



Monthly Bulletin

September 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

Monday, Sept. 28
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Adult Connections & Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Friday, Sept. 11
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Regulating Emotions

Friday, Sept. 18
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Trauma Informed Healing Centered Engagement

Thursday, Sept. 24
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Friday, Sept. 4
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 25
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bullying: Spot It, Stop It

Wednesday, Sept. 16
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Essential Communication Skills for Working with Youth

Wednesday, Sept. 16
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 29
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Part 1
Wednesday, Sept. 2
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 30
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Part 2
Wednesday, Sept. 9
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

Monday, Sept. 14
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Motivating & Engaging Youth

Thursday, Sept. 17
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Networking & Mapping Resources

Tuesday, Sept. 29
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Permanency Options for Youth

Thursday, Sept. 10
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 23
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Preparing Youth for Employment

Tuesday, Sept. 15
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Thursday, Sept. 10
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 22
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Relational Strategies to Build Trust & Connection

Tuesday, Sept. 1
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Street Smarts: Safety Skills for Youth

Monday, Sept. 21
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Thursday, Sept. 3
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 23
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 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

Preparing Youth In Care for the College Experience

Thursday, Sept. 10

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Niagara Falls, NY

Bullying: Spot It; Stop It

Thursday, Sept. 17

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Cheektowaga, NY

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Thursday, Sept. 24

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Niagara Falls, NY

Region 2

LGBTQ+ Youth: Building Responsive and Respectful Care

Monday, Sept. 21

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Canadaigua, NY

Region 4

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Friday, Sept. 18

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Rensselaer, NY

Bullying: Spot It; Stop It

Monday, Sept. 21

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Rensselaer, NY

Region 5 (Westchester)

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Tuesday, Sept. 29

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Valhalla, NY

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Wednesday, Sept. 30

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—Katie Rushlo-Mercado
katie.rushlo@ocfs.ny.gov

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

Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Youth Trafficking

- Where to get support and safety if you are being trafficked
- Warning signs and risk factors of human trafficking
- How to keep yourself safe
- How to avoid being taken advantage of
- Red flags

Open Statewide Offering

Tuesday, Sept. 15

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!

Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in NYS

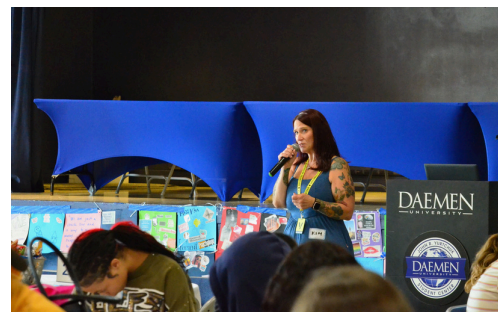
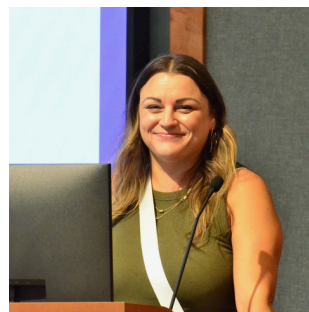
The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is committed to supporting survivors of human trafficking and professionals who serve this population by providing state-of-the-art preventative measures in identifying and servicing exploited children in New York State.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/human-trafficking/>

Need to Know Series: Human Trafficking

This brochure is designed to help you learn about the topic of human trafficking, and provide valuable information to help protect you and your friends from this crime.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/digital-printable-handouts/need-to-know-series/need-to-know-series-human-trafficking/>



ANNUAL YOUTH EVENTS

REGIONS 1, 3, 4