

TLC Child and Family Services works to ensure that all foster youth have the opportunity to experience a safe, supported transition from foster care. Through the housing program and along with an academic enrichment program, counseling and community education, we help youths gain the skills to live independently and succeed on their own.

TLC provides services to young adults, 16-24 year of ages, who are preparing to age out of foster care or who have recently aged out of care. Once discharged from foster care, there are limited public or community-based services available for these young adults. Instead of receiving support and guidance during this critical transition, former foster youth are without housing, a source of income, adult encouragement, or community support. Without these critical resources, youths are significantly more likely to experience homelessness, poverty, low educational attainment and poor health than other youths their age.

Ask yourself, "If were an adolescent in foster care and have no parents or guardians, how would I succeed in independent living?" Many of us remember that stressful age and the challenges of making good choices for our future.

In 2005, TLC Child and Family Services began operating the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) with the County of Sonoma Social Services Department. Adolescents between 16-19 years of age are helped to transition into successful independent living. In 2007, the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) program was inaugurated with goals of continued support and assistance to young adults, ages 18-24. Between the two programs, TLC is licensed to work with (30) THPP adolescents and contracted to work with 15 THP-Plus young adults. TLC can also accept referrals from other counties for these housing programs.

Transitional Housing Programs give young adults the opportunity to learn critical life skills from professional staff. Once accepted into the program, a host home, apartment or rental unit is provided as well as furnishings. TLC works with and needs motivated landlords and homeowners to find safe, clean and affordable housing. An individualized program is developed with the young adult where they learn life skills necessary for independence.

Participant eligibility requirements for both programs include: must be referred by the County of Sonoma Social Services Department, must be between the ages of 16-19 years for THPP and 18-24 for THP-Plus, must demonstrate maturity and readiness for independent living, must attend a high school, GED program, junior college, vocational program or have a job, must be committed to a drug and alcohol free lifestyle, and must agree to participate actively in individualized life skills plan development.

For further information on the THPP or THP-Plus programs, please contact Lisa Rohe, Psy.D., Director of Transitional Housing at (707) 528-3020, extension 202 or e-mail to lisa@tlc4kids.org.

Wishes From Young Adults

Starter home needs for independent living

Young people who are transitioning into independent living have very limited resources to start them off in their community. You can help our young people with an Independent Living Kit that starts them in a one-bedroom apartment with bright, new belongings for their first home.

Cost	Description of Household Needs	
\$ 225	Bedding & Bathroom	Mattress Pad, Blanket, Bed Spread, (2) Sheet Set, (2) Towel Sets
\$ 650	Bedroom Furniture	Bed & Mattress, Dresser, Night Stand, Lamp
\$ 450	Kitchen Setup	Dining Room Table, Microwave, Dishes, Silverware, Pots & Pans, Toaster, Cooking Utensils
\$ 450	Living Room	TV, Small Stereo DVD Player, Coffee Table, End Table
\$ 250	Miscellaneous	Vacuum Cleaner, Iron & Ironing Board, Cleaning Products, Storage Containers, Paper Products, Dust Pan, Broom, Mop
Total Cost * \$ 2025	Total Startup for apartment	* For those youths and young adults who are going to school or who are actively job hunting, a computer, printer and basic supplies is an additional \$ 1100

Treat our TLC kids to a shopping trip for their first home!

When a foster youth or young adult begins the transition into independent living in their communities, there are many incidental needs that they may be confronted with. A gift certificate makes it possible for a young person to deal with the day to day financial challenges.

Bookstores: Borders, Copperfield's, Barnes & Noble,

Fast Foods: Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Arby's, Taco Bell, Subway, Dominos, Appleby's, Burger King.

Clothing: Kohl's, Penney's, Marshall's, Mervyn's, Old Navy.

Entertainment: Toys-R-Us, Movie Theaters, Blockbuster Video, Circuit City, Best Buy.

General: Wal Mart, Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Safeway, Long's, Trader Joes.

Groceries: Safeway, Trader Joe's

Telephone: Metro PCS

Gifts cards and checks made payable to TLC may be sent to: TLC Child and Family Services, Attention: Donations, 1800 N. Gravenstein Hwy, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

We appreciate your gift. TLC is a 501(c)3 organization, #68-0008634 for tax deductible purposes.



Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)

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Many of our foster care youths between the ages of 16-19 have no adult in their lives to help guide them towards independence. The goal of THPP is to help youths emancipate successfully by providing a safe environment for them to practice the life skills necessary to live independently. Participants may live alone or with roommates in apartments and single-family dwellings. Regular support and supervision is provided by TLC staff that includes social workers and childcare workers.

Currently, TLC is licensed to work with 30 youths between the ages of 16-19 residing in Sonoma County. TLC support services include:

- Regular visits to participants' residences by TLC staff
- Life skill training
- Educational guidance
- Employment counseling
- Crisis intervention by TLC staff
- Assistance reaching emancipation goals identified in Transitional Independent Living Plan

Once accepted into the program, a host home or apartment rental unit is provided. In addition, TLC provides basic furniture and household appliances along with miscellaneous furnishings. Students are also eligible for scholarships from TLC's Children's Enrichment Fund.

A Transitional Independent Living Plan is completed by TLC staff and the participant.

TLC participants work on a variety of life skills necessary for independence:

- Maintain a clean and safe living environment
- Develop career goals
- Seek and maintain employment
- Create and follow a budget
- Maintain a checking and savings account
- Learn respectful communication
- Utilize community resources for health care and transportation needs
- Plan meals using economical decisions and healthful eating guides
- A foster care youth enrolled in the THPP program can receive services for 24 months.



Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus)

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The California Department of Social Services gathered information on emancipating foster and probation youth housing issues. “The Report on the Housing Needs of Emancipated Foster/Probation Youth,” indicated that 65 percent of the 4,355 youth who emancipated from foster care during the 2000-2001 fiscal year were in need of safe and affordable housing. Legislation was passed to provide assistance with housing.

THP-Plus is a transitional housing placement opportunity for young adults, aged 18-24, who have emancipated from the child welfare system. The goal of the program is to provide a safe living environment and life skills instruction in order to achieve self-sufficiency. Currently, TLC is contracted to work with 15 young adults, ages 18-24 years, in Sonoma County.

TLC Support services include:

- Regular visits to participants’ residences by TLC staff
- Life skill training
- Educational guidance
- Employment counseling
- Crisis intervention by TLC staff
- Assistance reaching emancipation goals identified in Transitional Independent Living Plan

Once accepted into the program, a host home or apartment rental unit is provided. In addition, TLC provides basic furniture and household appliances along with miscellaneous furnishings. Students are also eligible for scholarships from TLC’s Children’s Enrichment Fund.

A Transitional Independent Living Plan is completed by TLC staff and the participant.

TLC participants work on a variety of life skills necessary for independence:

- Maintain a clean and safe living environment
- Develop career goals
- Seek and maintain employment
- Create and follow a budget
- Maintain a checking and savings account
- Learn respectful communication
- Utilize community resources for health care and transportation needs
- Plan meals using economical decisions and healthful eating guides
- Former foster youth can receive services for 24 months.

Supporting the future leaders of tomorrow . . .

Attention: Landlord or Homeowner

How can you help these young people who desperately want an opportunity to transition into independent living?

For both transitional housing programs to succeed, TLC partners with landlords and homeowners for safe apartments and homes for adolescents who meet the criteria for independent living.

If you have a room in your house or an apartment that you want rented, TLC can help you. You will house a reliable young adult as a tenant who is supervised by professional staff. Both the landlord and our youth benefit in this win-win situation.

How does it work? TLC will be the lessee, provide the deposit, and verify move-in condition of the home or apartment. TLC is able to pay competitive rates for apartment rentals or room rentals. Each landlord is assigned a TLC staff who schedules a weekly on-site visit with the THPP or THP-Plus client. Our landlords are an integral part of the success of this statewide effort to provide community housing to foster care youths.

Join our commitment to help young people emancipate successfully into productive members of our Sonoma County communities.

For more information, please contact Lisa Rohe, Psy.D., Director of Transitional Housing at (707) 528-3020 extension 202 or send an e-mail lisa@tlc4kids.org.

