



## Virginia as the Nation's Model for Youth Transitioning from Foster Care

### Virginia's Story

- 464 foster-care youth aged out of care in Virginia in 2016 (51 in the Richmond metro area)
- Has the greatest need as fewer children exit foster care to permanency (78% compared to 88% nationally as reported by the Child Trends survey)
- Offers many of the supports recommended by experts, but coverage is inconsistent and largely unsupported by research
- Beginning in 2016, Virginia's "Fostering Futures" program extends care to age 21 using federal Title IV-E funding

### Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

#### Transition-age youth at 21:

#### STRENGTHS

##### Employment at Transition Age



**55%**  
Virginia  
**50%**  
Nationally

##### High School Graduation Rates



**86%**  
Virginia  
**79%**  
Nationally

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

##### Medicaid Coverage



**64%**  
Virginia  
**74%**  
Nationally

##### Public Support



**14%**  
Virginia  
**41%**  
Nationally

### Imagining the Possibilities for Virginia

The Possibilities Project is a research-based youth-centered program including stable housing and trauma-informed wraparound services.

It includes **The Task Force on Transitioning Youth** to advocate for policies and practices that will improve prospects for youth transitioning out of foster care, such as:

- Partnering with the Fostering Futures program to develop and implement research-based programs and encourage stronger collaboration across all counties in the Commonwealth
- Ensuring this population has access to Medicaid coverage and public support
- Collaborating with peers across the nation to learn from and replicate best practices
- Creating an atmosphere in which other states can replicate The Possibilities Project



**Children's Home Society of Virginia** is a 117-year-old full-service, private, nonprofit, non-sectarian licensed child-placing agency. CHS offers a continuum of care – finding permanent adoptive homes for children of all ages throughout the commonwealth; providing critical support services to birth families, adoptive families, and past and present adoptees; and supporting youth who have aged out of the foster care system. Please visit [www.chsva.org](http://www.chsva.org) for additional information.



**Better Housing**  
COALITION

**The Better Housing Coalition** is the Richmond region's largest nonprofit community development corporation. BHC works to ensure that every citizen in the Richmond region, regardless of their economic status, has good choices in where they live, and opportunities to reach their fullest potential. Please visit [www.betterhousingcoalition.org](http://www.betterhousingcoalition.org) for additional information.



**Child Trends** is the nation's leading nonprofit research organization focused exclusively on improving the lives and prospects of children, youth, and their families. For 37 years, decision-makers have relied on Child Trends' rigorous research, unbiased analyses, and clear communications to improve public policies and interventions that serve children and families. Please visit [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org) for additional information.

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