

VDSS - YOUTH SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY
2026



NYTD

NYTD 17 YEAR OLD SURVEYS

Make sure you are tracking youth entering foster care that may require a NYTD survey to be completed in a short timeframe.

There has been at least on LDSS that had to complete a NYTD survey on the same day the youth entered foster care due to the 45-day timeframe.

Checking SafeMeasures regularly!



Remember:

- Youth **MUST** be surveyed within **45 days** after turning 17, not before.
- Completed surveys must be entered into OASIS within 5 business days of completion.
- NYTD Survey Form - FUSION - [Services for Youth and Young Adults page](#).

NEW

New, New, New

NEW HIRE

Nadine Greene-Hicks as our new Youth Service Program Specialist (Chafee Program, NYTD)!

nadine.g.hicks@dss.virginia.gov

NEW NUMBER, WHO DIS!

Monica Cabell

Office - 804-726-7576 (Letha's old #)

Cell - 804-418-0550

Nadine Greene-Hicks

Office - 804-726-7576 (Monica's old #)

Cell - 804-398-0327

Educational Stability



NEW SCHOOL

Jessie Forman

New VDSS Foster Care Educational Stability State Point of Contact. LDSS, Schools and Providers are encouraged to reach out with any questions or support needs.

Jessie.Forman@dss.virginia.gov

Phone - 804-366-4058

ETV Corner

FAFSA - 2026-2027 NOW OPEN!

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

ETV STUDENT APPLICATION

ETV Student Application has been updated to offer more space for grants and scholarships.

NEW ETV FLYER

Updated **ETV flyer** to reflect ETV eligibility for student who returned home from foster care.



VDSS - YOUTH SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY
2026

Resources

Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program

UPDATES - NOW SUPPORTING OLDER YOUTH

Now defines YOUTH as a person who has not reached 26 years of age. LDSS may want to consider accessing PSSF funding for youth who are not eligible to access Chafee funds or when Chafee funds are not available. VDSS PSSF Program and Youth Services Team will be working together to assist LDSS in determining the appropriate funding source

Please contact: PSSF Program Administrator - Mimi Kennedy for additional information

mirely.kennedy@dss.virginia.gov

Undocumented Families

[Guide for Parents who are Undocumented](#) (Illinois)
[Spanish version](#)

Drive To Thrive

Updated Drive to Thrive Guidebook - [FUSION](#)

RESPONSIBLE PARENTING CURRICULUM

OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS: FOSTERING RESPONSIBLE PARENTS

The Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) partnered with VDSS to develop and are offering a Responsible Parenting Curriculum to prepare youth and young adults for the realities of parenthood.

About the Program

What: Nine interactive modules delivered online or in person

Why: Educate youth/young adults about the financial, legal, and emotional responsibilities of parenthood

Compensation: Participants aged 18+ will receive \$75 upon completing all nine modules and associated surveys

Who We're Looking For:

- Youth/ Young Adults interested in a parenthood learning experience about the realities and responsibilities of parenting.
- LDSS, Local partners and organizations willing to provide/host an in-person Responsible Parenting workshop
- Facilitators who are passionate about working with youth and young adults. Facilitators will be compensated for leading these sessions.

**** Youth under 18 in foster care, VDSS encourages local agencies to use Chafee funds (BL 862) to provide the \$75 incentive for participation.****

[Fostering Responsible Parents Course - YouTube](#)

Interested in providing this curriculum to an individual youth or as an IL workshop?

Contact [Nadine. G. Hicks@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:Nadine.G.Hicks@dss.virginia.gov) to receive additional information!

VDSS - YOUTH SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY
2026



YOUTH SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

**PLIFE –
NEWSLETTER –
CLICK TO VIEW
AND SHARE**



SHINEFORTH PROJECT LIFE

A partnership with and funded by VDSS

CENTRAL – T

Join Project LIFE as we co - host with Crystal Coleman from Job Corps for

KICKSTART YOUR CAREER AT JOB CORPS!

January 13th @ 6pm - 8pm

3900 W Broad St.
Richmond Va 23230
Shineforth Auditorium

Get the experience and skills you need to earn your high school diploma, start a career, go on to college, or join the military.

RSVP to T Murphy @ tmurphy@shineforth.org

PIEDMONT – CIERRA

Join Project LIFE at Bedford DSS for a

2026

NEW YEARS KICK OFF!

January 13th @ 5:30 PM

Burke Scott Building
119 E Main Street
Bedford, VA 24523

Come out and join us as we kick off 2026 with a New Years Workshop! There will be food, music, fun and prizes!

RSVP to Ms. Melissa at Melissa.Markham@dss.virginia.gov

SHINEFORTH PROJECT LIFE
A partnership with and funded by VDSS

WESTERN – AMBER

Join DePaul & Project Life for a Vision Board Workshop

January 21
1:00 PM
19474 Midwest Circle
Abingdon, VA

Are you ready to live alone?

A virtual workshop in partnership with Commonwealth Catholic Charities

January 26 @ 4:30pm

Amber at asteffey@shineforth.org

SHINEFORTH PROJECT LIFE

NORTHERN – GEORGE

JOIN PROJECT LIFE FOR A Healthy Relationship Workshop

FEB. 19TH @ 5PM - 7PM

ANNANDALE SHINEFORTH OFFICE
6935 COLUMBIA PIKE, ANNANDALE, VA 22003
ROOM 306

Relationships aren't just romantic! Friendships, family, coworkers – they all matter. Join us to learn what makes relationships healthy (and what doesn't!). Food and raffle prizes provided!

Join Project LIFE at Roanoke City DSS for a

New Year Kickoff Workshop!

January 22nd @ 5:30pm - 7:30pm

1510 Williamson Road
NE, Roanoke VA

Start 2026 with a celebration! Join us for delicious food, fun vibes, and exciting prizes you won't want to miss!

RSVP to Matt Raiten at matt.raiten@roanokeva.gov or Cierra Emory - Clegg at cmemory-clegg@shineforth.org

EASTERN – MELISSA

Join Project LIFE & Hampton Roads Workforce Council for an

ESCAPE ROOM

JANUARY 15TH / 5:30PM - 7PM
815 BAKER ROAD, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462

Can you solve the clues and escape before time runs out? Enter a world of mystery, teamwork, and excitement.

RSVP TO MELISSA LEE AT MLEE@SHINEFORTH.ORG

Join Us for Virginia Opera's Student Series at the Harrison Opera House!

INTELLIGENCE

JANUARY 28TH AT 7:00 PM

Based on the true story of Mary Jane Bowser, an enslaved woman in Richmond, VA, who became a Civil War spy! This story of sacrifice and the fight for freedom is packed with powerful music and dynamic dance.

160 W Virginia Beach Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23510