

VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living)

Highlights

Foster Care Maintenance Payments

The General Assembly did not pass a full budget during the 2023 session. As a result, foster family home and adoption subsidy rate increases included in the Governor's budget were not approved. **Foster care maintenance rates did not increase on July 1, 2023, as expected. The previous rates remain in effect.**

Independent Living Stipends vs Fostering Futures Maintenance payments.

Please refer to *Foster Care Guidance 6.15* for additional information regarding when to use an IL Stipend. The IL Stipend and the Fostering Futures Maintenance payments are not one in the same. The Fostering Futures Maintenance Amount is included in the 13 and older foster care maintenance rate. (\$772.00)

An IL Stipend should be used when a youth 16-17 are residing in an IL arrangement. Examples of an IL arrangement could include but not limited to, living in their own apartment (separate from an IL apartment program), dorm, renting a room...

A CANS is required for those youth that receive an IL stipend paid for through CSA funds. Payment cannot be made from title IV-E.

Guidance Links

FUSION [July 2022 Guidance.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#) (DSS Employees)

[section 6 placement to achieve permanency.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#) (Public Site)

Please reach out to Monica.Cabell@dss.virginia.gov with any additional questions.

Housing Support Program [Broadcast-HB 349 Housing Support](#)

Housing Support Communication Forms are coming in! Please remember to discuss the Housing Support option with all eligible youth.

House Bill 349 – directs LDSS to provide housing support to youth who turn 18 in foster care on or after July 1, 2022, and are not participating in Fostering Futures. LDSS should notify all youth that would have been eligible to receive assistance as of July 1, 2022, of this eligible support. LDSS will need to submit completed Housing Support Communication Forms, found on FUSION [Foster Care Forms](#), to va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov to receive approval for each individual youth requesting housing support. Funding assistance will be transferred to Budget Line 869 via LASER after each individual housing support request.

Please send any questions and or requests for funding to the Housing Support Specialist Solange Francis – va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov.

JOIN US! Youth Services Team CHECK-INS

We'll be back in September!

Be on the lookout for **Youth Services** (IL) virtual regional trainings. Providing an overview of Youth Services topics to include:

- Chafee and ETV funding, ETV Eligibility, IL Services Documentation, Fostering Futures, Housing Support Program and more! Dates coming soon!

NYTD PART B

April 1, 2023, began **Period B** of the NYTD 2023-Cohort 5 reporting. LDSS workers will need to select the appropriate time frame in SafeMeasures to be able to view their **Period B** list.

EVIDENT CHANGE NYTD Baseline 17 Year-Old Survey Completion
Includes: Youth who turned 17 during the selected survey period(04/01/2023 to 09/30/2023) and were in care at some point from their birthday to 45 da... More...

Back					Timeframe
Graph View	Timeframe: Cohort 5, Period B (Apr '23 - Sep '23)				Cohort 5, Period A (Oct '22 - Mar '23)
Comparison					Cohort 5, Period B (Apr '23 - Sep '23)
Full List	Survey Completion	Count	%	T	
	Completed	0	0.0%	Du	

Remember youth entering foster care within 45 days of turning 17 years old will still require a NYTD survey to be completed within the 45.

As always if you have any questions please reach out to monica.cabell@dss.virginia.gov or any Youth Services team member.

Project LIFE

Don't miss out on all the summer activities happening across the State. Get your youth involved. View and SHARE the Project Life July Newsletter. [PLIFE latest Newsletter](#).



Say HI! To the new Project LIFE IL Consultants – They would love to hear from you and talk about any Independent Living training and/or group ideas or needs! - [Project LIFE - Our People](#)

Check out Spring Statewide Youth Conference Highlight photos [2023 Spring Conference – Project LIFE](#)

Life Skills Assessments and Transition Plans Broadcast-IL Skills Assessment and Transition Plan

[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. [Project LIFE - Our People](#)

Project Life will be hosting additional virtual trainings on:

- Life Skills Assessment
- Transition Planning

Dates: **Tuesday, July 18 and Tuesday August 8th via Zoom**

[Register Here for the CLSA and Transition Planning Training](#)

TRAINING AND EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

College tours are happening in your area – sign up now! Additional information can be found in the Project LIFE July Newsletter. [College Tour - Registration](#)



It's the reunion you will not want to miss! Calling all Youth (past and present), Staff, Case Workers, IL Coordinators(current and former), come reminisce 15 years of supporting older youth with foster care experiences throughout the state.

[PLIFE REUNION Registration](#)



Listen to this podcast series by and about people with lived experience in child welfare and about their partnerships with leaders within child welfare agencies.

[Video Clip - What do we Mean by Sharing Power?](#)



A Look Inside
SHARING POWER
in Child Welfare