NMD in Non-Approved Placement

Key Terms

* **EFC**: Extended Foster Care
* **NMD**: Non Minor Dependent
* **TILP**: Transitional Independent Living Plan
* **TILCP**: Transitional Independent Living Case Plan
* **SILP**: Supervised Independent Living Placement

What is an Approved Placement?

* An approved placement required a conversation between the social worker and caregiver to determine the needs of the NMD, the ability of the caregiver to provide for those needs, and ensure the safety of everyone in the home. This process is not necessary for already approved placements (e.g. transitional housing, campus housing, foster home etc.)
* The existing range of placement options is available for NMDs through EFC include: approved relative, non-related extended family member (NREFM), foster family home (FFH), foster family agency (FFA), small family home, whole family foster homes, group home (under limited circumstances), transitional housing placement program (THPP)

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| Option | Licensed or Approved | Additional Supportive  Services | Monthly Foster Care Payment | Monthly Infant Supplement for Parenting youth | Shared Responsibility Plan for Parenting Youth | Specialized Care Increment for Special Needs Youth |
| Relative or Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM) | Approved | No | Yes, caregiver receives it | Yes, caregiver receives it | Yes | Yes |
| Family Foster Home (including whole family homes & regional center homes) | Licensed | No | Yes, caregiver receives it | Yes, caregiver receives it | Yes | Yes |
| Foster Family Agency (FFA) Certified Homes | Licensed | Yes | Yes, caregiver receives it | Yes, caregiver receives it | No | No |
| THP - Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) | Licensed | Yes | Yes, THP+FC provider receives it | Yes, caregiver receives it | No | No |

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

**TILP Participation Requirements**

Youth must satisfy 1 of the following 5 requirements as documented in the youth’s TILP:

* Be enrolled in high school or equivalent
* Be enrolled in college/vocational school
* Work at least 80 hours per month
* Participate in a program/activity that helps the youth find a job or removes barriers to employment
* Be unable to do one of the above because of a medical or mental health condition

**TILP vs. TILCP**

These are two separate, yet closely related documents.

* The Transitional Independent Living Case Plan (TILCP) describes the goals and objectives of how the NMD will make progress in transitioning to living independently, and includes sections of the court report narrative. TILCP addresses the supportive services to ensure meaningful participation in one or more of the participation criteria described in section 11403(b), housing, and plans for transitioning to living independently.
* The Transitional Independent Living Plan. (TILP) is a 2 page form attached to the case plan (TILCP). The TILP is the written individualized service delivery plan that identifies the nonminor’s current level of functioning, emancipation goals and specific skills needed to prepare the nonminor to live independently.

Supervised Independent living Placement (SILP)

A SILP is a flexible, non-licensed placement available to NMDs participating in EFC. It is the least restrictive living setting under EFC. A SILP is for young adults determined to be developmentally ready to live independently in less restrictive environments. Typically, SILPs are in shared living environments.

**Approving a SILP is a two-step process:**

1. Assess NMD’s “readiness” to live in a SILP, taking into account the particular placement at issue
2. Heal and safety inspection of the physical space

**Examples of SILPs:**

There are a wide range of placement times that can be SILPs; they include: apartments, single resident occupancy, college housing, Tribally approved homes, out-of-state placements, Job Corps, etc.

* University/College housing regulated by the university
  + Does not require the Department’s physical  inspection for approval
  + Dorms and other university housing are not required to be approved by the county with a SILP health & safety inspection because they are already approved by the post-secondary institution for safety standards.
* Shared Roommate Setting, Single Resident Occupancy, Apartment, Room and Board, Room Rental
  + Physical inspection needs to be conducted by the Department
  + Apartment/house, renting a room, Single Room Occupancies (SROs should only be considered in areas where rent is extremely high, and only when the building and environment is conducive to a safe and healthy lifestyle for the NMD).
* Residing with a Parent
  + When referring to an NMD living in a SILP with a parent, the term “parent” refers to both a parent from whom the youth was removed or any non-custodial parent. This can include, but is not limited to, a biological parent, guardian or adoptive parent.
  + The social worker or probation officer must make a determination of whether it is safe for the NMD to reside in the same home as the parent(s) in the same way it would be made with regards to anyone else a NMD chooses to live with in a SILP. The SILP readiness assessment tool should be utilized to determine if the NMD is making appropriate decisions with regards to the person(s) with whom they plan to reside. For example, if a parent is known to have an active substance addiction, is an untreated perpetrator of sexual abuse or domestic violence is occurring in the home, that would indicate that the SILP request is not appropriate and  should not be approved

What is a Non-Approved Placement?

* NMDs in non-approved placements do not receive monthly funding for living expenses
* Unlicensed residence that have not been physically inspected by the Department
* Placements that do not pass the health and safety inspection
* An emergency placement for NMDs lacking suitable placements (e.g. homeless shelters)
* A placement that puts their mental/medical health at risk