



## DHS CONTRACT

### ***What Are The Terms of My DHS Contract?***

Your DHS Contract is different than a Conciliation Consent order because your case with CYF and juvenile court will close. You will still be involved and receiving some financial assistance, through the terms on the DHS Contract, with the Allegheny County Independent Living Initiative (ILI).

Your DHS Contract will address the following things:

1. Your name and date of birth
2. The name of your school, or that you are generally enrolled and attending a post-secondary education program full time to your abilities.
3. The amount of your daily stipend, which you will receive year round while you are going to school and continuing to follow the terms of the agreement and have provided your class schedule to ILI to demonstrate you are enrolled. You can receive this until age 21, or when your program ends, whichever occurs first.
4. The DHS Contract will also indicate the ability to receive reimbursement for books and supplies with a class schedule and original receipt, provided you are attending a program where the books and supplies would not otherwise be included in the cost of the program OR covered by the refund you receive (ex., CCAC.)
5. The rules and conditions, listed below, that you must abide by in order for the court order to continue to be valid.

### ***What Are The Rules And Conditions of My DHS Contract?***

1. You must attend one Summer Senior Meeting run by the Independent Living Initiative group from DHS if at all possible. Check with your ILI worker to see if there are meetings available to you or if they can meet with you individually.
2. During the school year, you must maintain monthly contact with someone from ILI. You can send an e-mail or call the ILI caseworker assigned to your case. If you do not know who that is or you do not have an ILI worker, you can call JoAnn Hannah at 412-350-7153 or e-mail her at [JoAnn.Hannah@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:JoAnn.Hannah@AlleghenyCounty.US) (See handout provided with the names and contact information for all of the ILI workers.)
3. You must attend school full time to your ability. Remember, that for full time students that this is a minimum of 24 credits per year otherwise your financial aid might be in jeopardy. If you are a non-traditional post-secondary education program, you must be full time to meet that program's requirements (ex, apprenticeship with steamfitters union.) If you have any questions about what it means to be full time to your program, please ask your ILI educational liaison, who can help you register and enroll for classes at any post-secondary education program.



4. You must provide your grades at the conclusion of every semester to someone at ILI. This will be the same person that you are keeping in touch with on a monthly basis.
5. You must abide by the rules of the school and not get into any trouble. In addition, you must not be convicted of a crime or plead guilty to any crime. If you are over the age of 18 and have a criminal issue, you may be eligible for a public defender and should contact their office at 412-350-2400.
6. You must not engage in any drug or alcohol use. If at any time, you are struggling with substance abuse, you can seek treatment and your ILI caseworker can help refer you to programs for assistance.
7. You must let ILI know where you are residing (address) and provide them a way to get in touch with you, such as e-mail or cell phone number. Similar to the Conciliation Orders, you cannot reside with a parent/legal guardian or an intimate partner (boyfriend or girlfriend). This financial assistance to help you through school is for young adults who do not have anyone else that is supporting them. You may be residing in your apartment, either Action Housing or housing you identified, and you may have roommates provided that you have talked to your ILI worker about where you are living.

***What if I have questions about my stipend payments?***

***What if I need to update someone about my address, phone number or e-mail address?***

***What if I need to find out who my Independent Living worker is or need services or assistance?***

You can always contact JoAnn Hannah, the ILI Director, at 412-350-7153 or [joann.hannah@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:joann.hannah@allegHENYcounty.us) with any questions or reference the ILI contact sheet and contact your assigned worker directly. Other important things to know:

- Bus passes are not included in DHS contract agreements
- If you decide to take a semester off of school, your DHS stipend will stop. It can start back up again as soon as you get back into a school or program and provide ILI with your class schedule.
- If you have closed after age 17 years and 9 months, you are always eligible to ask the court to resume jurisdiction on your case if you are struggling being out there on your own.