	0	3
Walworth	47	6	5	10	21
Washburn	18	5	3	10	18
Washington	31	16	0	5	21
Waukesha	114	52	16	37	105
Waupaca	23	9	8	6	23
Waushara	3	3	0	0	3
Winnebago	107	42	13	31	86
Wood	<u>41</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26</u>
Subtotal	2,800	1,213	389	605	2,207
Milwaukee	1,609	840	83	686	1,609
DOC	255	4	26	31	61
Ho Chunk	26	6	3	3	12
La du Flambeau	44	3	1	9	13
Lac Courte Oreilles	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	4,750	2,072	503	1,337	3,912

## ATTACHMENT 2

### 2007 Independent Living Allocations for Counties, Tribes, and the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

<u>County</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Match</u>
Adams	\$15,200	\$3,800	Monroe	\$16,500	\$4,100
Ashland	14,900	3,700	Oconto	27,800	7,000
Barron	25,200	6,300	Oneida	14,100	3,500
Bayfield	12,000	3,000	Outagamie	29,900	7,500
Brown	34,900	8,700	Ozaukee	12,000	3,000
Buffalo	12,000	3,000	Pepin	12,000	3,000
Burnett	18,200	4,600	Pierce	15,200	3,800
Calumet	15,600	3,900	Polk	14,700	3,700
Chippewa	20,500	5,100	Portage	15,200	3,800
Clark	15,600	3,900	Price	15,900	4,000
Columbia	18,500	4,600	Racine	33,000	8,300
Crawford	12,000	3,000	Richland	14,500	3,600
Dane	61,700	15,400	Rock	26,100	6,500
Dodge	25,400	6,400	Rusk	12,000	3,000
Door	15,800	4,000	St Croix	18,300	4,600
Douglas	14,400	3,600	Sauk	18,100	4,500
Dunn	14,100	3,500	Sawyer	12,000	3,000
Eau Claire	16,400	4,100	Shawano	12,000	3,000
Florence	12,000	3,000	Sheboygan	32,200	8,100
Fond du Lac	31,600	7,900	Taylor	12,000	3,000
Forest	12,000	3,000	Trempealeau	12,000	3,000
Grant	12,000	3,000	Vernon	12,000	3,000
Green	16,800	4,200	Vilas	15,400	3,900
Green Lake	14,600	3,700	Walworth	19,100	4,800
Iowa	14,700	3,700	Washburn	15,800	4,000
Iron	12,000	3,000	Washington	17,500	4,400
Jackson	16,100	4,000	Waukesha	35,000	8,800
Jefferson	20,400	5,100	Waupaca	16,800	4,200
Juneau	12,000	3,000	Waushara	12,000	3,000
Kenosha	71,100	17,800	Winnebago	32,300	8,100
Kewaunee	14,400	3,600	Wood	19,000	4,800
La Crosse	21,500	5,400	BMCW	<u>349,900</u>	<u>87,500</u>
LaFayette	12,000	3,000	Subtotal	\$1,701,000	\$425,800
Langlade	12,000	3,000	<b>Tribe</b>		
Lincoln	12,000	3,000	Ho Chunk	\$16,000	\$4,000
Manitowoc	24,000	6,000	Lac Courte Oreilles	14,700	3,700
Marathon	34,400	8,600	Lac du Flambeau	18,000	4,500
Marinette	16,400	4,100	DOC Div. of Juv.		
Marquette	12,000	3,000	Corrections	\$45,200	\$11,300
Menominee	14,300	3,600	Total Counties, Tribes & DJC	\$1,794,900	\$449,30

