

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN IN STATE CARE (TLP-CSC) PROJECT

FACT SHEET

The Challenge:

Every year, approximately 700 young people are discharged from Jamaica's child protection system. Of this number, about 290 youth actually age out on attaining 18 years. Most youth are not confident about their readiness to exit care and do not make a successful transition into adulthood.

The Goal:

The TLP-CSC aims to improve the transition to independent living for Jamaican youth leaving residential care at 18 years, and reduce the risk factors such as unemployment, involvement in crime, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy etc. associated with low education or job skills, inadequate life skills, and poor self-image.

The Intervention:

A six-year transitional living project to include: life skills training, vocational skills training, mentoring and the creation of safe and appropriate transitional living facilities.

The Expected outputs:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding between The University of the West Indies and the Child Development Agency (CDA) for the sustainability of the programme.
2. Needs assessment to inform the development of the exit-readiness programme.
3. A procedural manual and protocol for preparing youth in State care for independent living
4. 40 CDA Officers trained as Trainers in Life skills.
5. 500 caregivers equipped by Life skills Trainers with techniques in life skills coaching.
6. 900 youth in State care exposed to life skills coaching.
7. 700 youth in State care trained in a vocational skills training programme.
8. 46 females and 46 males, ages 18-21years accommodated in safe and appropriate transitional housing complexes for a maximum of two years and provided with mentoring.
9. Provision of employment for 92 youth, through a network of public and private companies.
10. 400 youth provided with "starter-kits" to facilitate exit preparedness.
11. A longitudinal study of the outcomes of 92 young adults who are housed in the independent living facilities compared with 92 matched young adults not housed in the facilities.
12. 45 youth in receipt of scholarships in continuing education from The University of the West Indies Open Campus.
13. Strengthening the leadership and management capability of the CDA to successfully implement and sustain project activities after project implementation through the provision of an improved Child Case Management System and procurement of two 15-seater buses for transportation needs and a 35-seater bus, retrofitted to support the Mobile Mental Health Programme.

Partners

The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is being implemented through the collaborative efforts of the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), The University of the West Indies Open Campus and the Child Development Agency (CDA).

UWI Collaborating Departments include:

The University Project Management Office
Social Welfare Training Centre