

Virginia Youth Advisory Council

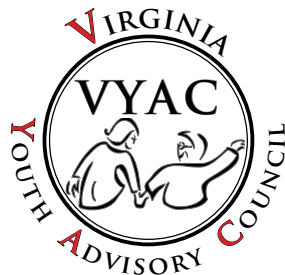


How can I get more information?

If you would like to become a member of V-YAC or attend conferences, please contact your social worker or the Independent Living Program coordinator at your local department of social services.

V-YAC

Virginia Department of
Social Services
Fourth Floor
7 N. Eighth St.
Richmond, VA 23219
804.726.7577
Web:
www.fj13.com/vayac



Email:
VA.YAC@dss.virginia.gov

- LEADERSHIP -

LEADERSHIP

The Virginia Youth Advisory Council (V-YAC) provides a structure for young people in or aging out of foster care to:

- Obtain information about the foster care system
- Exchange ideas that will improve foster care services
- Help make services available that promote and complement each young person's efforts to achieve self sufficiency
- Motivate foster care youth to participate in the Independent Living Programs and V-YAC activities
- Provide input in the decision making process regarding foster care policies and regulations

“V-YAC strives to empower youth to have a positive impact in their communities; develop skills necessary for life-long learning and future success; promote youth’s involvement in the Independent Living Program and leadership development; and provide an opportunity for youth to network with other youth.”

Am I eligible to attend a quarterly conference?

In order to be eligible to attend a V-YAC quarterly conference, you must:

- Be in foster care or aging out of foster care
- Be at least 15 years old, but not yet 21
- Demonstrate good self-discipline
- Be in compliance with your local department of social services Foster Care/Independent Living Program
- Have the recommendation of your local department of social services or designee
- Be able to follow rules



How can I become a member?

In order to be a member of V-YAC, you must:

- Have the recommendation of your local department of social services or designee
- Have completed orientation and the four required workshops (i.e. promoting youth leadership, advocacy, youth councils, and communications skills)
- Have demonstrated willingness to work at V-YAC Conferences
- Complete and submit the membership application
- Complete the interview process

What are my V-YAC member responsibilities?

- Members are expected to serve without receiving monetary compensation.
- Members are expected to attend quarterly meetings and special meetings and events.
- Members serve on committees as designated.
- Members are expected to serve for one year and may renew their membership at the end of each year until age 21.

What are the benefits of V-YAC?

- Life and leadership skills
- Recognition awards
- Involvement with others who have been in foster care
- Giving through community service
- And, much more

