



Creating lifelong connections for youth.

Welcome to Project LIFE

What is Project LIFE?

Project LIFE (Living Independently, Focusing on Empowerment) is a partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and United Methodist Family Services (UMFS).

The mission of Project LIFE is to enhance the successful transition of older foster youth to adulthood by a) increasing the capacity of professionals working with youth to engage in sound, evidence-based practices and b) by promoting permanent connections and effective preparation for transition to adulthood.

What are our goals?

- Create new and expanded opportunities for youth to develop Independent living skills
- Promote youth's meaningful engagement and advocating for themselves and others in foster care
- Strengthen the capacity of local departments of social services to more effectively support youth in preparing to leave foster care and make successful transitions to adulthood

- Increase the capacity of public and private service providers to engage in best practices with older youth in foster care.

What do we offer?

- Free, best practice approaches to serving older youth in care
- Support to regional IL Committees and other public and private agencies
- Orientation and coaching on Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA)
- Orientation and coaching on Transition Planning
- Informational sessions on:
 - National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)
 - Independent Living/ETV Services
 - Permanency
- Regional youth events
- Statewide youth conferences



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For more information or to get involved, please contact a Project LIFE staff person:

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