

Good morning,

Please see below/attached for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- 2026 Older Youth Retreat Video https://www.payab.pitt.edu/videos/2026_RetreatVideo.mp4
- August 2026 OCYF Trauma Tip Sheet (attached)
- 2026 Summer Blast Newsletter (attached)
- Who Stayed? Lasting Connections After Foster Care
- Assisting Students Experiencing Education Instability
- PHEAA Updates
- Race in America Virtual Forum: December 3-4, 2026

2026 Summer Blast Newsletter (attached):

As we close out another exciting summer and prepare for the opportunities that a new school year will bring, we are proud to share the Summer 2026 edition of the Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Newsletter. This issue highlights the remarkable leadership, advocacy, and community involvement of youth across Pennsylvania, from regional projects and statewide initiatives to educational opportunities, resources, and celebrations of achievement. The stories featured throughout these pages demonstrate the power of youth voice and the positive impact young people are making within their communities and the child welfare system. Thank you to the youth, caregivers, professionals, and partners who continue to support and champion meaningful youth engagement. We hope this edition informs, inspires, and reminds you that together we can create lasting change and brighter futures for all young people.

WHO STAYED? LASTING CONNECTIONS AFTER FOSTER CARE

A new **Field Center** research study ([Lasting Connections After Foster Care](#)) will examine how emerging adults who aged out of foster care in the US understand and experience relational permanence, with particular attention to the perceived role of at least one caring, supportive adult in their lives. The study will also examine how caring adults who stayed understand their role, the relationship, and what it meant to remain a caring adult over time.

Interviews with adults are currently being scheduled for August 2026! We are seeking adults age 30 or older who speak English and have remained in the life of a young person who aged out of foster care as a caring adult for at least 2 years. Please share this study opportunity with eligible adults in your network. Participation involves a one-time 60-90-minute interview and a brief demographic questionnaire. Compensation is a \$40 electronic gift card. For questions or to be screened for participation, contact whostayed-study@sp2.upenn.edu or call 215-573-9779.

**Please do not share this flyer or research study on social media*



**Who Stayed?
Lasting Connections
After Foster Care**

Recruiting caring adults who have stayed connected to a young person after they aged out of U.S. foster care. Join a confidential interview study about lasting, supportive relationships after foster care.

Eligibility Requirements

- AGE 30+
- HAVE REMAINED IN THE LIFE OF A YOUNG PERSON FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER THEY AGED OUT OF U.S. FOSTER CARE

Complete a confidential 1:1 Zoom interview and receive compensation for your time.

To complete a brief eligibility screening, and if eligible, schedule an interview, call or email:

Amber Davis
215-573-9779
whostayed-study@sp2.upenn.edu

Contact Information
Principal Investigator:
Dr. Johanna Greeson
215-573-9779
jgreeson@upenn.edu

 The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

This study (#26-6679) was approved by the University of Pennsylvania's IRB



Act 1 of 2022

Assisting Students Experiencing Education Instability

Act 1 of 2022 at Center for Schools and Communities

Ensuring students experiencing foster care, homelessness, or the justice system graduate on time requires coordination, clarity, and the right tools. On the second Wednesday of each month this fall, join colleagues from across the commonwealth in a three-part webinar series designed for professionals supporting student stability and educational success across systems.

Whether you work in child welfare, juvenile justice, or education, these sessions will provide practical guidance and ready-to-use resources.

What is Act 1?

Act 1 of 2022 (Act 1) establishes clear responsibilities for school entities to support students experiencing educational instability, ensuring they have equitable access to academics and extracurricular activities.

The law promotes proactive planning and assessment to help students stay on track for timely high school graduation. By removing barriers, addressing individual needs, and providing essential support, Act 1 strengthens protections for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable students, reinforcing the state's commitment to educational stability and success.

[View the Act 1 webpage.](#)

Register for Our Upcoming Webinars!

Understanding and Implementing Act 1 of 2022

September 9, 2026, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Build a strong foundation in graduation requirements, credit flexibility, and your role in supporting students through school transitions.

[Register for "Understanding and Implementing Act 1 of 2022."](#)

Introducing the Act 1 Graduation Plan Toolkit: A Framework for Timely Graduation

October 14, 2026 | 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Get answers to common implementation questions and learn how to address real-world challenges in cross-system collaboration.

[Register for "Introducing the Act 1 Graduation Plan Toolkit: A Framework for Timely Graduation."](#)

Act 1 of 2022 Frequently Asked Questions

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

This will be an informative walkthrough of the Act 1 of 2022 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource. This session will highlight answers to common questions received from educators and practitioners as they continue to implement Act 1 in their schools. Participants will gain practical insights to support consistent and effective application of Act 1 of 2022 policy in everyday school practice.

[Register for "Act 1 of 2022 Frequently Asked Questions."](#)

Who Should Attend

- Juvenile justice professionals
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons
- Foster care points of contact and child welfare professionals
- School entity staff responsible for graduation planning
- Education liaisons and multidisciplinary team members

Each session has been designed to strengthen collaboration, clarify responsibilities, and improve outcomes for students navigating complex systems.

Register today and share with colleagues who support student success.



PHEAA Update

July 2026



Greetings from PHEAA's Pennsylvania School Services!

PHEAA News

The application for the 2026-27 PA Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant (BDBG) Program student application is available. Applications are due by March 31, 2027.

The 2026-27 Chafee ETG and FosterEd program student **application** is available. Chafee ETC applications are due by March 31, 2027, and FosterEd applications are due by May 1, 2027. Students should work with the institutional FosterEd point-of-contact to resolve eligibility questions.

Starting with the 2026-27 academic year, typed or typeface signatures will be accepted for student applications and forms. Students can visit pheaa.org/signature for more information on form signature requirements. There is no change in institutional signature requirements

Universal FAFSA Completion

Act 47 of 2025 adopted legislation making Pennsylvania the 14th state requiring FAFSA completion for seniors (unless they opt out) beginning with the 2026-27 academic term. PHEAA can provide reports of students who have completed the FAFSA for your school if you have a Remote Access Agreement completed. Please go to [Sign Our Remote Access Agreement](#) to complete the High School Remote Access Agreement if you have not done so previously. If you are not sure if you have an agreement on file, please reach out to your access partner.

PA Forward Student Loans

Financial Aid Q&A Planning

Do you have students who feel overwhelmed by college costs and are feeling stuck when it comes to making decisions? Let PHEAA help ease their worries. On Tuesday, August 4, members of the private lending team will be hosting a 1-hour open Q&A session. The goal is to answer questions about school selection, financial aid, scholarships, and more! Students and parents can register at pheaa.org/virtual.

Resources

Webinar Resources

Representatives from PHEAA provide a variety of webinars, including an overview of how to apply for all types of financial aid, reviewing financial aid offers, financial aid for non-traditional students, and more! Visit our website at [Financial Aid Webinars](#) for upcoming events.

Past Webinars

Did you miss one of our previous webinars? No problem. Please visit our Past Webinar Events page to catch up on any of our recent presentations. Recordings are available at [Past Webinar Events](#).



University of
Pittsburgh

Center on Race and Social
Problems

Race in America Virtual Forum: December 3-4, 2026



Greetings,

We are excited to announce the **Race in America Virtual Forum**, a two-day, solutions-focused convening dedicated to evidence-based approaches to advancing racial equity and social justice.

Dates: Thursday, December 3 & Friday, December 4, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST, both days

Format: Virtual (free and open to all)

Co-hosted by:

- The Center on Race and Social Problems at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
- The Center for Research on Race, Health Justice & Public Policy at the University of Utah
- The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University

This forum features keynote addresses from nationally recognized leaders, eight expert panel discussions spanning health, education, economics, criminal justice, immigration, intergroup relations, political and civic engagement, and families, youth, and older adults, and the Racial Equity Collaboratory—a curated digital media gallery.

Registration is now open - [click here to RSVP for free](#)

Once registered, mark your calendars and visit [our official Race in America Forum website \(race.pitt.edu\)](#) for more information. We encourage you to share this with your friends, colleagues and communities! Email us at crsp@pitt.edu with any questions.

We look forward to your participation!

Kindly,

The Race in America Team

Have a great weekend!

Thank you,