

GIVE FOSTER YOUTH A VOICE

Foster youth are counting on you to help their voices be heard. By assisting current and former foster youth in completing the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey, you are helping them directly improve the future of foster care in Virginia.

NYTD is a federally mandated program that examines outcomes for foster youth. The NYTD survey is designed to capture data on how independent living (IL) services are provided to foster youth in Virginia. Youth will be asked to provide feedback on a range of topics including financial support, education, personal relationships, experience with homelessness and access to health insurance. Data collected by the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) can be used to create better programs and policies that will help youth successfully transition from foster care to independence.

BE A RESOURCE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

You can assist youth in completing the survey by:

- » Explaining the purpose of the survey and answering any questions
- » Encouraging them to share their experiences to help improve foster care outcomes for others
- » Sharing information regarding the cash incentive*

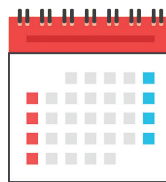
**Youth who complete the NYTD survey can receive a cash incentive from the IL program provided by the local department of social services.*

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUTH

- » Leverage community partners to identify and engage foster youth in the survey at ages 17, 19, and 21
- » Include survey reminders in birthday cards to eligible youth
- » Verify/update contact information for foster youth
- » Establish best practices to guide your discussions with youth and families
- » Partner with foster parents to ensure youth are aware and understand the NYTD survey



WHEN SHOULD YOUTH TAKE THE SURVEY?



Eligible youth should take the baseline NYTD 17 survey within 45 days of turning 17. Youth who complete the survey at 17 will be asked to complete the NYTD survey again at ages 19 and 21. All states are required to report how many youth received IL services at ages 17, 19, and 21. Data is collected for the NYTD survey bi-annually. The federal reporting periods, each year, are:

October 1 – March 31 and **April 1 – September 30**



Local departments of social services can find a list of their NYTD participants in Safe Measures.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
801 EAST MAIN STREET | RICHMOND VA 23219**

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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Right now, you have the power to change the future of foster care in Virginia and across the nation. The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a federally mandated program that examines outcomes for foster youth. To meet NYTD's requirement to collect this outcome data, Virginia child welfare agencies **survey** current and former foster youth at age 17, and again at ages 19 and 21.

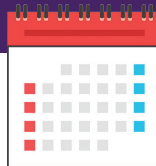
WHY IT MATTERS

Your participation in this survey is essential to understanding the experiences, needs and recommendations of Virginia's foster youth. Your responses help Virginia to make more informed decisions about policies and practices that directly impact youth transitioning to independent living.

Based on your feedback, child welfare agencies can better provide critical services such as housing, mentorship, education assistance and career preparation.

Insights you share on this survey help influence how Virginia provides additional support through service improvements and new programs, such as Fostering Futures. Survey topics include:

- » Your access to health care
- » Your education and training
- » Your employment and financial support
- » Your personal relationships and living circumstances



WHEN TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Now through September 30th, **please don't underestimate the power of your voice!** We need to hear from you today. Ask your case worker for more information about how you can receive a **cash incentive** for your participation.



Share your voice today!



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801 EAST MAIN STREET | RICHMOND VA 23219**

Your case worker or VDSS at (804) 726-7944