Dear Colleague:

Enclosed is the bulletin for 2006-2007 Title IV-E Independent Living (IL) Grant Application Guidelines. This document has been developed by the Office of Children, Youth and Families to transmit guidelines for the preparation and submission of county children and youth agency applications. Additional information regarding guidelines and requirements helpful for the successful development and implementation of county IL programs are also contained in this bulletin. Included in this material is important information regarding changes in the operation of the IL program.

Counties are strongly encouraged to re-familiarize themselves with the information and layout of this bulletin upon receipt. Changes have been made to refine necessary information and reduce duplication. The deadline for submitting the FY 2006-2007 application is May 2, 2006.

Funding of county IL programs need not be based strictly on the Title IV-E IL funding stream, and counties should further develop programming to improve outcomes by utilizing state and local funds through the county needs-based planning and budgeting process. The inclusion of additional non-Title IV-E IL funds in IL programs also allows for more creative servicing and applications than allowable under the provisions of The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. As an example, non-eligible IL youth known to the agency may be referred to and participate in an IL program or part of a program such as instructional groups or prevention services. By utilizing other, non-Title IV-E, funding of such services, a county is better able to take advantage of Title IV-E funds for allowable expenditures for youth between the ages of 18 and 21, such as room and board expenses.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication in working towards the goals of the program and the youth in need of IL skills and assistance. Should you request further information, please contact Mr. Angelo Santore at (717) 772-7012 or email at asantore@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Hardy

Enclosure