



Monthly Bulletin

August 2026

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Webex Trainings

Adolescent Sexuality: Promoting Sexual Health & Responsibility

Monday, August 31

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Adult Connections & Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Tuesday, August 25

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Regulating Emotions

Tuesday, August 18

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

An Introduction to Trauma Informed Healing Centered Engagement

Monday, August 3

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Monday, August 31

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Wednesday, August 5

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 20

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bullying: Spot It, Stop It

Wednesday, August 5

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, August 24

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Essential Communication Skills for Working with Youth

Monday, August 10

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 27

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, August 12

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Part 2

Wednesday, August 19

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

Friday, August 7

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 26

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Motivating & Engaging Youth

Tuesday, August 25

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Networking & Mapping Resources

Friday, August 14

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Permanency Options for Youth

Tuesday, August 11

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 27

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Preparing Youth for Employment

Friday, August 21

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Tuesday, August 11

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, August 28

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Relational Strategies to Build Trust & Connection

Thursday, August 6

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Street Smarts: Safety Skills for Youth

Monday, August 17

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Tuesday, August 18

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

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Thursday, August 6

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cheektowaga, NY

Region 2

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

Monday, August 17

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rochester, NY

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

Thursday, August 20

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rochester, NY

Region 3

Boundaries: Setting Limits and Sharing Safely

Wednesday, August 12

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Auburn, NY

Boundaries: Setting Limits and Sharing Safely

Thursday, August 20

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Auburn, NY

Region 4

Adolescent Sexuality: Promoting Sexual Health & Sexual Responsibility

Monday, August 10

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rensselaer, NY

Boundaries: Setting Limits and Sharing Safely

Monday, August 17

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Rensselaer, NY

Region 5 (Westchester)

Promoting Resilience: Fostering Youth Empowerment

Wednesday, August 26

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Valhalla, NY

Promoting Resilience: Fostering Youth Empowerment

Thursday, August 27

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

New Hampton, 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

YIP meetings typically take place monthly, each focusing on a specific topic and offering youth a platform to share their experiences within the child welfare system. Being part of YIP offers the opportunity to contribute to significant improvements within the child welfare system.

For more information on Youth in Progress meetings happening in your region, please reach out to your Youth Engagement Specialist.

To register, email:

Statewide—Thomas Califra
thomas.califra@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
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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

Preparing for the Future

- Educational/vocational planning
- Finding the right school/career pathway
- Financial Supports (scholarships, grants, ETV)

Open Statewide Offering

Wednesday, August 26

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Webex)



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/>

Need to Know Series: Preparing Youth for Success: The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

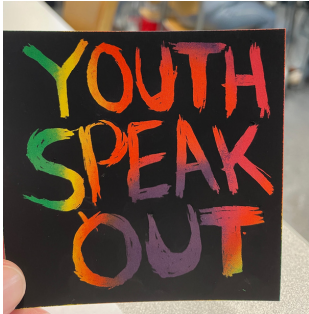
The Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood is a resource that you may use while in care and when transitioning out of care.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/digital-printable-handouts/need-to-know-series/need-to-know-series-preparing-youth-for-success-the-john-h-chafee-foster-care-program-for-successful-transition-to-adulthood/>

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/>



ANNUAL YOUTH EVENTS REGIONS 2, 5, 6