

# News Release



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For immediate release:  
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## **Essex Vicinage Hosting Annual ‘Aging Out’ Youth Conference**

The Essex Vicinage will host a youth conference to help adolescents and young adults who are approaching the age to transition from foster care or related services to independent living.

The conference, called “Strive to Thrive,” will be held on Tuesday, May 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Rutgers School of Law - Newark, 123 Washington St., Newark.

Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria will give opening remarks. The keynote speaker is actress Donshea Hopkins, who is also a singer, songwriter, dancer and model.

Workshops will be available for participants, ages 14 to 22, who are planning to attend college or begin a career.

Panels will be comprised of college representatives, local unions, law enforcement, fire departments and armed forces. Sessions also will include budgeting, safe dating and healthy relationships. Stuffed backpacks, “apartments in suitcases” and other donated giveaways will be distributed to the youth.

The conference is a collaboration between the Essex Vicinage, United Way of Essex and West Hudson, Rutgers Child Advocacy Clinic, CASA for Children of Essex County, the state Department of Children and Families’ Office of Law Guardian, the state Attorney General’s Office and the Child Placement Advisory Council.

The conference is supported by Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Birdling, Giving Hope Network, Junior League of Montclair-Newark Inc., The Links Incorporated, and Essex County residents who are committed to help prepare youth transitioning from foster care.

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