

VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living) Highlights - March 2025

FY 2026 Chafee & ETV Funding Package! DUE!

Available on FUSION - [Services for Older Youth Page](#) or the Child Welfare Funding Application and Reporting Pages.

Funding Applications are due no later than **Tuesday, March 7, 2025**. Please submit applications to va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov TODAY, Thanks!

Drive To Thrive! BL 877

Detailed information/eligibility requirements

- [Drive To Thrive Guide](#)

DTT funds can be used for:

- Car insurance
- Driver education costs, including driving school, behind-the-wheel training, practice lessons/hours and testing fees.
- DMV fees, such as:
- Photo identification
- Learner's permit
- Driver's license fees
- Title and registration fees

Questions - contact Transportation Specialist, Avis Thomas -

avis.thomas9@dss.virginia.gov

VDSS - Housing Support Program! BL 869

Reminder! Discuss the Housing Support option with all eligible youth.

For youth who turn 18 in foster care on or after July 1, 2022, and are not participating in Fostering Futures.

- Never entered Fostering Futures
- Terminated Fostering Futures

To access funding send Housing Support Communication Form (updated 1/25),

FUSION [Foster Care Forms](#), to

va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov.

Questions - contact Housing Support Specialist Solange Francis -



Ongoing Youth Services Projects

FYI Housing Sub-workgroups - Ongoing.

If you are interested in participating in a sub-workgroup, contact

Gwen.Castillo@dss.virginia.gov

Spring Youth Services Trainings - Joint trainings with VDSS and Project LIFE. Dates - TBD

Updated Credit Check Guidebook -

Updated - 1/25 (attached to email)

NYTD 19-Year-Olds Cohort 5A

19-Year-Old NYTD survey list is available in [SafeMeasures](#). ALL NYTD MUST be entered in Oasis by **March 14, 2025**.

At least 3 attempts to contact the youth must be documented in OASIS before entering the survey as "unable to locate".

NYTD Forms FUSION - [Services for Older Youth](#)

SURVEYS CAN (AND SHOULD) BE ENTERED PRIOR TO THE YOUTHS 19th BIRTHDAY.

[Broadcast 3/4/25](#)

Completing Oasis Placement Change Requirements

[Broadcast 2/24/25](#) This included youth entering Fostering Futures Documenting Fostering Futures Cases - [Fostering Futures OASIS Entries](#)

Credit Freezes

VDSS has received an increase in calls related to youth unable to access their credit after exiting foster care.

Reminder – LDSS **must** lift credit freezes when children and youth exit foster care.

Credit Freeze Guidebook (attached to email)

Youth Opportunity

Youth Voices

END SIJS BACKLOG
a project of the National Immigration Project

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT
Lawyers for the Movement

ilrc
INTERNATIONAL LAW CENTER FOR RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
FOR YOUTH WITH SIJS

MARCH 6, 2025
7-8:30 PM ET | 6-7:30 PM CT | 4-5:30 PM PT

Do you have Special Immigrant Juvenile Status? Join us on Zoom to learn your rights as a SIJS youth so you know how to protect yourself and stay safe.

Visit bit.ly/SIJS-KYR to register!

Illustration of a diverse group of young people standing together.

SPEAKOUT - The Power of Permanent Connections for Youth in Foster Care - Video

YouTube Link - <https://youtu.be/09B30nLKXps>

WIOA Northern

The WIOA Youth Program assists eligible young adults ages 17-24 to gain the skills needed to succeed in tomorrow's workforce.

[WIOA Youth Program - Virginia Career Works Northern Region](#)

Foster Love Scholarship Opportunities

The Trade Scholarship designed to help America's youth in foster care succeed and thrive.

[BrandSources Scholars](#)

[American Industries Scholarship](#)

Application Deadline dates:

Early - March 28th

Priority - April 25th

Final - May 30th



Project LIFE

View and SHARE the Project LIFE Newsletter [PLIFE latest Newsletter](#) for Youth Activities in your Region!

See PLIFE newsletter for IL workshop registration information in all 5 Regions!

Western – Job Readiness – March 17th

Eastern – Youth Voices

Central – Fashion Show – March 12th

Piedmont – Responsible Parenting

PROJECT LIFE AND ALBEMARLE DSS INVITE YOU TO A ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT

Monday, March 17 @ 5:00pm
1600 5th Street, Suite A
Charlottesville, VA

RSVP to your worker



MAKING PLANS

MARCH 18, 2025

Project LIFE will join forces with DePaul to explore 3-5 year plans! What do you envision for your life?

19474 MIDWEST CIRCLE
APARTMENT 20
ABINGDON, VA

Contact asteffey@umfs.org with questions

Project LIFE Spring 25 Youth Conference

Save the Date: **April 25 - 27, 2025**

Lynchburg, VA "Livin' It Up: Catch the Vibe to Thrive in 2025!" Explore growing up, finding your way, and tackling adulthood. Based on youth requests, the focus will be on things like prioritizing your mental health, higher education, and investing your money!

Registration is now open! Registration closes **March 21st, 2025.** [Conference Overview - Project LIFE](#)



Interested in modeling and fashion?

March 12th, 2025 6PM - 8PM

Richmond UMFS campus
Doug Hill Room (building #10)

Join CEO, NFE & VCU students to help put together a fashion show! This meeting we will discuss the fashion show, as well as working on figuring out what clothing items people have and what we need to get!



THE VOICES GROUP *Presents*

New weekly info sessions!

Voices is a youth empowerment program for youth in foster care or who have been in foster care to equip them with resources and tools to be successful as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. We are looking for youth ages 14-18. The program will offer modules that focus on self-exploration.



- Self care
- Resilience
- Problem solving
- Goal setting

and more!



February 20- March 27, 6-8pm
May 8- June 12, 6-8pm
July 14- July 18, 10 am-2pm
August 11- August 15, 10am- 2pm

LEARN MORE

815 Baker Road VA Beach, VA

mlee@umfs.org

JOIN PROJECT LIFE & ROANOKE DSS FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTING SESSIONS

Address: 1510 Williamson Rd. NE, Roanoke, VA 24012

This will be a 3 month long program to complete 9 modules

First session
January 8th, 2025 @ 6pm

Second session:
February 12th, 2025 @ 6pm

Third Session:
March 12th, 2025 @ 6pm

Any youth that complete all 3 months with all 9 sessions will be awarded \$75!

Eligibility:

- Youth must be between the ages of 14 - 23
 - Youth under 18 need consent from their custodial agency
- Youth must be in foster care, fostering futures, or previously in fostering futures
- Youth do NOT have to be a parent to participate in these sessions



[Registration Link](#)



Creating lifelong connections for youth.
A partnership with and funded by VDSS.

Trainings/Resources

Pathways to Trooper Academy

Virginia State Police are building connections with youth with foster care experience that may be interested in the law enforcement field to increase State Trooper recruitment.

Visit the QR Code for more information



Pennsylvania SWAN - Foster Care Webinar Series

Reducing the Abuse to Prison Pipeline for Foster Youth.

March 10, 2025 - 11am

Explore the impact of the school-to-prison pipeline, starting with evidence of its harmful effects on vulnerable youth.

[Registration Link](#)

Addressing Homelessness - Webinar

Evidence-Based Policy and Practice Approaches to Addressing Homelessness in the United States.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

2-3pm Eastern

[Webinar 3.5.25 - Formstack](#)



SIJS Backlog Coalition

The End SIJS Backlog Coalition, in partnership with ILRC, announces a **Know Your Rights training** for SIJS youth impacted by the backlog on **Thursday, March 6th from 7-8:30 pm ET | 6-7:30 pm CT | 4-5:30 pm PT**. Youth who attend will learn about their rights as SIJS youth and how to stay safe. This workshop is for impacted SIJS youth only and not for attorneys or other advocates.

Youth can register for this event through [this link](#)! Registration will close by EOD on Monday, February 27th, so we have enough time to finalize interpretation needs. The session will last an hour and a half and include a Q and A section.

[End SIJS Backlog](#)

A Practice Framework for Creating Supportive Work Environments that Promote Connection, Belonging and Well-Being for Older Youth and Young Adults Who Have Experienced Foster Care.

This toolkit is intended for use by workforce practitioners and child welfare leaders who are working with employers to create supportive work environments for young people that have experienced foster care.

Happy Social Worker Month!

Thank you... ♥