

Bill Wilson Center is a nonprofit, community-based agency located in Santa Clara, providing services to Santa Clara County since 1973. Bill Wilson Center's mission is to support and strengthen the community by serving youth and families through counseling, housing, education, and advocacy. Each year Bill Wilson Center serves more than 10,000 clients through the following programs:

- Family & Individual Counseling
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter
- Homeless Youth Drop-In Center
- Transitional Housing Program
- Centre for Living with Dying
- Independent Living Skills Program
- School Outreach Counseling
- Contact Cares
- Quetzal House
- Restorative Justice Program
- Safe Place
- Peer Educator Program

Bill Wilson Center's Independent Living Skills Program is partially funded by Santa Clara County.

Workshops

Youth are offered a variety of workshops designed to promote self-sufficiency.

Examples include:

- Employment Strategies
- Scholarships
- College Tours
- Goal Setting
- Health Care
- Medical Insurance & MediCal
- Cooking
- Communications
- Healthy Relationships
- Anger Management
- Dating Skills
- Financial Literacy
- Taxes
- Voting



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Bill Wilson Center

counseling • housing • education • advocacy

Independent Living Skills Program



About the Program

The Independent Living Skills Program is a free program offered to youth to develop skills needed for self-sufficiency. Many of the youth who participate are either in foster care, homeless, or living in transitional housing.

The Independent Living Skill's curriculum covers seven core areas:

- Employment
- Daily Living
- Survival Skills
- Choices and Consequences
- Interpersonal and Social Skills
- Education and Training
- Computer Skills



Support Services

Youth receive guidance, training and encouragement in areas that are key for successful adulthood:

Educational Planning

- SAT/GED Tutoring
- Financial Aid
- Scholarships

Career Development

- Job Readiness Skills
- Resume Building
- Mentorship
- Volunteerism

Housing

- Community Resources
- Household Management

Health

- Education
- Nutrition
- Counseling
- Referral Services

Money Management

- Banking and Credit
- Budget Planning
- Identity Theft



Youth raised in foster care "age out" of the system at 18, ready or not. If they haven't been taught independent living skills, many will wind up homeless.

Who Can Participate?

Youth between ages 16 and 21 who are in foster care, a group home, transitional housing, or are homeless are eligible for the Independent Living Skills Program.

Additional Opportunities:

- Membership in the California Youth Connection (CYC), an advocacy group run for, and by, foster care youth,
- Membership in Service Outdoor Leadership (SOL) club,
- Membership in Santa Clara County's Youth Advisory Board (YAB),
- Participation in special workshops and conferences,
- Incentives for participation include gift certificates and special outings.

The Independent Living Skills Program focuses on teaching youth the range of skills they'll need for self-sufficiency.

For more information, contact:

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