

The Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) is excited to announce the new collaboration between PCOE and Child Advocates of Placer County, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) as the new provider for Independent Living Program (ILP). PCOE has been part of the Children's System of Care for over 31 years providing services to foster youth and now with Child Advocates we have an opportunity to further enhance this collaboration for youth participating in ILP.

Together we are strongly positioned to deliver high quality ILP services to local foster youth and bring together unique qualifications, experience, and access to the social services and education community where foster youth are living and learning. PCOE and Child Advocates will begin to work closely with Unity Care as we transition to ILP service providers in the most trauma-informed, youth-centered way possible.

Our plan includes the following components:

- Three dedicated ILP staff, including a full-time Program Manager and 2 full-time Support Practitioners. These staff will be available year-round, during flexible hours (including evenings and weekends), and based on the needs of the youth they are serving. Staff will also be co-located at CSOC and Child Advocates, to ensure collaboration and communication with Social Workers, Probation Officers, and other embedded community partners.
- Services for youth aged 14-21. We are currently serving many youth participating in ILP through our Foster/ Homeless/CSEC Services Program and the Come Back educational program which assists adults to return to school and receive a High School Diploma.
- Life Skills Workshops, designed with the input of a Curriculum Committee that will include 3 former foster youth who are now PCOE employees. These monthly workshops will be customized based on the ages and needs of the youth and offered in various locations in the community. Workshops will be available for youth up to age 24.
- Partnership with Child Advocates, including accompanying some ILP youth to supportive trainings. CASA and Mentor volunteers will also participate in a corresponding workshop at the same time as youth and provide connection to a caring adult mentor.
- Workshop Facilitators, PCOE ILP staff, and county/community partners will receive specialized training and coaching in creating safe and positive workshop environments; in-class behavior management and acknowledgment systems; and trauma-informed pedagogy.
- Outreach and Enrichment services, delivered to all eligible ILP youth residing in and/or attending school in Placer County, which will include Independent City; monthly independent living workshops; and field trips to local colleges, trade schools, and cultural landmarks.
- Group Mental Health Services, for youth struggling with emerging mental health needs.
- Individual Case Management Services, provided by PCOE ILP staff in collaboration with Child Advocates and CSOC, will be conducted with a trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, youth-development focused lens. Special attention will be provided to youth who are at risk of losing their home placement; youth with mental health needs; and youth at risk of or involved in commercial sexual exploitation.
- Job Readiness Services will be provided in collaboration with PCOE's Transition Partnership Program (TPP), Career/Technical Education Program, and community employment agencies who are already serving multiple foster youth.
- Information and Referral to Community Services, provided by trained ILP staff, and strongly informed by our expert Foster/Homeless Student Support Practitioners who have established relationships with most community providers in Placer County.