

Independent Living Checklist for Approved Facility Schools

The Independent Living Checklist is intended to provide information and experiences to assist the student to be successful and contributing members of the community after graduation and facility placement.

It is not expected that every student would complete every item on the checklist. The checklist should be used as a guide in considering options which may be valuable for an individual student.

Assisting students with the items listed may be the responsibility of facility treatment staff, case workers, family or other responsible adults. Teachers or education staff are not required to be the adult responsible and the activities do not need to be completed during school time. Education staff should work together with the other service providers and responsible adults in the student's life to determine which items are a priority for each student and how each will be accomplished.

The means of collecting and storing important information for the student should be considered. Some information could be maintained on-line in the student's College in Colorado account. Other options include compiling information on a CD or jump drive.

Important documents (all items in this section are required)

- Driver's License or State ID or other Photo ID Note: for students who are immigrants or refugees with no documentation, work with the Dept of Human services or Dept. of Immigration to obtain needed ID documents
- Transcripts and Diploma
- Birth certificate/SS card and how to replace if lost

Community Resources (at least 3 items from the section are required)

- Public Transportation
- Religious or spiritual supports and resources
- ELL/ESL services in community
- Independent living classes (cooking, financial literacy classes through Young Americans bank, etc.)
- Leisure activities in community/List of recreation centers
- Access to legal services

- Knowledge of the difference between entitlement programs and voluntary programs and how to apply for relevant services
- Library card (to use computer, resources) or how to obtain one in the community where the student will be living

Financial (all items in this section are required)

- Knowledge of how to obtain open a checking or banking account, or documentation of current accounts
- Knowledge of how to establish credit
- Signing agreements (rental, cars, etc.)
- Basic information regarding filing taxes, how to get forms, resources for assistance
- Information on how to obtain insurance (health, car, renter, etc.)

Education (at least one item from this section is required)

- Adult Education options
- Division of voc rehab training and resources
- Post secondary education and training options
- Options for financial aid
- College in Colorado account

Housing (all items in the section are required)

- Information about housing resources
- Information about applying for utilities
- Information about setting up phone services, cell or landlines

Employment (all items in the section are required)

- Resume and cover letter
- Experiences with mock interviews or actual interviews

- Information about how to access the Dept. of Human Services, Workforce, or other employment resources and contact information for agencies where the student will live
- Accessing applications on line (jobs, etc)
- Knowing how to dress appropriately for job interviews
- Self-advocacy skills

Medical (all items in this section are required)

- Information regarding urgent care vs. emergency room services
- Plan for accessing medical care
- Selection of a primary care physician or knowledge of how to select one
- Plan for how to access needed medications
- Resources for family planning and reproductive health
- Mental health resources

Other (specific items required as noted)

- Registration for Selective Service if applicable
- Three support people (phone numbers, contact info) (this item is required)
- Disc, cd, jump drive or other means of maintaining all personal information
- Voter registration or knowledge of how to register in the community where the student will be living (this item is required)
- Volunteer experiences
- Information on internet protocols and implication (i.e. potential employers may view Facebook postings) (this item is required)