



# From Foster Care to Adulthood

## ~Puzzle Instructions~

- On separate sticky notes, write down your answers to the following questions:
  - **How do you support youth?**
  - **How do you use youth voice?**
- Place your sticky notes on the puzzle piece that best aligns with your role



# **From Foster Care to Adulthood: Building Resiliency through Partnership & Engagement**

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# Introductions

**Aaran Kelley**

Youth Services Program Specialist  
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**Sophia Booker**

Youth Development Coordinator  
Project LIFE



# Discussion

- **How do you support youth?**
- **How do you use youth voice?**



# Chafee Program

- Formerly known as the Independent Living Program (IL Program or ILP)
- John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood



# Chafee Program Funding

- 80/20 Federal/State (no local match)
- LDSS receive annual funding based on average number of youth in foster care
- VDSS Grant (Project LIFE)
- State program operating cost



# Chafee Program Eligibility

- Youth 14-23 years of age
- Currently or formerly in foster care (including Fostering Futures) in Virginia



# Chafee Program

## Eligible Expenditures

- Covers a broad range of activities, education, training, and services
- Supplement (must not supplant)
- Must fall within one of the federal NYTD categories



# Chafee Program NYTD Categories

- Life skills assessment
- Academic support
- Post-secondary education support
- Career preparation
- Employment program or vocational training
- Budget and financial management



# Chafee Program NYTD Categories

- Housing education & house management training
- Health education and risk prevention
- Family support & healthy marriage education
- Mentoring
- Independent living arrangement



# Chafee Program NYTD Categories

- Room & board financial assistance
- Education financial assistance
- Other financial assistance (incentives for youth and outreach)
- Additional services, assistance, and equipment



# Chafee Program

## Program Requirements

**Each participating LDSS is required to:**

- Assist each eligible youth in completing a life skills assessment
- Partner with the youth to complete a Transition Plan
- Pay for or provide eligible goods and/or services
- Evaluate services for effectiveness



# Chafee Program

## Life Skills Assessment

- Assess strengths and needs
- Youth-driven
- Address knowledge of
  - Basic living skills
  - Job readiness
  - Money management abilities
  - Decision-making skills



# Chafee Program Transition Plan

- Youth-driven
- Team process
- Goals and tasks
- Services, activities, and supports
- Rights and responsibilities



# Chafee Program

## LDSS Requirements

- Funding application
- Quarterly reports
- Mid-year review
- Monitoring
- OASIS documentation



**Youth**

**Perspective**



# Project LIFE

Project LIFE (Living Independently, Focusing on Empowerment) helps youth in Virginia succeed when they age out of foster care. We do that by **helping youth directly** and by **supporting the professionals who work with them**. Our services help youth in foster care avoid homelessness, helplessness and hopelessness. Instead, they have the knowledge and support they need to get jobs, continue school, live decently and give back to their communities.



# **Project LIFE**

## **What We Do**

- Project LIFE serves youth in foster care, ages 14 to 23, throughout the five regions of Virginia. Project LIFE seeks to fulfill the goals of the Chafee Program and the principles of the Children's Services System Transformation, which emphasizes children's rights to permanency.

## **What We Believe**

- We believe that all people have strengths and are able to form social bonds, solve problems, exercise self-control, and make a contribution to society. Mastering these universal growth needs is essential for all young people as they transition into adulthood.

# Project LIFE

## Statewide Youth Conferences





**Q & A**



# Final Activity

**Moving forward...**

- What will you do to support youth?
- How will you use youth voice?



# Contact Information

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