



## FACT SHEET: Independent Living Fund

**REQUEST:** Maintain funding for Independent Living Fund.

### **What is the Independent Living Fund?**

- Up to \$3,000 available to each youngster who leaves Foster Care between the ages of 18 and 21, and who will be living independently.
- Funds are available based on an individual plan created by the youth and his/her adult "team."
- Funds can be requested up to 6 months before or 6 months after leaving care.
- Between 30 and 40 young people are eligible each year.

### **Funding History**

- Initial funding of \$100,000 added by Board of Legislators to 2007 Budget.
- In subsequent years, this amount has been included in the County Executive's budget and upheld by the Board of Legislators.

### **Program Outcomes**

- As DSS and foster care agency staff members have learned how to use the fund, increasing numbers of young people have benefitted. In 2009, it is estimated that 35 young people will receive grants.

### **Future Directions**

- Independent Living Fund total requested for 2010: \$100,000
- Analyze utilization of the fund according to age of recipient, use of funds, and comparative status of young people who receive grants vs. those who do not.