Dear Colleague:

Enclosed is the bulletin for the State Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Title IV-E Independent Living (IL) Grant Application Guidelines. This document has been developed by the Department of Public Welfare, 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. Important information regarding changes in the operation of the IL program is also included.

Counties are strongly encouraged to re-familiarize themselves with the information and layout of this bulletin. Changes have been made to refine necessary information and reduce duplication. The deadline for submitting the FY 2007-2008 application is Wednesday, May 9, 2007.

IL programs may be funded with a combination of funds. The Title IV-E IL funding stream is the primary source of funds but need not be the sole source of funds for services to youth. County agencies may want to consider planning now for enhanced programming in the future that will improve outcomes for youth who are transitioning. Utilizing state and local funds through the county needs-based planning and budgeting process in combination with non-Title IV-E IL funds may allow for more creative servicing and applications than allowable solely 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 for these services, a county may be 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. Dave Derbes at (717) 705-2911 or email at cderbes@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

[BethAnn M. Smetak]

Enclosure

CC: Mr. Anderson
    Mr. Reiland
    Mr. Songer
    Ms. Robbins