

Our Mission

Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services (GCTFS) is now doing business as Gulf Coast Social Services (GCSS). We are a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1983 in Louisiana to provide comprehensive human service programs for Louisiana citizens, children and adults, with various physical and mental challenges.

Our mission is to empower people with mental, physical, behavioral, and other challenges to improve the quality of their lives and to live as independently as possible in the community.

We operate seven regional offices located in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles, and New Orleans.

Areas Served

Houma

(Main Office)
320 Progressive Boulevard
Houma, LA 70360

phone: (985) 851-4488
toll free: 1-800-947-7645
fax: (985) 872-0985

Houma

(Satellite Office)
2509 Petroleum Drive
Houma, LA 70363

phone: (985) 853-1445
toll free: (800) 831-2630
fax: (985) 853-0709

Lafayette

515 S. College Road,
Suite 100
Lafayette, LA 70503

phone: (337) 269-1165
toll free: (800) 285-8123
fax: (337) 235-1961

Lake Charles

(Lafayette satellite office)
825 Ryan Street, Suite 300
Lake Charles, LA 70601

phone: (337) 436-6622
toll free: (888) 436-6635
fax: (337) 436-4403

Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP)



Personal Care. Quality Outcomes.

For more information, visit our website at
www.gctfs.org

or contact us at info@gctfs.org

 **Gulf Coast
Social Services**

Program Description

The Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) provides emancipation services to foster youths, ages 16-18, for release from foster care, with the objective of preparing them for responsible adulthood.



An array of workshops and classes are offered to ensure that the youths are meeting their individual goals. Activities for youths 14-15 are focused on developing social skills while youths 16-17 learn independent living skills.

Who is Eligible?

- All youth age 14-17 who are in foster care are eligible for this program
- Services end once the youths turn 18, as they are no longer in state custody, unless they are enrolled in the Young Adult Program



Services Provided

- Education information
Youths are introduced to various educational options available during and after high school
- Resource listing
Youths are presented with the many resources available within their community
- Job development
Youths receive information on job search techniques, including resume writing and interviewing skills
- Finances and budgeting
Youths learn how to manage their income and determine budget goals
- Living independently
Youths are prepared to live on their own and how to maintain a home
- Health and counseling services
Youths are taught how to develop and maintain healthy habits, as well as how to obtain adequate health insurance