

From: cwla@cwla.org
To: [Cassandra Simmel](#)
Subject: Webinar - Pandemic Shines Light on Needs of Older Youth Involved with Child Welfare
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WEBINAR

Pandemic Shines Light on Needs of Older Youth Involved with Child Welfare

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EDT**

Join us for a webinar that will address the COVID-19 related challenges facing older youth who are involved with child welfare or alumni of foster care. These young people may encounter unique challenges during this time. For example, youth in foster care may be having difficulties navigating “sheltering-in-place” while residing in residential group homes or as they face ‘aging-out’ of the system. College campus closures and the ensuing loss of housing and meals are particularly problematic for alumni of foster care. For youth who are in juvenile detention centers or are homeless, there are additional stressors to be considered, including the high risk of exposure to COVID-19. For all youth who are system-involved, how can we recognize and address the trauma that they may be experiencing as a result of this pandemic? How do we ensure that their needs remain on the radar in current and future responses to vulnerable populations?

This webinar will feature a discussion with a panel of researchers, advocates, and practitioners from across the country who will describe the difficulties and challenges for youth who are system-involved and also offer suggestions about managing the impact of COVID-19. The webinar will also focus on how to help state and local agencies prepare for the inevitable surge in post-COVID-19 system involvement.

Moderators:

Dr. Victoria Kelly, Board Member, Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
Dr. Cassandra Simmel, Associate Professor Rutgers University, School of Social Work

Panelists:

Dr. Laura Abrams, Professor of Social Welfare and Department Chair, UCLA
Dr. Darcey Merritt, Associate Professor, Silver School of Social Work, New York University
Dr. Robin Petering, Founder and Senior Researcher, Lens Collective, Los Angeles, CA
Ms. Tori Shuler, Denver Director, Fostering Great Ideas
Ms. Grace Hilliard-Koshinsky, Program Manager, New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioner and Directors (NEACWCD)

Reserve your seat at [Webinar Registration](#).

This program has been approved for one (1) CEU by the NASW Washington State Chapter. Licensed Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Mental Health Counselors are eligible. Provider number is #1975-176. There is a \$20 fee for CEUs for non-members and a \$10 fee for CWLA members. If you are interested in CEUs, please e-mail memberservices@cwla.org for details.

Child Welfare Special Issue on Teens & Young Adults

Be sure to check out our new special issue of *Child Welfare* journal, "[Twenty Years after the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 \('Chafee'\): What We Know Now About Meeting the Needs of Teens and Young Adults.](#)" This two-part special issue delves into the challenges facing older teens and young adults as they navigate the foster care system, age out, and prepare for adulthood.



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Child Welfare League of America, P.O. Box 75171 Baltimore MD 21275, Phone Number: (202) 688-4200, Fax Number: (202) 833-1689, Email Address: memberservices@cwla.org, Website : www.cwla.org