

# VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living)

## Highlights – December 2022

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### JOIN US! Youth Services Team Check-ins

Come participate in a 30-minute open discussion with the Youth Services team about independent Living Services updates. *Bring your questions.* Click on link to join the meeting [VDSS Statewide Youth Services Check-ins w/ Project Life](#). Registration not required.

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022 @ 3:30pm** (Topics-MYR, Transition Plans, FAQs)

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### Youth Exit Surveys

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) developed the Youth Exit Survey to learn more about young people's experiences in foster care. [This survey offers an opportunity for young adults \(ages 18+\) to voice their perspectives and provide valuable information](#) to policymakers and stakeholders to [help improve Virginia's foster care system](#). Participation in the survey come with a \$20.00 incentive, provided directly from VDSS.

Please continue to encourage youth participation. See attached PDF for information about the Youth Exit Survey

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### Education Stability Trainings

- [Registration is live.](#) These trainings are free and open to all school staff, LDSS, LCPAs, and anyone interested in supporting students in foster care. **ALL Foster Care and Educational Stability Liaisons are strongly encouraged to attend.**

**December 7, 2022 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm** • Part 2 (special education) • virtual • [register now!](#)

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### Life Skills Assessments and Transition Plans

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. [gmack@umfs.org](mailto:gmack@umfs.org)



### Project LIFE

Exciting events are happening this month. Get your youth involved. View and **SHARE** the Project Life December Newsletter. [PLIFE December 2022 Newsletter](#).

Contact your **Project LIFE** Regional Consultant for any Independent Living training and/or group ideas or needs! - <https://www.vaprojectlife.org/our-people/>

**Project LIFE** is hiring for an IL Consultant in the Piedmont and Western Regions. For more details view the December Newsletter or view the job post [here](#).

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## National Youth in Transition Database - NYTD Cohort 5 – FFY23



As of OCTOBER 1, 2022, **every** youth who is in foster care on their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, and/or any day within the 45 days following the youth's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, is eligible for participation by taking the NYTD survey. The LDSS is required to ask the youth to participate in a survey during the **45 days** after the youth's 17th birthday.

**Best Practice tip** – FSS conducts the NYTD survey with the youth in person. To be able to authentically engage as partners and explain the importance of the NYTD survey and how their participation plays a critical role in quality improvements for Chafee (Independent Living) programs. Surveys can be completed over the phone, or with the assistance of a caretaker or provider when frequent access to youth is a barrier.

*Latest Virginia NYTD Data Summary Reports attached.*

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## Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative - Authentic Youth Engagement Video

### Stefani and Kim's Story

Demonstrates how showing up and listening are foundational to developing a nourishing relationship with youth. A young woman describes the constant support she and her family received from a social worker as she evolved from a youth into a teen mom and an advocate.

<https://youtu.be/SSDMHsuWNRw>

