

VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living) Highlights - August 2024

2024 VDSS Commissioner's Award for Outstanding Achievement

PEOPLE FIRST: PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE: The People First: People Helping People award is one that truly mirrors our mission of helping Virginians achieve safety, independence, and overall well-being. As VDSS employees, we all live our mantra of People Helping People every day, but the recipients of this award excel at it and truly made an impact this year. Through their work, VDSS has been able to foster independence and overall well-being for our clients. This includes youth currently and formerly in foster care who are being motivated to overcome barriers through innovative VDSS-led initiatives, as well as non-custodial parents and their children who are being treated with a "family first" approach in all their interactions with our agency.

CONGRATULATIONS!! **LETHA MOORE-JONES** – The 2024 recipient of the People First: People Helping People – Commissioner's Award!

Youth Services Fall 2024

Check-Ins

Come participate in a 30-minute open discussion with the Youth Services team hear 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.

2nd Tuesday's – Join Us! 3:30pm – 4:00pm

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

NYTD 21-Year Olds Cohort 4B

21-Year-Old Period B survey list is available in [SafeMeasures](#). ALL NYTD surveys MUST be entered in OASIS by **September 15, 2024**.

NYTD Forms can be located in English and Spanish on FUSION - [Services for Older Youth](#)

SURVEYS CAN (AND SHOULD) BE ENTERED PRIOR TO THE YOUTHS 21ST BIRTHDAY.



FY25 1st Quarter Reports

Chafee/ETV - 1st Quarter ends August 31, 2024.

Quarterly Report are due to va.ilp@dss.virginia.gov by **September 15, 2024**. All expenditures documented on the quarterly reports MUST be documented in Oasis IL Services Screen.

SPEAKOUT is growing!

VDSS – Youth Advisory Board has only few spots left. Looking for additional representation in the Central, Eastern and Piedmont Regions. Send an interest email to SPEAKOUT@dss.virginia.gov for more information/application.

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!

Trainings – Professional

Casey Life Skills Assessment and Transition Planning –
Aug. 6, 2024 - 10:00am – 11:30am – [Register](#)

Youth Welfare Approach –
Aug. 14, 2024 – 1:00pm – 3:30pm - [Register](#)

IL Coordinator's Meetings

Northern Region
Sept 24, 1-2pm for link contact
– gmack@umfs.org

Piedmont Region
Sept 6th 10am
for link contact – cemory-clegg@umfs.org

Central Region (CRILAY)
Aug 13th 2-3pm
At UMFS Richmond Bldg. 10.
for more info -
mrodriguez@vhbg.org or
taylorcl@chesterfield.gov

Ongoing Youth Services Projects

FYI Work Group – Monthly meetings with representatives from LDSS, PHAs, Supportive Services, Youth, VDSS, Community Supporters.

Transportation Supports – Through the State approved budget VDSS received funds to develop a Driving Program in Virginia. Stay Tuned (PAC Meeting Presentation – August)

Chafee Program Documentation

Life Skills Assessment – A youth driven assessment is to be completed on all youth 14 – 2, at least once a year – current SafeMeasures compliance, **48% Current.**

Transition Plans – A youth driven plan derived from a life skills assessment is to be completed on all youth 14 – 2, at least once a year – current SafeMeasures compliance, **43% Current**

IL Services – ALL expenditures listed on Chafee/ETV Quarterly Reports, must be documented in Oasis. Youth 14 and older should have IL services/activities documented MONTHLY on the IL services screen. This is the only way the Federal government can capture IL Services being provided to youth in Virginia. (reference - FUSION - [Funding Packet](#) and [Document IL Services](#) tool)