

# THE RESOURCE CONNECTION

AN OCS BULLETIN



**A Fresh Start**

## Safe Kids, Strong Families: A Community Commitment

Virginia is taking bold steps to protect children and empower families through its Safe Kids, Strong Families initiative. This statewide effort is more than a program – it’s a commitment to creating safe, supportive environments where every child can thrive. It’s a vision for a brighter future where safety and family strength go hand in hand.

Key goals include:

- More kinship care
- Youth empowerment
- Modernized services
- Prevention First

Together, we’re building safer communities where every child can thrive.

[Learn more](#) and get involved!

### IN THIS EDITION

- Safe Kids, Strong Families
- Cracking the Code
- FAPT Tips
- Building Resilience in Child Welfare
- CSA Conference Presentations
- Upcoming CSA Events



### **Quick Tips for FAPT**

- ✓ Review case materials ahead of time.
- ✓ Keep family voices central.
- ✓ Focus on outcomes like safety and well-being.
- ✓ Know CSA policy and guidelines.
- ✓ Prioritize community-based services.
- ✓ Document decisions clearly in the IFSP.



### **Cracking the Code: 504s and IEPs**

Join PEATC’s free virtual session to learn the differences between 504 Plans and IEPs, eligibility requirements, and advocacy tips for supporting students with disabilities.

Register now at [PEATC.org](https://www.peatc.org)!

**In the Workshop**

# Building Resilience in Child Welfare

Child welfare agencies across Virginia - and nationwide - are facing significant workforce challenges, including high turnover, staff shortages, and increased caseloads. These issues impact service delivery and the ability to provide timely, quality care for children and families.

What's being done:

- **Recruitment and Retention Strategies:** Offer competitive salaries, flexible schedules, and professional

- development opportunities.
- **Training and Support:** Onboarding and ongoing training to prepare staff in their roles.
- **Technology Solutions:** Digital tools can streamline case management, reduce administrative burdens, and allow staff more time to focus on families.

- **Wellness Initiatives:** Programs promoting mental health and resilience can help staff manage stress and avoid burnout.

Virginia is investing in people and systems to build a stronger workforce - because supporting those who serve families improve outcomes for children.



## CSA Conference Presentations

Missed a session or want to revisit key insights? Presentations from the 14th Annual CSA Conference are now available on our website.

Visit the [CSA website](#) to access the materials today!



## Stay in Touch

- \* [www.csa.virginia.gov](http://www.csa.virginia.gov)
- ✉ [csa.office@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:csa.office@csa.virginia.gov)
- ☎ (804) 662-9815



**On the Horizon**

## Upcoming CSA Events

### Virtual CPMT Academy

Don't forget to join the Virtual CPMT Academy! This is a great opportunity to learn, connect, and strengthen your knowledge of CSA practices.

[Register](#) today and secure your spot before January 9th!

### 15th Annual CSA Conference

**October 14-15, 2026**  
Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA

Join us for two days of learning, collaboration, and innovation to strengthen services for Virginia's children and families.

More details coming soon!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT—TOGETHER, LET'S MAKE THIS YEAR OUR BEST YET!**

—TEAM OCS