

Project LIFE — Living Independently, Focusing on Empowerment — is operated by UMFS in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). The goal of the project is to coordinate and enhance the provision of independent living services to foster care youth who are about to transition out of foster care.

Points of focus for Project LIFE include, among others:

- Continued development of the Virginia Youth Advisory Council (V-YAC);
- Provision of technical assistance to the regional ILP coordinators' committees; and
- Initiation of a new regionally based "Educate, Advocate, and Elevate" (EAE) effort.

Project LIFE — through regionally based Independent Living Consultants — will assist localities in building the capacity to serve a greater number of older youth to help localities meet the goals of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act and the Children's Services System Transformation.

Project LIFE is built on the Virginia Practice Model, emphasizing children's rights to permanency, and federal requirements for the provision of opportunities to develop adult living skills. Project LIFE will ensure that older youth and local departments of social services staff are receiving the support, training and technical assistance needed for an integrated approach to youth permanency and preparation for adulthood.

Visit www.vaprojectlife.org or call 1-800-292-0305 for more information.