



Dear Provider Community:

Protecting children and strengthening families is at the heart of everything that we do Children's Services. This critical mission requires a professional, committed, and caring social work team.

This March, as we join the nation in observing National Social Work Month where we recognize and honor social workers, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone at ACS, to show our deep appreciation and respect for the positive contributions that social workers make every day in the lives of children, youth and families. Social workers are the backbone of our agency, and we would not be able to do our jobs without you.

Day in and day out, you are confronted with complicated decisions that are never made lightly or without regard for their consequences. We understand how difficult it is to assist children, young people and families whose lives are under a substantial amount of stress. Our social workers go above and beyond their tasks to make sure that they find that one placement that will help a young child thrive, work tirelessly to make connections to help young people achieve their dreams, provide parents with the tools they need, and teach young people to the best life choices possible.

This year, the theme for National Social Work Month is "All People Matter." This is equally true for our clients as well as for our colleagues and ourselves. We encourage you to take time out for self-care and rejuvenation as you go about your daily task. To all of you who do this work with such professionalism and commitment, we say "Thank you for all that you do."

Sincerely,

Gladys Carrión
Commissioner

Cross Divisional

Training for Competency-Based Behavioral Interviewing Techniques

The ACS Workforce Innovation Department is pleased to announce the return of this popular, best practices training in Competency-Based Behavioral Interviewing techniques' designed for hiring supervisors, managers and HR professionals in the provider community. Registration is available through your STARS Coordinator. [Please click on this link for details.](#)

Citywide Conference for Families of Students with disABILITIES

Learn about special education - Share your experience - Connect with families and experts. Join the New York City Department of Education (DOE) for a day of learning and community building at the Conference for Families of Students with disABILITIES. Families will have the opportunity to attend workshops, speak with experts, participate in a resource fair with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and meet families from across the five boroughs!

When: Saturday, April 5, 2014, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: High School of Art and Design, 245 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022

Agencies are invited to attend and share information regarding the assistance and/or services you provide to families of students with disabilities. Each organization will be assigned a table to share their resources and meet families during a fair. If your agency is interested in participating, please e-mail specialeducationreform@schools.nyc.gov or call (212) 374-6085 with the name of your organization and contact information for the person(s) who will represent the organization at the fair by March 5th. All participating organizations will be sent a reminder notice two weeks prior to the conference with table assignments and any additional conference information.

[Families must register here to attend](#)

NYC Parks Experience Summer Day Camp Registration Opens

Please follow the link below to register your child for camp this Friday, March 7th!
<http://www.nycgovparks.org/registration/summercamp/>

Registration for the NYC Parks Experience Summer Day Camp program will be open Friday, March 7 – Sunday, March 16, 2014. The NYC Parks Experience Summer Day Camp program is an exciting chance for children ages 6 to 13 to have a fun-filled summer! Your child will engage in sports, fitness, and outdoor adventure and take part in many of New York City's rich cultural and educational opportunities.

Last year's camp activities included: arts and crafts, computer classes, cultural and educational trips, field games (kickball, soccer, wiffleball, relay races), outdoor activities with the Parks' Urban Park Rangers, such as bird watching, canoeing, fishing and hiking, and sports clinics. Specific activities, dates, and trip destinations this year will depend upon the camp location.

Program Dates: Monday, July 7 – Friday, August 22, 2014

Registration Dates: Friday, March 7 – Sunday, March 16, 2014

Camp Locations: [Bronx](#), [Brooklyn](#), [Manhattan](#), [Queens](#), [Staten Island](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014 Campaign LAUNCH

Dads Take Your Child To School (DTYCTS) Day and Beyond:

Reemphasizing Community Resources

March 6, 2014

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Brooklyn Borough Hall 209 Joralemon Street
(bet. Adams and Court Streets)

April 4, 2014

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Bronx Supreme Court Rotunda
851 Grand Concourse

Contacts

Citywide: Melvin Alston -

Melvin.Alston@dfa.state.ny.us, 917- 921- 5036

Brooklyn: Ronald Bridges -

Ronald.Bridges@dfa.state.ny.us, 718- 623-4990

Bronx: Clyde Wilkinson -

Clyde.Wilkinson@dfa.state.ny.us, (718) 933-6981

[Download event flyer](#)

Town Hall on Immigrants and Health Reform

Sponsored by the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)

Thursday, March 6, 2014

6:00 to 8:00 pm

4201 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

[Click on this link to download the flyer](#)

Free Citizenship Application Assistance

March 8, 2014

I.S. 30, 73-10 34th Avenue

Jackson Heights, Queens

To qualify for free and confidential legal and application assistance at this event, a person must be a U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident & have a child in a NYC Public School

More information is available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Drill & Play Basketball Training Program

Miccio Community

Every Friday Night

First Session: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Second Session: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

110 West 9th Street, Brooklyn

[Download event flyer](#)

Foster Care

Wilson College Tour – Women with Children

The Women with Children Program of Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania provides family-friendly on-campus housing year-round to single mothers and their children (20 months and older) so the mother can pursue a bachelor's degree full time. The Teen Specialist Unit will host a group of pregnant and parenting young women on a visit to Wilson College. For more information or to register a young mother in foster care who is a high school senior or holds a GED, please contact Vicki Mitchell at 212-531-7765 or acs.sm.tsu@dfa.state.ny.us by Friday, March 14, 2014.

New Yorkers for Children – Back-to-School Packages: Supplies for Success

The Back-to-School Package program provides college-enrolled youth in foster care with the tools necessary to succeed during their entire college experience. Youth receive \$2,500 in supplies throughout their studies including a laptop computer, printer, software, backpack, bed linens, toiletries, school supplies, and more. For more information or to register students in foster care for a package, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BackToSchoolSpring2014>. Students who recently transitioned out of foster care are may also apply. The deadline for all package requests is Friday March 28, 2014.

ACS College Room & Board – Exceptional Payments for Spring 2014

Reminder! Please submit requests for payment and required documentation as soon as possible to ensure timely payment of college room and board fees for the spring 2014 semester. For more information, please contact Phyllis Brodsky, Office for Child and Youth Initiatives at (212) 341-3318 or phyllis.brodsky@dfa.state.ny.us.

CUNY Fatherhood Academy Recruiting Now

If you know of a young father between the age 18 and 24 please encourage them to sign up for the CUNY Fatherhood Academy, a free 4-month, 3-day-a-week program that can help fathers complete their GED, prepare for college and gain work experience. For more information contact David Speal at (718) 730-7336 or dspeal@lagcc.cuny.edu, or [click on this link](#).

Recruiting Youth in Foster Care for Possibility Project (through March 10th)

The Possibility Project will be recruiting young people in foster care (15-20 yrs.) for its performing arts and youth development program through March 10th. Contact Kenny Phillips, Artistic Director, to set up a special audition at your agency for the youth you serve. There are also two more "open" auditions which youth can attend on their own: Wednesday, March 5th 4:30pm to 6:00pm and March 8th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in Manhattan. [Download a flyer for these auditions here](#). To set up an audition at your agency, contact Kenny Phillips at 212-924-9204 or Kenny@the-possibility-project.org

Emergency Financial Assistance for Foster Care College Students

The Charles Evans Emergency Educational Fund is set up to help youth who were formerly involved in the foster care system in New York City, ages 21-25, to complete or further their studies or educational endeavors. The Fund provides *one-time* emergency financial assistance to full/part time college students who are faced with an unexpected financial emergency that would prevent them from continuing their education without interruption. The Fund is not intended to be used for routine expenses or as a consistent supplement to a student's educational funding source. Requests must be urgent in nature. To obtain an application, youth can go to www.newyorkersforchildren.org or contact Phyllis Brodsky, Office for Child and Youth Initiatives, at (212) 341-3318 or phyllis.brodsky@dfa.state.ny.us.

Claremont Neighborhood Centers – Young Fathers Program

Claremont Neighborhood Center, Inc. Young Fathers Program (YFP) addresses the needs of young fathers ages 16-25 who are in foster care, including those who are transitioning out of care, by providing an environment for instructional training and support services. The Program offers mentorship, parenting classes, counseling, domestic violence intervention, court advocacy and assistance with child visitation and child support issues. For more information, or to register young fathers for workshops and support services, please contact Robert Triplett, Teen Specialist Unit at (212) 676-6471 or acs.sm.tsu@dfa.state.ny.us.

Preventive Services

ACS Developmental Disability Evaluation Program

The ACS Developmental Disabilities Unit within the Division of Family Support Services offers Psychological Evaluations and Psychosocial Histories through our expert OPWDD vendor. This free evaluation program is available to youth in Foster Care that are 5 years and older, where there is a reasonable suspicion of developmental disability. For further information, kindly contact Nicole Hechme, Developmental Disabilities Specialist at (212) 676-9072 or Nicole.Hechme@dfa.state.ny.us or ddunit.fss@acs.nyc.gov
[Please click on this link to learn more about the program.](#)

Luisa Linares New OPTA Director

Luisa Linares has been appointed as Director of the Office of Preventive Technical Assistance (OPTA) in the Division of Family Support Services. Luisa will be responsible for overseeing and managing day-to-day operations and the quality of services of the Office which is comprised of a Support Team, Resource Team and Response Team. [Please click here to read more.](#)

Juvenile Justice

Felipe Franco is New DYFJ Deputy Commissioner

Felipe Franco has been appointed Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ), effective February 24, 2014. As Deputy Commissioner, Felipe is responsible for the direction and administration of innovative juvenile justice programming that includes: therapeutic services, safe and secure custodial care, responsive health care, effective re-entry services, and the promotion of educational achievement for justice-involved youth. [Click here to read more.](#)

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Archived Bulletins



Early Care and Education

Pre-Kindergarten Application 2014-2015

If you live in New York City and your child is turning 4 years old in 2014, he or she is eligible to attend Pre-Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. The application process has begun! Applications for school-based pre-k will be accepted from March 3, 2014 until April 23, 2014. Applications for community-based organizations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are discussions revolving around increasing Pre-K program options. If this occurs, parents will be able to amend their applications once those new program sites are identified. [Click on this link for a Fact Sheet](#) prepared by the ACS Office of Office of Education Support and Policy Planning. Please click on the links below for more details.

[Information Session](#)

[Pre-K Directory](#)

[CBO Pre-K Application](#)

[Public School Application](#)

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