



Stipend Policy Recommendations

These stipend policy recommendations were developed by the PA Youth Advisory Board. Members considered the most common needs of older youth, the services provided by each county, and the need for support and consistency that would benefit all young adults receiving Independent Living (IL) services across Pennsylvania.

Education

- Academic/ attendance bonus
- Maintain grades/academics
- Learning completions such as high school/college graduates
- School application fees/books
- Academic field trip funding
- Computer purchases
- Tutoring for GED or necessary high school courses
- Support for (non-traditional trade school)

Lifestyle

- Goals /life development
- Community service
- Banking (startup funding)
- Projects (family tree, goals etc...)
- Completion of Life Skills Checklist
- Participating in Life Skills Group or equivalent

Necessities

- Work-related materials/tools
- Uniforms/job clothing
- Maintain employment
- Transportation (bike, bus tickets, car)
- Driver instruction classes
- Housing
- Fee for state ID and permit
- Groceries
- Utility bills
- Insurance
- Car payments
- Clothing
- Youth parenting needs for their children

Support

- Youth with children support, providing childcare necessities such as daycare and camp services.
- Financial incentive for youth participation in Youth Advisory Board (YAB) meetings and other youth events
- Savings match program for larger purchases (i.e. cars)
- IL program completion (aging out/transitional support)

Key Financial Management Considerations: Respecting Youth Financial Autonomy

It is important to support and encourage youth autonomy in managing their own finances.

1. Provide resources and opportunities for youth to learn financial management skills. (Ex. banking explained, tax courses, etc.)
2. Continuously identify and implement best practices in stipend management.
3. Address barriers that prevent youth from accessing and managing their stipends, which include:

- **Financial Literacy**
- **Access to Banking**
- **Parental Control**
- **Transportation**
- **Technology**
- **Legal Restrictions**
- **Distrust**
- **Time Constraints**
- **Cultural Attitudes:**
- **Economic Instability**

United Way of the National Capital Area.
“Financial Literacy for Youth.” *United Way NCA*,
<https://unitedwaynca.org/blog/financial-literacy-for-youth/>

