

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING
AFTERCARE SERVICES NOTIFICATION &
ROOM AND BOARD POLICY**

Purpose: The purpose of this form is to notify the youth that Aftercare services are available and to inform youth of WCCB IL program's policy with regard to usage of Room & Board funds.

Aftercare Services

The Westmoreland County Children's Bureau Independent Living Program (WCCB IL) offers services to IL eligible youth after they have left agency care up until the youth turns 21. These **Aftercare** services are offered on an as-needed basis and are only by request of the youth. Once the youth exits agency custody it is the responsibility of the youth to keep WCCB IL program informed of contact information and to stay in touch with their IL Social Worker. Services that are available for Aftercare include needs assessment, goal planning, life skills classes, referrals to community resources, and one on one assistance with an Independent Living Social Worker. Other services include support and financial assistance on a contractual basis to address the areas of housing, education, employment, life skills, and prevention. Once a youth has been inactive with the IL Aftercare program for a period of 6 months, their case will be closed. If the youth would need assistance after that time, the youth can contact WCCB IL program and request assistance at any time until the youth turns 21.

Room and Board

Room and Board services/funds are meant to assist youth who have "aged out," (exited agency custody on or after their 18th birthday) of agency custody only. These funds can be used to assist with, "payment or reimbursements for shelter, food, security deposits, utilities, furniture, household items and other start-up expenses that may be incurred for youth who have exited substitute care on or after age 18. These funds may also be used to meet one-time start-up expenses for youth age 18-21 who opt to remain in, or re-enter agency custody and for whom the court resumes dependency jurisdiction. These funds may not be used to supplement personal incidental costs (food, clothing, shelter) of a Supervised Independent Living Placement setting or current foster family care per diem rate (IL Bulletin 2014). Room and Board services must be requested and utilized prior to a youth's 21st birthday. The youth must be an active participant in IL services in order to utilize these funds, unless it is otherwise approved by the IL coordinator.

The following support is available to the youth:

Emergency Room and Board

This short-term arrangement is available if you are at risk of homelessness or to prevent potentially serious conditions that may jeopardize your physical health. Other options must be explored prior to the request for Emergency Room and Board and while using these funds. Payments are made to the housing resource on your behalf for no more than 20 nights. You must work with the IL coordinator/IL

Social Worker on a daily basis to find more stable housing. The length of stay and approval for use of these funds will be determined by the IL coordinator.

Room and Board Step Down Program

This short term arrangement is meant to assist you while transitioning to a permanent housing arrangement. In order to utilize these funds IL Social Worker/IL Coordinator must be given a copy of a signed lease to keep in the file. Bills or receipts will also be requested for any of the following that is not listed in the lease. You may be eligible for payments/reimbursement for the following:

- Security deposit,
- Start-up costs (furniture, dishes, other household items),
- Rent/Utility assistance such as:
Month 1 (100%)
Month 2 (75%)
Month 3 (50%)
Month 4 (25%)

The actual amount of Room and Board stipends may vary and is not guaranteed. Payment or reimbursement is based on the youth's need, their participation in the IL program, whether or not they are working towards goals established in their IL/Transition Plan, and the availability of the funds.

I, _____, have read, understand, and agree with the above information.

Youth signature Date

IL Coordinator/IL Social Worker signature Date