



# VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living) Highlights - MAY 2025



## NYTD Reporting Period B

**19-Year-Old** NYTD survey PERIOD B - available in [SafeMeasures](#).

Deadlines: Open youth in OASIS enter by **July 1, 2025**. Closed Cases - enter by September 15, 2025. Please use the next 5 months to diligently search and locate each youth.

SURVEYS CAN (AND SHOULD) BE ENTERED PRIOR TO THE YOUTH'S 19<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY.

## LSA & TPs

## Broadcast.

Compliance rates for Federally required Life Skills Assessments and Transitions Plans are low.

### Best Practice Tips:

- ✓ Obtain copies of Life Skill Assessments (LSA) from providers along with first monthly report.
- ✓ Update transition plan more than once a year.
- ✓ Coordinate Transition Plan (TP) meeting in conjunction with other scheduled meetings such as Family Partnership Meetings, FAPT, ect.

## Free Tuition / No Loans

If you have a youth attending a Virginia *public* 4-year college or university, please ensure they are accessing the tuition, fees, and room & board coverage available under [VA Code § 23.1-601](#).

Contact [financial aid offices](#) to confirm the youth has **not accepted student loans** to cover tuition or fees for the **2025-2026 academic year**.

If any loans were accepted, have the youth return the funds immediately. Then, notify Brooke Newman, ETV Program Specialist, at **[brooke.newman@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:brooke.newman@dss.virginia.gov)** with the youth's name and school.

Let's work together to make sure our youth maximize their financial resources and avoid unnecessary debt!

## SHOUT OUTS!

### Special Thanks:

DePaul, Fostering Acadia Gates To Success, Impact Living Services & Virginia Home for Boys & Girls. Thanks for your availability to respond to my last-minute requests. You guy rock!

**Prince William County - Tiffany Conley** For being the very first completed NYTD survey entered in Oasis. Way to get it done!

## VDSS - Housing Support Program! BL 869

### \*\*Updated Form\*\*

Youth who turned 18 in foster care are not yet 21 and are not participating in Fostering Futures:

- Never entered Fostering Futures
- Terminated Fostering Futures

To access funding send Housing Support Communication Form (updated 5/25), FUSION [Foster Care Forms](#), to [va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov).

## NYTD FACTS


**All** youth surveyed at 17 will participate in the follow up surveys at 19 and 21, even youth who were **adopted**. Document NYTD survey in the Oasis Case identified in [SafeMeasures](#).


## FY 2025 Ending


Reminder, Fiscal Year 2025 **Chafee, ETV, Drive To Thrive** and **Housing Support Program** funds need to be used prior to May 31st. **Please** speak with your finance department to coordinate the last day your LDSS is able to submit funding requests/case actions for BL 862 and BL 861.

Any Drive To Thrive Funds (BL 877) and Housing Support Funds not used by May 31<sup>st</sup> will require a request form to be resubmitted.


### Educational Stability Overview Trainings

 VDOE/VDSS brief Foster Care Educational Stability [Training Video](#).  
(Passcode: **4A3+x^av**)

 VDOE/VDSS are focusing on releasing an updated joint guidance prior the start of the school year. Once guidance is released, we will proceed with more in depth virtual and in-person trainings.

 Foster Care & Education Focus Video Series - [Academic Success in Focus \(Video 1\)](#)

ABA overview on educational stability, BIDs, immediate enrollment, and transportation for students in foster care.

 On **May 7 from 1-2:15pm**, the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education - webinar elevating importance of PK-12 education for students in foster care. Designed to help support school stability and success for students in foster care. Centered on lived experience, current law and policy, and best practices. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



### 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](mailto:Gwen.Castillo@dss.virginia.gov)

**FYI Housing Full Workgroup** – Next meeting **May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 11:30am** (tentative)

**Chafee & ETV Award Letters** – Letters are projected to be sent mid-May

## Youth Resources

### 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:

Final – May 30<sup>th</sup>



### Pathways to Trooper Academy

The Virginia State Police are connecting with youth with foster care experience who may be interested in the law enforcement careers to support State Trooper recruitment efforts.

Scan QR Code for more information:



## 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 your Region!

**Eastern** – Mommy Chat – May 20<sup>th</sup>

**Central** – Job Corps – May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Piedmont** – Car Maintenance - May 14<sup>th</sup>

## Project LIFE Spring 25 Youth Conference

Another successful conference in the books!  
Lynchburg, VA "Livin' It Up: Catch the Vibe to  
Thrive in 2025!"

Special Thanks to PLIFE Staff and Volunteers  
for your continued commitment and support.  
Great IL program representation!

Youth toured a college campus with an  
amazing dining hall. Provided valuable insight  
to be included in the Child and Family Services  
Review for Youth Engagement within the child  
welfare system. Build community and  
accessed resources.



### PROJECT LIFE'S FIRST SUMMER PROSO!



## \* 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!*



May 8<sup>th</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

6-8:00pm

815 Baker Road VA Beach, VA

**LEARN  
MORE**

mlee@umfs.org

### JOIN PROJECT LIFE AND BEDFORD COUNTY DSS FOR A

APPLY NOW



## CAREER PREP WORKSHOP

\*RSVP WITH YOUR  
DSS WORKER\*

MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

5:30PM -  
7:30PM

BEDFORD DSS  
119 E MAIN ST.  
BEDFORD, VA  
24523

JOIN US AS WE HELP  
YOU PREP FOR A  
CAREER. FOOD, FUN, AN  
INTERVIEW GAME, AND A  
PRIZE WILL BE  
PROVIDED!





# General Info for the FYI/FUP Vouchers for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care



## ONLINE TRAINING

Helping professionals shift from being confusion to actively assisting youth in accessing income-based housing after foster care.

**Tues May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00-12:00PM**

**REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE**

This training will cover the income-based vouchers that support youth in getting stable housing as they transition to adulthood.

- Eligibility Criteria
- Application Process, and
- Benefits of these Vouchers.

**Expert Instructor**  
Olivia Snoke has experience assisting youth in accessing vouchers and has partnered with VDSS to advocate for increased accessibility in Virginia.

Questions? Email  
[Olivia.Snoke@EmergingPhoenix.us](mailto:Olivia.Snoke@EmergingPhoenix.us)



# F.Y.I.

## IN THE 757

**YOU'RE INVITED**

**MAY 28, 2025**  
**10:00AM TO 12:00 PM**  
**TCC STUDENT CENTER,**  
**ROOM K313**

**JOIN US IN A DISCUSSION TO EXPAND FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE HOUSING VOUCHERS IN THE 757.**

Join Connect With A Wish, VB Fostering Futures, and VB Housing and Redevelopment to discuss expanding the federal FYI housing vouchers throughout the 757!

**CLICK HERE TO RSVP**

## INDEPENDENT LIVING SNEAKER BALL



**SATURDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY WEBB CENTER**

**4:00PM - 7:00PM**

Support Foster Care Awareness Month in Style

- From denim to dressy—come out & party
- Foster youth, families, social workers & community—you're invited!

Scan the QR code to RSVP, volunteer, sponsor or find out more information



RSVP BY  **MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**



## Housing Summit

The **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Housing Summit: The Economics of Housing- Escaping the Housing Trap**, hosted by [the Housing Coalition of the Northern Shenandoah Valley](#) on **May 23** at Laurel Ridge Community College in Middletown, VA. Join economists, housing experts, and local officials for discussions on the housing market's challenges, its impact on the economy, and community-driven solutions. The event wraps up with an engaging work session to share ideas. For more information and registration [HERE](#).

## Last Minute Spending - Chafee Funds

FosterClub - [FYI Binder](#)  
FosterClub - [Transition Plan Tool Kit](#)  
Luggage / Storage Bins / Large Travel Bags  
Graduation items



## May NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH



*A time to recognize we can each play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care.*

## LEx Voice

In the words of a person with lived experience (Lex) "How can we give kids a greater chance at happiness and surviving foster care?" Find out [here!](#)

