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Essex Vicinage to Host 9th Annual Aging Out Event

The Essex Vicinage will host a youth conference and information fair for about 200 youth who are aging out of the foster care system on Tuesday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the atrium at the Rutgers University School of Law-Newark, 123 Washington St., Newark.

The program will allow the youths to learn about their options and available resources. Potential employers will be in attendance, and college recruiters will assist participants with their college applications and financial aid forms. A talent show for the youths to showcase their skills in singing, dancing and art work will be held.

Youth between the ages of 15 and 21, case managers, law guardians and child advocates are welcome to attend.

The program is coordinated through a joint effort of the Essex Vicinage, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Essex (CASA), and the Rutgers Child Advocacy Center. It is sponsored by the Junior Leagues of Montclair/Newark and the Oranges/Short Hills and the United Way of Essex and West Hudson.

The program was first held in 2006 as part of Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria's work on the post-termination project to ensure that children receive the appropriate skills/education to successfully age out of the foster care system. Aging out teenagers can participate in educational workshops on issues such as budgeting/finance; housing options; career readiness/job opportunities, and college readiness.

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