

VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living)

Highlights – March 2023

Youth Services Program Training Tools

Youth Services Training tools are being added to [FUSION – Services For Older Youth](#) page.

Currently posted:

[How to Document IL Services in Oasis](#)

[How to Complete Chafee and ETV Quarterly Reports](#)

Use these tools as an individual learning opportunity or as a team during foster care unit meetings.

More trainings tools to come.



VDSS - CWS3061W: Permanency Planning with Teens

Refresh your knowledge on how to effectively work with youth and young adults in foster care.

CWS3061W is a live webinar course, consisting of three sessions for three consecutive days.

In this course, participants will learn how to help teenagers identify and establish emotional connections and build the family support necessary for navigating the difficult transition into adulthood. Participants will learn about adolescent development and the need of permanency for teens. Participants will learn youth engagement models and the recommended strategies for sustaining well-being. Youth-specific recruitment methods will teach learners ways to involve teens in identifying their own permanency resources.

Next available training session [The Virginia Learning Center \(virginia.gov\)](#) - 4/26/23 -4/28/23 9:00am – 12:30am

FY 2024 Funding Package Due TODAY!!!

FY 2024 Funding package can be accessed on [FUSION – Services for Older Youth Page](#). Or on [FUSION - Child Welfare Funding Application and Reporting Page](#)

Funding Applications are due no later than **Tuesday March 7, 2023**. Please submit as soon as possible to allow the Youth Services team adequate time to calculate funding requests and prepare funding letters.

Thanks!



Return Funds – Help your fellow LDSS

We **strongly** encourage agencies that do not anticipate using all of their remaining Chafee and/or ETV funds by the end of the fiscal year (May 2023) to return any portion funds as soon as possible. Returning funds sooner than later allows VDSS to provide financial support to youth in localities that could benefit from additional funds.

Any LDSS in need of additional Chafee (ILP) (BL862) or ETV (BL861) funds can send a brief justification to Letha.Moore-Jones@ds.virginia.gov, who will provide you with approval to submit a LASER BRS request. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

JOIN US! Youth Services Team CHECK-INS

Come participate in a 30-minute open discussion with the Youth Services team about independent Living Services updates. *Bring your questions*. Click on link to join the meeting [VDSS Statewide Youth Services Check-ins w/ Project Life](#). Registration not required.

Tuesday, March 7, 2022 @ 3:30pm – Education Screens and Data, Funding, PLIFE

Tuesday, April 4, 2022 @ 3:30pm

Tuesday, May 2, 2022 @ 3:30pm

OLD VDSS ETV email address



For those LDSS that may still have the old VDSS ETV email address. The old VDSS ETV email address has been discontinued. Please refrain from using that email address and send all Youth Services correspondence such as; Quarterly Reports, Mid-Year Reviews, Funding Applications to the va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov

Life Skills Assessments and Transition Plans

SafeMeasures reports a decline in Life Skills Assessment and Transition Plan compliance. Timely completion of these tools helps to building youth adult partnerships and establishes engagement around the Youth's needs and priorities.

Does your LDSS need training on to increase your localities life skills assessments and transition plan completion rates? Connect with your **Project LIFE** regional consultant to schedule a training for your area. gmack@umfs.org

GOAL SETTING



VDSS and Child Trends Adoption Study – Please Share

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) needs your help with an important study we are carrying out in partnership with Child Trends, a national non-profit research organization. This phase of the study focuses on learning about the experiences of young adults who have experienced disconnection from their adoptive families, including their experiences with post-adoption services that were helpful and/or unhelpful, as well as services they couldn't access that could have helped.

The interviews will last roughly 1 hour, and young adults will receive a \$100 dollar Visa gift card to thank them for their participation.

Are you a young adult 18-26 with experience in the Virginia Commonwealth child welfare system? Have you experienced disconnection from your adoptive family?

Make your Voice Heard

Virginia DSS is seeking to learn about the experiences of young adults who were adopted and experienced disconnection from their adoptive families.

Share your experiences, both good and bad, to help improve services and supports for youth and families post-adoption.

Interested in participating in a 1-hour interview?
\$100 Visa gift card provided.

- Send a text message to (757)-767-4590 with the message "Interested in a PA interview" OR,
- Send an email to vdsstudy@childtrends.org with the subject line "Interested in a PA interview".
- Include your name and best way to contact you.
- We will respond to set up a time to talk.

We will be interviewing people through early Spring of 2023.

Please help recruit young adults who are eligible for this study by sharing the attached flyer to eligible young adults. See attachments for additional information and language.

Thank you very much in advance! If you have any questions about the study, or about the eligibility criteria, feel free to contact Child Trends at

VDSSsurvey@childtrends.org

Education Stability Trainings



Virtual Education Stability trainings have been broken into a two-part series. Content in Part 1 (general education), Part 2 (special education). **Registration is live.** These trainings are **free** and open to all school staff, **all LDSS-Family Services Workers**, LCPAs, and anyone interested in supporting students in foster care. **ALL Foster Care and Educational Stability Liaisons are strongly encouraged to attend.** Feel free to invite your supervisors, school counselors, school social workers, and anyone who works with foster care (administrative assistants, case managers, or your backups), as well as local or community partners.

Friday, March 24, 2023 at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm • Part 2 • virtual • [register now!](#)



Project LIFE

Exciting events are happening this month. Get your youth involved. View and SHARE the Project Life March Newsletter. **[PLIFE latest Newsletter](#)**.

Contact your **Project LIFE** Regional Consultant for any Independent Living training and/or group ideas or needs! - <https://www.vaprojectlife.org/our-people/>

Project LIFE is hiring for an IL Consultant in the Western Regions. For more details view the *December Newsletter* or view the job post [here](#).

On **March 14th at 6:30 p.m.** for a live webinar event where Ashley Rhodes-Courter, author of *Three Little Words* and *Three More Words*, will share how her young life in foster care has helped shaped who she is today. Ashley is a social worker, advocate, foster parent, and executive whose combination of lived experienced and professional experience give her a unique expertise on how to improve outcomes for children and families.

Please feel free to share this no-cost event with others in your community.

[Register Here!](#)

Join Us As We Welcome
Ashley Rhodes-Courter
Author of *Three Little Words* and *Three More Words*

Advocate, Author, Former Foster Youth
March 14, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Click here to register or scan QR code

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RVA Community Resource Book 2023

The Success Foundation of Virginia (TSF) has updated their Community Resource Book for 2023

[Microsoft Word - TSF -Community Resource Book 2023 V5.0 Final \(successva.org\)](https://www.successva.org)