

Date of Application: _____

I. The following Agreement has been entered into by and between:

Tennessee Department of Children's Services - Office of Independent Living							
UBS Building, 315 Deaderick Street Nashville, TN 37243							
Office Address							
Hereafter called the "Agency", and							
Young Adult's Full Name							
Electronic Records System Person ID							
Young Adult's Address						Telephone Number	
City				State			Zip Code
Last 4 of SSN			DOB			E-Mail Address	
County of Jurisdiction					County of Residence		

II. Guidelines for Young Adults to Receive Payments

A. Purpose

The goal of this direct payment process is to provide young adults receiving Bright Futures services an Independent Living Allowance to assist their transition to adulthood. The Independent Living Allowance is a means by which a foster care maintenance payment can be provided directly to eligible young adults living in supervised Independent Living settings. These guidelines apply to young adults who are eligible according to DCS Policy [16.53](#) Eligibility for Independent Living Services, Sections B, and C.

B. Who Will Benefit

These guidelines apply to young adults 18 years of age up to their 23rd birthday. Young adults may remain eligible if making satisfactory progress on their Transition Plan goals.

Satisfactory progress is defined as:

- ♦ Maintaining sufficient enrollment and academic progress to complete an approved educational program (within a reasonable timeframe) as defined by the institution; or
- ♦ Maintain employment at least 80 hours per month or have consistent participation in a program that removes barriers to employment; or
- ♦ Continuing to meet the criteria for transition to services for adults with special needs.

C. Eligibility Criteria:

Young adults must meet all of the following criteria to receive the direct pay (Independent Living Allowance) resource option.

- ◆ Young adults must be receiving Bright Futures Services as an Adult per the eligibility criteria set forth in DCS Policy [16.52](#), Sections A and B and DCS Policy [16.53](#), Sections B and C.
- ◆ Young adults must be age 18 or older and not receiving funds to support placement in a foster home, residential treatment facility, or independent living program that includes room and board covered by DCS, or receiving other assets or sources of funding that would make them ineligible per policy.
- ◆ Young adults must be residing in their own apartment or other approved, supervised independent living setting (such as a college dorm).
- ◆ Young adults must complete financial management training, must have met with an Independent Living Program Specialist, and sign all required paperwork. Young adults are encouraged to open a bank account and select electronic funds transfer as a means of receiving payments.

III. Payment/Rates

Rate (select one)		Effective Date
<input type="checkbox"/> ILA Parenting	\$30.86/day	
<input type="checkbox"/> ILA Regular	\$28.05/day	
<input type="checkbox"/> ILA Graduated	\$7.03/day	

In accordance with the guidelines established by the Department of Children's Services' foster care rate structure, the Independent Living Allowance payments shall be paid based on a daily rate for the number of days in the current month of eligibility.

The amount of this payment (Independent Living Allowance) is based on the guidelines established in policy, the young adult's needs, and their individual circumstances. The payment amount has been determined by mutual agreement between the young adult and the Agency and will not exceed the established amount.

Payment rates shall be adjusted by the Department of Children's Services as necessary, without generating a new contract, to ensure that the young adult receives the appropriate stipend amount given their current circumstance. For example, if a young person becomes a parent, the Department shall adjust the stipend rate from the ILA Regular or ILA Graduated rate to the ILA Parenting rate. Changes in the circumstances of the young adult including living arrangements, inability to maintain financial matters, employment, and education may result in changes in the maximum allowable payment and/or eligibility. Documentation of changes in the young adult's needs or circumstances will be required. It is understood that the young adult will use a verification system each pay period to acknowledge continued eligibility for this service, that the address has not changed and that the payment dates and amount are correct.

Independent Living Allowance Agreement

By affixing my signature hereto, I affirm the terms of the agreement. Changes in the circumstances of the young adult including living arrangements, inability to maintain financial matters, employment, and education may result in changes in the maximum allowable payment and/or eligibility. Documentation of changes in the young adult's needs or circumstances will be required.

Initial the following:

_____ I am fully aware of the eligibility criteria for the Independent Living Allowance.

_____ If there are any changes in my circumstances, including living arrangements, school enrollment, or employment status, I will immediately contact my Worker and Independent Living Specialist.

Young Adult's Signature

Date

IL Program Specialist

Date

IL Program Director/Designee

Date

☐ Approved

☐ Denied

Effective Date
