



Monthly Newsletter

December 2025

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Webex Trainings

Adolescent Sexuality: Promoting Sexual Health & Responsibility

Tuesday, Dec. 2

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Adult Connections & Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Wednesday, Dec. 10

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 22

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Regulating Emotions

Thursday, Dec. 4

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

An Introduction to Trauma Informed Healing Centered Engagement

Friday, Dec. 5

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Monday, Dec. 22

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bullying: Spot It, Stop It

Wednesday, Dec. 10

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Essential Communication Skills for Working with Youth

Friday, Dec. 12

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Milestones & Meaning: A Brief Introduction for Emerging LGBTQ+ Allies

Thursday, Dec. 4

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Motivating & Engaging Youth

Tuesday, Dec. 9

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Networking & Mapping Resources

Monday, Dec. 8

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Permanency Options for Youth

Monday, Dec. 1

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Preparing Youth for Employment

Thursday, Dec. 11

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Tuesday, Dec. 2

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Promoting Resilience: Fostering Youth Empowerment

Wednesday, Dec. 3

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Relational Strategies to Build Trust & Connection

Wednesday, Dec. 3

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 15

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Street Smarts: Safety Skills for Youth

Thursday, Dec. 11

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Tuesday, Dec. 9

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

To register: Visit **Human Services Learning Center**

<https://www.hslcnys.org>, or email **Nicholas Largo** nlargo@albany.edu

For training descriptions, visit: <https://youthinprogress.org/events-trainings/>

Classroom Trainings

Region 1

Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Part 1

Thursday, December 11

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Amherst, NY

Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Part 2

Friday, December 12

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Amherst, NY

Region 2

Motivating & Engaging Youth

Wednesday, December 3

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Rochester, NY

Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Part 1

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rochester, NY

Region 4

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Thursday, December 4

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Malone, NY

Adolescent Sexuality: Promoting Sexual Health & Sexual Responsibility

Monday, December 8

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rensselaer, NY

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Wednesday, December 17

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rensselaer, NY

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Monday, December 22

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rensselaer, NY

Region 5 (Long Island)

Essential Communication Skills for Working with Youth

Tuesday, December 2

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Amityville, NY

Region 5 (Westchester)

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Tuesday, December 23

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Valhalla, NY

Region 6

Permanency Options for Youth

Monday, December 15

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

New York, NY

To register, email:

Region 1—Kim Grose

kimberly.grose@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 2 - Kendra Drake

kendra.drake@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 3—

Katie Rushlo-Mercado

katie.rushlo@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 4—Chelsea Perkins

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Region 5 (Long Island)—

Angela Cardarelli

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Region 5 (Westchester)—

Thomas Califra

thomas.califra@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 6 - Shainek Edmundson

Shainek.Edmundson3@ocfs.ny.gov



YIP Meetings

Your Legal Rights: Navigating the System

This meeting will cover legal rights and the legal process for foster youth.

- Understanding the Foster Youth Bill of Rights
- Advocating for Yourself in Court
- Breaking Down the Legal Process

To register, email:

Statewide—Kim Grose
kimberly.grose@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 1—Kim Grose
kimberly.grose@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 2—Kendra Drake
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Region 4—Chelsea Perkins
chelsea.perkins@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 5 (Long Island)—Angela Cardarelli
angela.cardarelli2@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 5 (Westchester)—Thomas Califra
thomas.califra@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 6 - Shainek Edmundson
Shainek.Edmundson3@ocfs.ny.gov

Statewide

Thursday, December 18

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Webex)

Region 1 (Buffalo)

Tuesday, December 16

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Cheektowaga, NY

Region 2 (Rochester)

Wednesday, December 10

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Rochester, NY

Region 5 (Long Island)

Wednesday, December 10

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Bohemia, NY



Resources

Youth in Progress

Youth in Progress is a platform where youth in foster care can speak up and help shape the future of the foster care system. Visit [YouthinProgress.org](https://youthinprogress.org) to explore valuable resources, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. Your voice matters!

The New York State Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care

The New York State Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care provides Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) and Voluntary Agencies (VA) with resources to engage and inform youth in foster care about their rights.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/fostercare/bill-of-rights.php>

NYS OCFS Foster Care Bill of Rights Video

Watch this short animated video from the OCFS youtube channel. It helps explain the Foster Care Bill of Rights in a fun and accessible way.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOUzAcU8UOM/>

Need to Know Series: All About Family Court

Youth living in foster care have their cases heard in Family Court, a court which deals with issues of families, children, and youth. Many people have questions about Family Court, what to expect there, how to present oneself effectively and what the terms used there mean.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/digital-printable-handouts/need-to-know-series/need-to-know-series-all-about-family-court/>

New York State Unified Court System

The New York State Unified Court System provides valuable information for foster care on their website.

<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/5jd/family/fostercare.shtml>