



ILP Newsletter

UPCOMING ILP EVENTS!

We have exciting events coming up that you won't want to miss!

 [@AlamedaCountyILP](https://www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyILP)

 [@ilpAlameda](https://www.instagram.com/ilpAlameda)

 [@ILPAlameda](https://twitter.com/ILPAlameda)

www.alamedacountyilp.org

Independent City

Come test your independent living skills with a simulated walkthrough of adulthood. This in-person event will include food, fun activities, and more!

Thursday—May 25, 2023
3:00pm—6:00pm

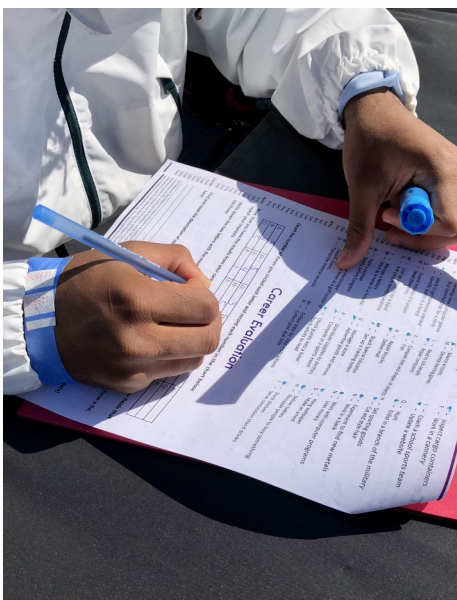
B:E Graduation

Join us for our annual event where we will honor all B:E/ILP graduates! There will be food, music, guest speakers, and awards throughout the event.

Friday—June 23, 2023
5:00pm—8:00pm

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Want to learn about ILP workshops? See page 2 & 3 for more information.
- The ILP Scholarship is now open! See how to apply on page 2.
- See page 3 for tax filing information!
- See what incentives you can receive for participating in ILP services on page 4!
- See page 5 for ILP staff contact information.



ALAMEDA COUNTY
INDEPENDENT LIVING
PROGRAM

ILP Workshops

For information about ILP workshops, check the [ILP website](#) or call our office. See page 1 for website information and page 5 for ILP contact information. Sign up for upcoming workshops today!



ILP Scholarship

The [scholarship application](#) is available on our website at www.alamedacountyilp.org/services/education/. The application deadline is May 15, 2023. If you need help applying or have questions, contact us at 510-667-7696.



Financial Aid

Interested in financial support resources? Check out the links below:

[Web Grants](#)

[FAFSA](#)

For more information, contact us at 510-667-7696.



HOUSING WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHT

By Devon N., WCC Youth Advocate

I have been a part of the 3 housing workshops in February provided by ILP. Each session was always filled with fun activities, great information, and prizes for the youth that attended. As a bonus, there were always snacks and drinks. For the first workshop, they set up a jeopardy game where the participants answered questions that were all related to housing programs and program jargon. The winners of the game won \$100! The next week, I helped facilitate a roleplay game where the participants had information that was given to them to fill out a housing form as someone else. The idea was to have participants get familiar specific types of questions they'll have to answer and the types of forms used for housing applications. The prize for that activity was a pair of Beats headphones! The final session consisted of a person-to-person, black out bingo where participants went around the room and answered questions about themselves. The winner of that game received a prize of \$50 dollars! This workshop series was both fun and informative.



FINANCIAL AID NIGHT HIGHLIGHT

By James H., WCC Youth Advocate

I was given the opportunity to attend the ILP Financial Aid Night workshop in February. This workshop had a great turnout, with a lot of participants who were about to graduate high school or who just started college. The participants learned about the ways to apply to scholarships and grants. They also talked about loans and on-campus support programs like NextUP and Guardian Scholars.

This workshop was led by ILP staff who were well prepared in each topic discussed. The ILP staff created a space that was welcoming and focused on supporting youth. They provided food and had many staff attending just to make the space feel more like a community. If you want a space to learn and feel like a part of something bigger, think about participating in an ILP workshop!



Want to talk to an education coach? Give us a call to get connected!

510-667-7696

ILP INCOME TAX WORKSHOP

By James H., WCC Youth Advocate

In February, ILP held an income tax workshop. This workshop was very informative and led by JBAY (John Burtons Advocates for Youth). They covered many subjects from filing taxes to different credits that you can claim, including the new foster youth credits. They also talked about JBAY's VITA sites. These are physical office locations all around the Bay Area where you can go to access JBAY services. These services include things like tax information, law services, housing support programs, and more. ILP provided computers for each person to file their taxes online. Every participant who filed their taxes were rewarded a \$50 Amazon gift card!



This event was informative and the space that was held for this workshop was very youth-friendly. The facilitators took time to answer any questions and made sure to ask for clarification to support the youth that attended. They even stayed after for any questions or in case anyone still needed help but didn't feel comfortable asking in the larger group. There was food and lots of active conversation that made the space feel welcoming and fun. This was a great workshop to be a part of and I hope to sit in on another session soon.

TAX INFORMATION & TIPS

By Isaac M., WCC Youth Advocate

Filing taxes is important because it allows you to calculate your tax liability, schedule, tax payments, or request refunds for the overpayment of taxes. One tip that is helpful to know about is your deduction on your taxes. A deduction is money you spent during the year for work, insurance, retirement, education, childcare, rent and more that reduces how much you pay in taxes and could help you get a bigger cash back refund. If you don't pay your taxes on time this can lead to a failure to file penalty. Meaning if you are due a refund, there's no penalty for failure to file. Any refund is used to pay any back taxes owed. This can involve the IRS, bad credit scores, and blocks on loans.



Here is a source to help support you file your taxes. The [Tax Prep Checklist](#) from John Burton Advocates for Youth, located at 235 Montgomery Street, Suite 1142 San Francisco, CA 94104. You can call them at (415) 348-0011 or email anna@jbay.org. They have great step-by-step tools and tips for filing your taxes. First, they recommend you have your personal information ready. Such as license, social, earning documents, etc. They are also offering eligibility for the Foster Youth Tax Credit worth up to \$1,083 in cash back. For this credit, you must do the following: File your federal and state tax return; check the circle stating yes you were in care on or after age 13; and check the circle to provide consent to confirm your eligibility with the California Department. Another source I recommend is Turbo Tax. It's a simple, easy, and accurate way to file your taxes online. They provide friendly expert support and offer a free version. This is a great tool available for filing taxes.

Ready to file your taxes? See the website below to file your taxes for FREE!

Myfreetaxes.org



WHAT ILP OFFERS

Alameda County ILP supports youth in education, employment, health and wellness, permanent connections, housing, and money management. These topics are covered in ILP workshops which youth can earn \$25 for each session they attend. Youth can also receive one-on-one coaching with an ILP coach to assist them with creating and accomplishing individual goals!

REGISTER FOR ILP SERVICES

Complete a [Request For Service \(RFS\)](#) form with a Worker of the Day (WOD) over the phone. Our Intake Coordinator will call/email you regarding your eligibility. It takes around 1-2 days to process your RFS form. Once contacted, you will virtually meet with an ILP Coach to discuss your needs, interests, and goals. Your coach will assist you with registering for workshops, activities, and any services that appeal to you!

INCENTIVES

The following items are what ILP eligible youth may be able to receive by participating in ILP services:

- * ILP Workshops
- * Education Program
- * ACLSA
- * Chromebooks
- * School Stipend
- * Education Testing
- * ILP Scholarship
- * Prom/Senior Portraits
- * Book Money
- * California ID Waiver
- * Driver's Training
- * Gas Reimbursements
- * Security Deposit
- * Baby Stipend



For more information, contact the ILP office:

info@alamedacountyilp.org
(510) 667-7696



VIRTUAL SERVICES

Do you want to connect with your ILP coach, but you want to stay safe from Covid-19? We've got you covered! You can virtually meet with your ILP coach. You can also schedule a socially distant, in-person meeting with your coach. To keep you and your coach safe, youth and staff are expected to wear a mask during in-person meetings. Call the ILP office for your coach's phone number and email. See page 5 for the ILP office contact information. We hope to see you soon!

DISTANCE LEARNING

Check out the two types of virtual learning that ILP is offering! ILP will have a Zoom option for most in-person workshops that include guest speakers and activities that you can do at home. ILP's Distance Learning program is a self-paced module that has engaging topics like Mental Wellness and Entrepreneurial Exploration. ILP staff can assist you with using the Distance Learning website, and with getting the Zoom information for live workshops!

STAY CONNECTED

Do you want to make sure that you don't miss any ILP workshops, activities, or virtual events? Want to keep up with the latest services, resources, and news for transitional aged youth? Follow ILP on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter! See page 1 for ILP's social media links.

Are you not on social media? Visit the ILP website for the latest updates on workshops, events, and other important information regarding the program.

www.alamedacountyilp.org/

ILP STAFF DIRECTORY

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ILP GENERAL INFORMATION



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Thank you for supporting ILP!

