



Monthly Newsletter

June 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Webex Trainings	2
Classroom Trainings	3
YIP Meetings	4
Resources.....	5

Follow us for the latest news on our social media channels:



@YIPNewYork



@YouthInProgress



@YouthInProgress_NY



@youthinprogressny

Contact Information

Kim Grose

Youth Engagement Specialist

NYS OCFS Buffalo Regional Office

295 Main Street

Ellicott Square Building-Suite 545

Buffalo, NY 14203

716-847-3147

kimberly.grose@ocfs.ny.gov

Webex Trainings

Adolescent Sexuality: Promoting Sexual Health & Responsibility

Wednesday, June 17
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Adult Connections & Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Thursday, June 11
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Regulating Emotions

Monday, June 1
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 17
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 30
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

An Introduction to Trauma Informed Healing Centered Engagement

Monday, June 8
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 25
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Friday, June 26
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bullying: Spot It, Stop It

Tuesday, June 16
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 18
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Essential Communication Skills for Working with Youth

Tuesday, June 2
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 18
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitations of Children (CSEC)

Part 1
Tuesday, June 2
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Part 2
Tuesday, June 9
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

Friday, June 12
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Motivating & Engaging Youth

Tuesday, June 9
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday, June 29
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Permanency Options for Youth

Wednesday, June 10
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 25
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Preparing Youth for Employment

Wednesday, June 10
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Monday, June 15
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 30
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Promoting Resilience: Fostering Youth Empowerment

Thursday, June 4
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Relational Strategies to Build Trust & Connection

Wednesday, June 3
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Street Smarts: Safety Skills for Youth

Tuesday, June 23
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Wednesday, June 3
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 11
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

To register: Visit **Human Services Learning Center** <https://www.hslcnys.org>, or email **Seana Yeates** syeates@albany.edu
For training descriptions, visit: <https://youthinprogress.org/events-trainings/>

Classroom Trainings

Region 1

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Thursday, June 24

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Buffalo, NY

Permanency Options for Youth

Thursday, June 11

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Buffalo, NY

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Tuesday, June 16

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Jamestown, NY

Region 2

Bullying: Spot It; Stop It

Wednesday, June 17

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rochester, NY

Region 3

LGBTQ+ Youth: Building Responsive & Respectful Care

Thursday, June 11

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Binghamton, NY

Permanency Options for Youth

Wednesday, June 24

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Syracuse, NY

Region 4

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Tuesday, June 16

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rensselaer, NY

Permanency Options for Youth

Tuesday, June 23

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rensselaer, NY

Region 5 (Long Island)

Promoting Resilience: Fostering Youth Empowerment

Tuesday, June 9

2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Amityville, NY

Region 5 (Westchester)

LGBTQ+ Youth: Building Responsive & Respectful Care

Thursday, June 25

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

New Hampton, NY

LGBTQ+ Youth: Building Responsive & Respectful Care

Tuesday, June 30

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Valhalla, 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
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



YIP Meetings

Speak Out Preparation & Strategic Sharing

- The importance of advocacy
- Why your voice matters
- Sharing your story
- Public speaking

To register, email:

Statewide—Kendra Drake
kendra.drake@ocfs.ny.gov

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

Region 2—Kendra Drake
kendra.drake@ocfs.ny.gov

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, June 18

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Webex)

Region 1 (Buffalo)

Monday, June 22

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Randolph, NY

Wednesday, June 24

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Buffalo, NY

Region 5 (Long Island)

Wednesday, June 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!

2026 Youth Speak Out Events

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Professional Development Program are pleased to announce the 2026 Annual Youth Event. Youth are invited to advocate for a better future and explore their paths to adulthood in a safe and engaging environment with the experience of former foster youth and support of adult partners.

<https://youthinprogress.org/news/2026-youth-events/>

Reflections on 2025 Youth Speak Out Events

The speak out event isn't just another meeting; it's a chance for you to speak your truth to people who listen and can make changes. Don't miss the chance to be heard, be understood, and be part of the change- because the future of foster care starts with a voice like yours.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/topics/youth-speak-out-events/>

How to Make Your Voice Heard While Respecting Others

Your voice matters and deserves to be heard. Whether these conversations are about your placement, education, or future, your input matters.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/topics/how-to-make-your-voice-heard-while-respecting-others/>

OCFS Youth Advisory Board

The YAB is a diverse group of young adults ages 18-26 with lived experience in New York State's child welfare system, juvenile justice system, and/or who have experienced homelessness as a youth. The YAB consists of 10-20 active members from across the state.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/youth/yab/>