



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

Youth Services Fall 2024

Check-Ins

Join us! Participate in a 30-minute open discussion with the VDSS Youth Services team and 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

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

NYTD 19-Year-Olds Cohort 5A

19-Year-Old Period a survey list is available in [SafeMeasures](#). ALL NYTD surveys in OPEN cases MUST be entered in OASIS by **September 15, 2024**. ALL CLOSED cases MUST be entered in Oasis by **March 14, 2025**. NYTD Forms can be located in English and Spanish on FUSION - [Services for Older Youth SURVEYS CAN \(AND SHOULD\) BE ENTERED PRIOR TO THE YOUTH'S 19th BIRTHDAY.](#)



Annual VDSS Permanency Conference

Join us in advocating for the power of family during insightful discussions with a variety of lived experience speakers including:

- Sixto Cancel
- A Foster Care Simulation
- April Dinwoodie
- Tony Hynes

Monday, October 28 - Tuesday, October 29, 2024

@ Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg.

Registration Link found in [FUSION Broadcast](#) or [Home | Permanency Conference: Empowering Families, Breaking Barriers, and Building Futures \(vdsspermanencyconference.com\)](#) .

Questions, contact Juliet Baldwin- Juliet.baldwin@dss.virginia.gov

YOUTH VOICES OF FOSTER CARE MONTH

The Virginia Department of Social Services is celebrating Youth Voices of Foster Care Month in October.

Youth & Young Adults Voices Matter

Consider sharing your voice as part of a Photo Listing Focus Group discussion hosted by the Virginia Department of Social Services' Adoption Program.

Youth and young adults between the ages of 16 and 26 who were adopted from foster care or were in foster care and turned 18 with the goal of adoption.

When: **November 7th 6-8p.m.**

Incentive: **\$75 VISA Gift Card**

For more information, or to register, contact c.claiborne@dss.virginia.gov or call (804) 726-7531.

Youth Voices of Foster Care Month Event

In honor of this month, **SPEAKOUT**, Virginia's Youth Advisory Board, is hosting a special event entitled, *Building Bridges: The Power of Permanent Connections for Youth in Foster Care* on **October 24, 2024, from 10am-12pm**. This impactful virtual event focuses on the critical importance of permanent connections for youth in foster care

Registration Link – [HERE!](#)

Building Bridges event is open to LDSS/VDSS staff, Foster/Adoptive parents, Youth and private providers. Share accordingly.

Youth Voice Reads

The Heart Knows Something Different: Teenage Voices from the Foster Care System by [Youth Communication](#), [Al Desetta \(Editor\)](#), [Jonathan Kozol \(Foreword by\)](#) personal narratives by young writers, ages 15 to 20, and provides an insider's account of growing up in "the system."

Reshuffled: Stories of Hope and Resilience from Foster Care by [Tracy Gharbo](#), [Linda Palmer](#) *Reshuffled* tells the life stories of former foster children, who despite all odds, craft productive lives.

(highlights some Virginia youth's experiences)



Updated ETV Forms

New ETV Checklist and ETV Applications now on FUSION - [Services-for-Older-Youth/Education-and-Training-Voucher-ETV-Program](#)

Financial Aid Virtual Bootcamp

October 23rd 2024

- 1PM EST – Getting Started with a StudentAid.gov Account
- 3PM EST – Ways to Pay for College
- 6PM – FASFA Resources and How to Avoid Financial Aid Scams

[Registration Link](#)

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 or visit [Foster My Future - SPEAKOUT](#)

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 funding to develop a Statewide Driving Program in Virginia. Stay Tuned for more information about **Drive To Thrive!**

Project LIFE

View and SHARE the Project LIFE Newsletter **PLIFE latest Newsletter** for Youth Activities in your Region!

- Healthy Relationships
- Scavenger Hunt
- Fall24 Conference

See PLIFE newsletter for IL workshop registration information in all 5 Regions!

IL Coordinator's Meetings

Western Region

Oct 13th, 1:30pm

for meeting link contact –

asteffey@umfs.org

Central Region-ILC's Only

Oct 8th 1pm – 2pm

for meeting link contact –

mcl058@henrico.us



PROJECT LIFE

Creating lifelong connections for youth.
A partnership with and funded by VDSS.

