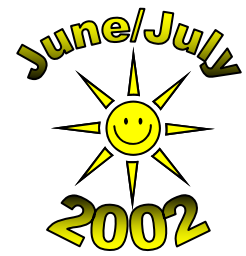




The Update



Pennsylvania's Independent Living (IL) Project Newsletter

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROJECT 2002 STATE CONFERENCE

The IL Annual State Conference was held this year at the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA. Almost 100 people attended the event, which started Wednesday June 12 with a New Staff Reception, an informal information sharing session. The full conference began on Thursday and ran through Friday. This year a track registration method was used which allowed participants to obtain a more concentrated knowledge base than several ½ day sessions allows. Tracks this year consisted of both an experienced and a new worker session, Transition, Diversity and Specialized IL Services. Workshop topics also covered an assorted array of topics from Developing the Adolescent: Facing the Past, Focusing on the Present, Forging the Future to Developing Effective Interagency Collaboration Skills. Due to a more involved role of the Competency Based Training and Certification Program certificates from this year's events will be mailed out to participants for each individual workshop attended. Certificates should be mailed out by the end of summer. The University of Pittsburgh ILP and DPW would like to thank all those who participated and helped to make the conference a success. Next, the planning begins for the 4 one-day regional conferences to be held in October of this year. Feedback from the Annual Conference evaluation is being tabulated and will be used in developing the topics/workshops for your regional trainings. Any ideas, suggestions or questions you may have for this event can be given to Lenore at the ILP at 717-795-9048.

2002-2003 COUNTY ALLOCATION LETTERS

Currently DPW is finalizing letters to inform counties of their Title IV-E IL allocation for FY 2002-2003. The allocations are based on federal allotments to states. Funding for PA is estimated to be lower than previous years. Every attempt will be made to maintain county allocation at the FFY 01-02 amounts.

2002-2003 IL SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for submitting IL Scholarship Applications was Friday July 5, 2002. The review process will begin July 10. After all applications are reviewed, youths will be notified of receipt of their materials and of any revisions needed in order to make the application complete. Scholarship funds will be available no later than October 31, 2002 and must be accessed (for either the fall or spring semester) no later than December 15, 2002. Funds will be delivered to the applicant's school in both the name of the scholarship recipient and the school. Scholarship recipients must access the funds by December 15, 2002 or risk losing their eligibility to access the funds for the 2002-2003 academic year. Every effort will be made to distribute scholarship funds in a timely fashion for the greatest benefit to the student.

DESTINATION FUTURE

Scholarship applications for the 2002 Destination Future conference have been mailed with a return deadline of July 22. Annually the University of Pittsburgh, as made possible by the Department of Public Welfare, sponsors at least 2 staffs and 2 youth to attend the Destination Future Conference, which this year is being held in Chevy Chase, Maryland. For more information, or if you did not receive an application, please contact Lenore at 717-795-9048.

NEW STAFF AT THE U OF PITT ILP

On July 15, 2002 the University of Pittsburgh IL Project will welcome Idotress Joseph as the new IL Specialist. Idotress' key responsibilities will be providing site visits and technical assistance to counties across the state. The next edition of the Update will include a profile on Idotress so you can learn more about her.

CHANGES IN THE IL FISCAL YEAR

The Department of Public Welfare is currently considering a change in the IL program to the state fiscal year. Currently, the fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30. The proposed plan would change the start and end of the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 respectively. This change will align IL with other programs that are funded on the state fiscal year and promote uniformity in fiscal reporting. Anyone with feedback, questions or concerns about this change can direct them to William Wilson at 717-214-3810.

PILOTS UPDATE

Currently, the ILP is taking the steps necessary to ensure the youth reporting forms you have submitted are appropriately tracking youth and their movement in your programs. Within the next several weeks Crystal Bittinger and other CBT staff will be printing county status reports and sending the information to counties so data entered can be compared to data submitted. If you have any questions about the submission of your forms please feel free to contact Crystal at 717-795-9048 ext 214. While Crystal's primary role is not IL Data Entry, she will continue to maintain this role until a new data entry staff is hired.

"GROWING PAINS" NATIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING CONFERENCE FOR ADULTS & YOUTH

AUGUST 7-10, 2002, WESTIN CROWN CENTER, KANSAS CITY, MO

Now in its 15th year, this conference is a must-attend event for youth service professionals, independent living professionals and youth ages 15+. Presenters include top leaders and experts in the field of independent living. Workshops, keynote speakers, panel discussions, roundtables and general sessions will address a wide variety of important topics. The national youth conference is comprised of special sessions dedicated to the needs of youth ages 15+ who are currently in care. These include training sessions, workshops, panel discussions and leadership/team building activities. For additional information please contact the Daniel Memorial Institute at 4203 Southpoint Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32216 or Wendy Manasco, Conference Coordinator at 904-296-1055 ext 1013 or by e-mail at wmanasco@danielkids.org

PA ILP and DPW CONTACT INFORMATION

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