



Monthly Newsletter

September 2025

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, Sept. 3
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Adult Connections & Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Thursday, Sept. 11
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 30
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Regulating Emotions

Wednesday, Sept. 10
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 25
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Trauma Informed Healing Centered Engagement

Monday, Sept. 8
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 24
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Wednesday, Sept. 3
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 26
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Bullying: Spot It, Stop It

Tuesday, Sept. 16
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Essential Communication Skills for Working with Youth

Thursday, Sept. 25
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

Monday, Sept. 8
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 24
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Motivating & Engaging Youth

Wednesday, Sept. 10
10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 15
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 23
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Networking & Mapping Resources

Friday, Sept. 12
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Monday, Sept. 22
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Permanency Options for Youth

Tuesday, Sept. 9
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 23
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Preparing Youth for Employment

Thursday, Sept. 18
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Thursday, Sept. 4
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 17
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 29
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Promoting Resilience: Fostering Youth Empowerment

Tuesday, Sept. 9
10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Relational Strategies to Build Trust & Connection

Friday, Sept. 5
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Sept. 18
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 30
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Street Smarts: Safety Skills for Youth

Thursday, Sept. 11
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Thursday, Sept. 4
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 17
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

To register:

Visit **Human Services Learning Center**
<https://www.hslcnys.org>, or email
Lilibeth Donahue ldonahue@albany.edu

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



Classroom Trainings

Region 2

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

Monday, Sept. 8

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Canadaigua, NY

Building and Supporting Personal Safety Skills with Youth

Tuesday, Sept. 30

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rochester, NY

Region 4

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Thursday, Sept. 11

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Albany, NY

Region 5

Bullying: Spot It; Stop It

Tuesday, Sept. 9

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Amityville, NY

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Tuesday, Sept. 30

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 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 (Westchester) — Thomas Califra

thomas.califra@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 5 (Long Island) — Angela Cardarelli

angela.cardarelli2@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 6 - Shainek Edmundson

Shainek.Edmundson3@ocfs.ny.gov



YIP Meetings

Navigating School Systems: Making the Most of Your Education

This meeting focuses on accessing educational support and understanding educational rights.

- How to Access Academic Support
- Educational Rights for Foster Youth
- Understanding Available School Resources

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

Statewide—Thomas Califra
thomas.califra@ocfs.ny.gov

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

Statewide

Thursday, September 25

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Webex)

Region 1 (Buffalo)

Thursday, September 25

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Amherst, NY

Region 2 (Rochester)

Wednesday, September 24

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Rochester, NY

Region 5 (Long Island)

Wednesday, September 24

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Bohemia, NY



Resources

Youth in Progress

Youth in Progress gives youth in foster care the opportunity to be heard to make changes to the foster care system. [YouthinProgress.org](https://youthinprogress.org) has resources, events, and involvement opportunities. Check it out today!

Need to Know Series: Planning for College or Work

Prepare for a successful future by thinking about the things that interest you, and then transition them into a college major or career. These documents provide information about college and career planning resources, financial aid, and support services.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/digital-printable-handouts/need-to-know-series/need-to-know-series-planning-for-college-or-work/>

NYS Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI)

The Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) is a state program administered by the New York State Education Department that supports current and former foster care students enrolling in or attending college. It provides support and financial assistance to help students achieve academic success.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/youth/fycsi.php>

College Planning

Planning for college requires different steps during each of a youth's years in high school. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors each have different to-do lists associated with their journey to college.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/topics/college-planning/>